



**THE HON RICHARD MARLES MP
SHADOW MINISTER FOR DEFENCE
MEMBER FOR CORIO**

**THE HON DR MIKE KELLY AM MP
SHADOW ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR DEFENCE INDUSTRY AND
SUPPORT**

LABOR WELCOMES AUSTRALIA'S NEW JOINT STRIKE FIGHTERS

The Shadow Minister for Defence, Richard Marles, and the Shadow Assistant Minister for Defence Industry and Support, Dr Mike Kelly, today welcomed the arrival of Australia's first two F-35A Joint Strike Fighters to their new home at RAAF Base Williamtown.

Richard Marles said the Joint Strike Fighter represented a new way of using air space.

"The Joint Strike Fighter represents the next generation of technology. It will gather, use and block information to win in entirely new ways.

"It will share information with other platforms so they can work in concert in complex environments.

"Australia has been a part of the Joint Strike Fighter program from the beginning, and that has seen Australian companies and Australian content in Joint Strike Fighters around world. Companies like Marand, who make the

vertical fins and engine trolleys, have seen Australian workers putting their skills to work on Joint Strike Fighters around the world.”

Shadow Assistant Minister for Defence Industry and Support, Dr Mike Kelly, said the arrival of the Joint Strike Fighters was a key moment in Australia’s defence and defence industry capability.

“This is a significant milestone and the culmination of 16 years’ work from successive governments, Defence leadership and defence industry.”

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Authorised by Noah Carroll, ALP, Canberra.