



## AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY DEFENCE NETWORK

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

#### **AIDN RESPONSE TO THE STATE RIVALRY DEBATE**

“Greater bipartisanship needs to be achieved between the various Australian states supporting bids for major Defence Capability acquisition projects,” AIDN National President Rob Forbes stated in response to the recently reported remarks by Gerrard Wheeler, Head of Public Affairs for Raytheon Australia.

“AIDN believes in a strong Australian based defence industry comprised of a small number of Defence Primes and a large number of small medium enterprises (SME’s) working together with Defence to support the Australian Defence Force (ADF). This vision provides a sovereign approach to our defence industry where a sovereign capability interest is the primary driver of policy and action and not State or Territory political interests,” said Rob Forbes.

While AIDN as the peak national organisation for SMEs working in the defence and security industry does focus on the national aspects of defence industry policy and ADF capability development and sustainment, the organisation recognises that it is comprised of State and Territory Chapters and that each Chapter supports their membership. The AIDN Chapters work with their State and Territory Governments and industry organisations and local membership to advocate on behalf of their members. However, in areas of national defence industry debate, AIDN has a single voice, through the National President, supported by the AIDN National Executive.

AIDN believes that a key element of the support of and the innovation in the capability in ADF platforms and systems is the involvement the large number of Australian defence industry SMEs. Mr Forbes further stated, “that the Government’s intention to manufacture armoured vehicles, build ships and submarines or carry out deeper level maintain on ADF assets and platforms in Australia, rather than an off-shore, should be applauded as developing sovereign defence industry capability, which is far more important than which State or Territory wins the work.”

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