



JSF contract focus of Hunter Defence Conference

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The Joint Strike Fighter program will be a key topic at the Hunter Defence Conference being held in Newcastle today and tomorrow.

The Federal Government last month announced the purchase of 58 new Joint Strike Fighter jets at a cost of \$12 billion dollars, with the majority to be housed at the Williamtown RAAF base.

Hunter Defence Project Director Ian Dick says the conference will examine the opportunities available for local businesses in the wake of the announcement.

He says it is being attended by representatives of the Defence Department and major industry contractors.

"So they'll be discussing about the Joint Strike Fighter and what will be happening at Williamtown and the region as far as that project is concerned," he said.

"There will be people from the Defence Department , prime contractors like Lockheed Martin, BAE, second tier companies like Forgacs and Varley and all the defence SME's."

Mr Dick says the JSF program will inject millions into the local economy.

"I think there is going to be a lot of opportunities mainly because I think there is going to be a lot of infrastructure work happening at Williamtown with the build up of the base for the aircraft.



PHOTO: An F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, manufactured by Lockheed Martin. (ADF/Lockheed Martin)

MAP: Newcastle 2300

"You know there is going to be over a billion dollars spent at the base so there is going to be a lot of opportunities for companies that are in the infrastructure, building, construction area."

Conroy call to protect shipbuilding jobs

The Federal Opposition's defence spokesman, Stephen Conroy will be in Newcastle today visiting the Forgacs shipyard at Tomago.

Senator Conroy says he will be raising the issue of the 900 local employees whose jobs are under threat unless the Federal Government brings forward spending on naval contracts.

Topics: defence-and-aerospace-industries, defence-forces, defence-industry, newcastle-2300, williamtown-2318, tomago-2322
