



Vince Catania MLA
Member for North West Central

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MEDIA RELEASE

13th April 2016

Exmouth Defence plan takes off with visit from Federal Defence Minister

Vince Catania MLA member for North West Central was pleased to be in Exmouth today along with the Federal Minister for Defence the Hon Marise Payne. Minister Payne was meeting with the shire to discuss the investment of over \$400million into Exmouth under Federal Government's defence white paper plan.

Exmouth is poised for big investments including \$200million spending for RAAF Base Learmonth and another \$100 to \$200million for providing space surveillance capacity at the Harold E Holt Naval Communication station over the next two decades.

"This defence investment recognises the strategic significance of the Learmonth RAAF and communication station in the nation's defence policy," said Vince

"There are substantial benefits for the Gascoyne region coming out of this; creating more jobs for both military and civilian, boosting the construction industry and improving family and community lifestyles."

The defence investment includes updating the air base to house F35a joint strike fighter and the KC30a air to air refuelling aircraft. The Harold E Holt Naval Base will also be upgraded with another \$ 200 million to increase space technology

Vince congratulated the shire of Exmouth "I commend the shire of Exmouth on their tenacity ensuring that the Gascoyne and North West Central is a key part of the nation's defence strategy. This program will increase jobs, security and provide a diversified and strong economy for the region."

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