



A Co-operative venture of the municipalities of:
Cockburn, East Fremantle, Fremantle, Kwinana, Melville & Rockingham

22 July 2020

Harriett Boldeman
Assistant Director
National Defence Industry Skills Office
C/- defence.industryskilling@defence.gov.au

Dear Harriett,

RE: SUBMISSION - DEFENCE DISCUSSION PAPERS, INDUSTRY SKILLING AND WORKFORCE

Background

The South West Group is a Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils (VROC) established in 1983 and comprising six member Councils in the South West Metropolitan Region including City of Cockburn, Town of East Fremantle, City of Fremantle, City of Kwinana, City of Melville and City of Rockingham.

The South West Group partners and collaborates with State and Federal Government, industry, business and community on activities that benefit and facilitate further economic development in the South West Metropolitan Region. The Vision for South West Metropolitan Region is to be the “*Economic Gateway to the West*”.

Employment, training and industry development

The South West Group has a particular focus on economic development, employment and industry development, and collaboration with partners where there is an alignment of strategic objectives. We note that Defence is interested in “*proposals which involve a partnership with defence industry on skilling and training initiatives*” – the South West Group recently facilitated roundtable discussions with various employment and training service providers to develop a collaborative application for the National Careers Institute Partnership Grants ([link here](#)).

That confidential application is attached to this submission and provides evidence of the South West Group’s ability to muster various organisations to achieve common objectives. The network of employment and training providers in the SW Metropolitan Perth Region was broadened and strengthened as a consequence of that grant application process, as well as its connection to industry and its understanding of industry needs. The South West Group aims to maintain development of that network and is open to exploring ways to support Defence in achieving real world outcomes through its four pillars: Engage, Attract, Train and Retain, and Collaborate.

Support with communications

Via the communication channels of our member councils (e.g. website, e-newsletters, magazines etc.), the South West Group has access to almost 450,000 residents and 210,000 workers within our Region. These channels are used to promote a range of services and key messages for our community – they could be used to promote training, upskilling and employment programs linked to Defence objectives to help build awareness.

Skills development and industry development

The South West Group is highly supportive of Defence's focus on holistic career development: it is important that any skills developed are transferrable to other industries and that the workforce of tomorrow is adaptable and agile. Equally, key industry contacts have regularly stressed the importance of ship-builders within our Region being given certainty about a known body of work for Defence (e.g. full cycle docking of Collins Class Submarines) so they are able to more effectively undertake recruitment and resourcing efforts, business development activities and research and development projects.

Additionally, the South West Group works with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA to help local companies identify export markets and ways to integrate supply chains. I refer you to our *International Exports Market Report* that can be found on our website: <http://www.southwestgroup.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/International-Exports-Market-Report-June-2020.pdf>. Finally, the South West Group has recently partnered with the *AustCyber Innovation Hub* to deliver a program that improves the level of cyber security of local companies – particularly those that generate intellectual property or have a high volume of on-line transactions.

We trust this submission is helpful. If you require any further information, please contact South West Group Director, Tom Griffiths on 0406 420 854 or director@southwestgroup.com.au.

Yours sincerely



His Worship the Mayor

Logan K Howlett, JP

Chair of the South West Group in 2020, and representing the following Local Governments:

