

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2018 // \$1.60 INCL GST // COURIERMAIL.COM.AU

VICTORY FOR OUR STATE Courier-Mail & Team Qld
win campaign for multibillion-dollar jobs explosion



KA-BOOM

TIME!

EXCLUSIVE RENEE VIELLARIS

QUEENSLAND will be supercharged by a stunning multibillion-dollar jobs boom lasting 30 years, after the state was last night chosen to build a state-of-the-art fleet of super-tanks for the Australian Defence Force.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull will this morning announce Rheinmetall Defence Australia has won the \$5 billion mega-contract to build 211 Boxer CRV tanks at Ipswich, beating a Victorian bid after an eight-month campaign by *The Courier-Mail* and the

Coalition's 26 federal Sunshine State MPs, who dubbed themselves Team Queensland. The decision, which also puts the state in the box seat for a future \$15 billion deal, will help reset the state's economy and guarantee jobs for three decades, as the military machines are refitted and serviced.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said the tanks, which can survive a direct bomb attack and pepper 200 rounds a minute through their cannons, would be made by local workers using Australian steel.
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ECONOMY SET TO GO GREAT GUNS

Jobseekers say 'tanks a billion' as state wins Land 400 contract



RHEINMETALL ON TARGET

- German company Rheinmetall will build 211 state-of-the-art combat reconnaissance vehicles under a \$5.2 billion Defence Force contract
- Rheinmetall will create a Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence at Ipswich to assemble the war machines, hiring about 450 staff
- But hundreds of jobs will flow through the state, with small-to-medium businesses needed to supply goods and services to the vehicles, 150 of which will be based in Townsville, Rockhampton and Enoggera in Brisbane and used for overseas combat
- The jobs are guaranteed in Queensland for 30 years during which \$10 billion will flow through the economy to acquire and maintain the 211 vehicles
- 40 companies across Australia will be used to support the national project
- Rheinmetall will also support up to 10,000 military vehicles in the Asia Pacific region
- Winning Land 400 phase 2 makes it more likely Rheinmetall and Queensland will win Land 400 phase 3, which is worth \$15 billion and involves exporting the vehicles to other nations



EXCLUSIVE
RENEE VIELLARIS
FEDERAL POLITICAL EDITOR

QUEENSLAND has sensationally won a job-spinning Defence contract under which the state will reap billions of dollars and gain the edge to secure an even bigger prize.

Today in Brisbane Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull will reveal German-owned Rheinmetall Defence Australia – which has based itself in Queensland – has won phase two of the \$5 billion Land 400 deal to build 211 state-of-the-art combat reconnaissance vehicles at Ipswich.

The announcement puts the state in the hot seat to win Land 400 phase 3, a \$15 billion deal to build mounted close combat vehicles.

The *Courier-Mail* and the federal Coalition's 26 parliamentarians, who dubbed themselves "Team Queensland", launched an eight-month campaign to win the project, which was ticked off by the National Security Committee last night.

A hook-up was held after NSC's decision to brief the Queenslanders, politically resuscitating some MPs who were worried about holding their seats.

Queensland was awarded the contract over Victoria and BAE Systems Australia, which in the past few weeks launched a national advertising blitz to stop Queensland from winning one of the biggest Defence projects.

The Government's announcement will help reset the Queensland economy and guarantee jobs for the next 30 years because the vehicles will require refits and servicing.

About 150 of the military machines will be based in Queensland to support the brigades in Townsville and Enoggera.

The project will significantly help to diversify Queensland's economy, creating almost 1500 jobs across Australia and wash \$10 billion through Defence supply chains. Most of the money will be spent and invested in Queensland, including Army bases at Townsville, Rockhampton and Enoggera.

About \$235 million across the country will be spent on new infrastructure needed to secure the vehicles.

It is understood Rheinmetall's Boxer CRV was the far superior vehicle and has a bigger export footprint to southeast Asian countries and the potential to break into the US.

However, it is understood the Boxer was more expensive. The Government had planned to buy 225 vehicles but will now acquire 211.

The Boxer will replace the Army's ageing Australian



HOW SUNSHINE STATE SECURED THE BID

2014: Four major defence companies put up vehicles for Land 400

LATE 2015: Defence opens tender

JULY 2016: Rheinmetall and Victoria-based BAE shortlisted as bidders

NOVEMBER 10, 2016: State Government offers 90 Queensland companies instruction on how to pitch for supply chain work to the shortlisted bidders

JULY 2017: The *Courier-Mail* with Team Queensland launches the 'Build them Here' campaign

JULY 2017: Rheinmetall announces it will build in Queensland and establish a military vehicle centre of excellence at Ipswich if it wins the contract

AUGUST 2017: Blast testing on both vehicles finalised

AUGUST 2017: Annastacia Palaszczuk meets with Germany's Ambassador on the Gold Coast to discuss Land 400 deal

AUGUST-DECEMBER 2017: Defence tender evaluation

JANUARY 23: War hero Ben Roberts-Smith tells *The Courier-Mail* Rheinmetall has the safest vehicle

JANUARY-MARCH 2018: BAE buys hundreds of thousands of dollars in advertising to try to sway decision makers about its vehicles

FEBRUARY 9, 2018: Rheinmetall announces a deal to use BlueScope steel if it wins the Land 400 project

MARCH 13, 2018: Bid awarded to Rheinmetall and Queensland

BOXER CRV

MANUFACTURER
RHEINMETALL based in
Dusseldorf, Germany

FIREPOWER

The Lance turret system, featuring an externally driven, airburst ammunition-capable automatic cannon, fully digital fire control technology and electro-optical vision devices. All of which can be operated by the commander and gunner.

SURVIVABILITY

This includes against light anti-tank weapons and guided missiles.

PROTECTION

It features tailorable architecture, with modular systems and a low-emission, multi-fuel engine in the front of the vehicle.

SURVEILLANCE

A fully integrated 360° Situational Awareness System with laser warning sensors and Acoustic Shooter Locating System ensures the crew always knows what's going on around them, day and night.

FLEXIBLE ENGAGEMENT

An effective hunter-killer and killer-killer capability with digital networked sensors and fire control technology.

DIMENSIONS

Length: 7.93m
Width: 2.99m
Height: 3.3m
Ground clearance: 50cm

POWER

Engine: 720hp
Fuel: Diesel
Transmission: Allison Automatic

PERFORMANCE

Speed: 103km/h
Range up to 650km
Gradeability: 60%
Side slope: 30%
Turning circle: 18m

MAKING TRACKS:
Defence Industry Minister Christopher Pyne (left) with a Boxer CRV; (far left) Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull; and (inset top) an artist's impression of the Rheinmetall Ipswich manufacturing facility.

Light Armoured Vehicle, used in overseas combat.

The "highly lethal" wheeled vehicles can withstand a direct bomb attack, with cannons letting rip 200 rounds of ammunition a minute. The Boxer can also defend itself by using a pulse to blow up an incoming missile. Its accuracy is astounding – soldiers testing the Boxer shot a second round through the first hole they shot, from 2.5km away.

Mr Turnbull told *The Courier-Mail* last night it was good news for the Australian Defence Force and Australians.

"The world-class vehicles

will be manufactured and delivered by Australian workers, using Australian steel," Mr Turnbull said. "The 211 vehicles will provide improved safety to Australian soldiers on deployment and on exercises around the world.

"They will boost mobility and firepower on the battlefield in the decades ahead.

"The decision to select Rheinmetall is the result of a comprehensive three-year tender and rigorous testing process, which assessed its Boxer CRV as the most capable vehicle for the Australian Defence Force.

"The CRVs will undertake a range of missions, from regional stability and peace-keeping through to high-threat operations.

"Over the 30-year life of the vehicles, Australian industry will secure two-thirds, or \$10.2 billion, of the total investment in acquiring and maintaining the fleet, creating up to 1450 jobs right across Australia."

He said Rheinmetall was working with more than 40 companies across Australia to ensure it was a "national enterprise".

"It presents an exciting opportunity

for Australian industry to play a vital role in delivering leading-edge capability and technology to Australia's Army."

In January, decorated war hero Ben Roberts-Smith told *The Courier-Mail* troops under fire would have a better chance of surviving if the Government bought the Boxer.

Mr Roberts-Smith, who said he would not tell the Prime Minister or others what to do because "they are going to have to live and die by their own decisions", said Rheinmetall's Boxer CRV offered more protection over BAE

Systems Australia's armoured vehicle. Those close to the process said Mr Roberts-Smith's intervention was influential in Canberra.

Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk met with the German ambassador on the Gold Coast to strategise in August.

MP for Fairfax Ted O'Brien, who led the charge for Team Queensland, said it was a tough fight worth winning. "Queenslanders have always been proud to fly the maroon flag – well now we're the khaki state as well, and nowhere deserves that title more," Mr O'Brien said.

"The Turnbull Government has put the safety of our Australian servicemen and women at the forefront of its decision and in doing so has also ensured the creation of an Australian military vehicle industry that will become a dominant player globally.

"This is a win for our troops and it's a win for the Australian economy. This is about far more than a contract to build combat reconnaissance vehicles. This decision represents the birth of a new industry in Australia. When Queenslanders unite, nothing can hold us back."

A stronger Queensland means better defence capabilities for Australia

TODAY, Victorian state and federal MPs and Premier Daniel Andrews will hyperventilate about how Malcolm Turnbull has politicised a Defence contract to build the next generation of armoured vehicles.

They will claim the PM awarded the \$5 billion Land 400 project to Rheinmetall because they pledged to build in Queensland, which the Coalition needs to hold at the looming federal election.

A desperate last-minute campaign was launched by the Victorian Government to push BAE – which pledged to build



RENEE VIELLARIS
ANALYSIS

in that state – over the line. Sore losers often turn into conspiracy theorists. Those with the greatest sense of entitlement spit the dummy the furthest when they feel duffed.

Yes, there's no time to be a maths sceptic. Queensland is a key battleground at the next election, and the reason why Bill Shorten spends so much

time in the state is not because he's enamoured with our sunny dispositions, but because there are so many marginal seats.

But those who accuse Malcolm Turnbull of wanting to protect his own job need to be reminded of the facts:

- Two of Australia's three Army's Beersheba Brigades are in Queensland;
- The state is home to 40 per cent of permanent Australian Army personnel;
- Queensland is home to one-quarter of Australian Defence Force personnel, and;
- Almost 70 per cent of the

Army's operational vehicles are based in Queensland. It makes sense to have the armoured vehicles closest to army bases that use them.

Rheinmetall also has the safest, best performing armoured vehicle – Victoria Cross winner Ben Roberts-Smith publicly endorsed Rheinmetall's Boxer over BAE's Patria vehicle.

Singapore is making a massive defence commitment in Queensland and has a history with Rheinmetall. New Zealand will also go through an upgrade of its combat vehicles within the next decade.

Rheinmetall is making a serious investment in Queensland. It plans to be here for 30 years and will support 10,000 military vehicles in the Asia Pacific region.

The innovation, research and development that will be created by Rheinmetall is significant. It has also pledged to use Australian steel at its planned manufacturing hub at Ipswich. BAE's commitment to Australian steel was nowhere near the scale of Rheinmetall's.

The world does not revolve around Victoria; it will increasingly, especially in the defence

and advanced manufacturing space, revolve around Queensland. The southeast is home to some of the biggest companies in the world and has one of the largest population of skilled workers in the country.

Queensland, at the mercy of mining booms and busts, and tourism affected by wild weather, is diversifying into a state with more jobs, business confidence, career options and work spread throughout the state. Today, Malcolm Turnbull has sandbagged his job, but laid the foundation for Queenslanders to get one too.