



THE HON. WARREN SNOWDON MP Minister for Defence Science and Personnel

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MORE DEFENCE HOUSING FOR TOWNSVILLE THANKS TO NATION BUILDING AND JOBS PLAN

The Hon Warren Snowdon MP, Minister for Defence Science and Personnel, today announced that the new Defence Housing Construction Program is underway in Townsville as part of the Nation Building and Jobs Plan.

Mr Snowdon said local member Peter Lindsay joined with the Opposition to try to stop the construction of 118 new houses for Defence personnel in Townsville.

“The Nation Building and Jobs Plan means an investment of \$31.8 million in Defence homes in Townsville; an investment Mr Lindsay voted against,” said Mr Snowdon.

“Townsville needs not only the increased employment in the construction and related industries, but new Defence houses also mean less people competing in the tight rental market,” said Mr Snowdon.

“In total, from July 2008 til June 2011, Defence Housing Australia (DHA) will now build 453 homes in Townsville.”

Eight local building companies have been pre-selected to complete the new constructions and the formal contracts will be signed in the next few months. The houses will be in Bohle Plains, Kirwan, Douglas, North Shore and Mount Louisa.

“This added financial boost to the local community is what the Nation Building and Jobs Plan is all about – supporting each other through what could otherwise be much tougher economic times,” Mr Snowdon said.

Mr Snowdon also discussed the critical role of ADF members during the recent floods in North Queensland.

“The work of our Defence Force staff is critical during these times of natural emergency and the Government recognises their significant contribution to our local communities.”

DHA currently manages approx 1,400 homes in the Townsville region.

Media contacts:

Kate Sieper (Warren Snowdon): 02 6277 7620 or 0488 484 689

Natalie Cooper (DHA): 02 6217 8524 or 0421 040 098