



**SENATOR THE HON DOUG CAMERON
SHADOW MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS
SHADOW MINISTER FOR SKILLS, TAFE AND APPRENTICESHIPS
SENATOR FOR NEW SOUTH WALES**

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

**LABOR WELCOMES BAE SYSTEMS COMMITMENT TO
APPRENTICESHIPS**

Labor has welcomed the announcement that BAE Systems have been awarded the \$35 billion Future Frigates contract, particularly the company's commitment to train and employ more than 1000 local apprentices and graduates.

In September last year, BAE Systems announced it would invest in more than 1000 steelwork, mechanical, electrical and technical trades apprenticeships if its bid was successful.

Shadow Minister for Skills, TAFE and Apprenticeships Doug Cameron said employers that recognise the value of investing in quality apprenticeships need to be recognised and supported by government.

He said it also vindicates the hardworking and talented ASC Shipbuilding workforce who were infamously derided by former Liberal Defence Minister David Johnston.

ASC Shipbuilding will partner BAE Systems for the Future Program.

Mr Cameron said quality on and off the job training, along with secure

employment contracts, are vital to ensuring Australian shipbuilding's long-term sustainability.

"Labor looks forward to working with BAE to ensure a highly skilled technical and trades workforce," Mr Cameron said.

"Labor has already committed to investing \$1million to establish a state-of-the-art welding facility at Regency TAFE in South Australia.

"This commitment forms part of our Building TAFE for the Future Fund policy, a \$100 million commitment to build TAFE's capacity to meet the skills needs of local communities and industries."

The TAFE-owned-and-operated facility will ensure that the very high technical skills required for welding in the defence industries and ship building are available to South Australian companies and workers.

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Authorised by Noah Carroll, ALP, Canberra