

**THE HON PETER DUTTON MP
MINISTER FOR DEFENCE**

MEDIA RELEASE

DELIVERING ENHANCED WEAPONS FOR OUR DEFENCE FORCE

13 April 2022

Australia's soldiers, sailors and aviators will have access to enhanced weapons systems, improving the lethality of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) following a \$527.2 million investment by the Morrison Government.

Minister for Defence, the Hon Peter Dutton MP said ADF personnel would have access to enhanced equipment including sniper systems, assault breaching systems, shotguns, personal defence weapons, pistols, optical and laser sighting systems and torches as part of the first tranche of the Lethality Systems Project (LAND 159).

"This investment will improve the lethality, situational awareness and survivability of men and women in uniform so they can successfully achieve their mission on operations both here and overseas," Minister Dutton said.

"We know that when Labor were in government they cut billions from Defence and our national security agencies.

"Those cuts meant less investment in capabilities for the ADF, reduced investment in facilities and health programs for the men and women in uniform, and a loss of thousands of jobs in our sovereign defence industry.

"The Coalition is delivering on our commitment to invest more than \$270 billion in defence capability.

"We are working with Australian industry partners to develop a greater sovereign capability and support a stronger, more capable ADF to keep our country safe."

Engagement with the weapons suppliers was facilitated by Brisbane-based company NIOA, which supported the Department of Defence approach to market, test and evaluation and selection of weapon systems.

"The work of Australian company NIOA has ensured that we are acquiring the best available weapon systems for our forces," Minister Dutton said.

"This is the first tranche of weapons acquisitions to support our personnel and there is more work to do.

"The Morrison Government also approved the commencement of tranche two, which will investigate potential upgrade or replacement options for the ADF's heavy, medium and light machine guns, grenades and direct fire support weapons that include anti-armour weapons.

“The Morrison Government is delivering enhanced weapons for our ADF now and investing in greater capabilities and growing our sovereign industry into the future.

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