



THE HON [REDACTED]
ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR DEFENCE

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Dear Mr [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 22 June 2021, concerning local manufacture of Australian Defence Force (ADF) uniforms, underclothing and military-standard fasteners, such as nuts, bolts and screws. I appreciate your interest in Australia's Sovereign Industrial Capability.

The Defence Industrial Capability Plan (Plan) outlines the Government's long-term vision to ensure we have a robust, resilient and internationally competitive Australian defence industrial base which is able to support the ADF's capability requirements.

The Plan acknowledges that, as Australia builds its military capabilities, we must also grow our defence industrial capabilities. By 2028, Australia will require a larger, more capable and prepared defence industrial base which has the resident skills, expertise, technology, intellectual property and infrastructure to enable the conduct of ADF operations. This will support the acquisition, operation and sustainment of future defence capability, and provide the national support base for Defence to meet current needs and to surge if Australia's strategic circumstances require it.

In the Plan, we have identified 10 initial Sovereign Industrial Capability Priorities. These are the capabilities that have been assessed as strategically critical and Defence must therefore have access to, or control over, the essential skills, technology, intellectual property, financial resources and infrastructure as and when required. Combat clothing survivability and signature reduction technologies was identified as one of those priorities.

I encourage you to review this plan for details of how the Government is working to build Australia's defence industrial capabilities. The Plan can be found at <https://www1.defence.gov.au/business-industry/capability-plans/defence-industrial-capability-plan>.

I thank you for your interest and hope this information is of assistance.