

**Deputy Premier & Finance & State Development, Trade and Innovation  
The Hon. Anna Bligh MP**

**12 December 2005**

## **UAVs in Qld set to fly: Bligh**

Deputy Premier and State Development Minister Anna Bligh today warmly welcomed the Australian Defence Force decision to base a fleet of long range tactical Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) in Brisbane.

"This is an exciting time for our efforts with UAVs. Two weeks ago we launched a major UAV project and now another linking component has been added," she said.

Defence Minister Robert Hill announced today that the Commonwealth had agreed to the \$145 million UAV project.

Boeing Australia has been selected as the preferred tenderer to provide the Israel Aircraft Industries I-View UAV system.

A new Army regiment will operate the UAVs at Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera. Boeing Australia will provide support for the UAV systems, generating around 125 new jobs in the Brisbane area.

Today's announcement dovetails with one made earlier this month by the Deputy Premier when she announced that the \$3.53 million Australian Research Centre for Aerospace Automation will be based in Brisbane.

It is a joint project of the Queensland University of Technology and the CSIRO funded by the State Government and will be at the centre of exploration into the range of applications for Unmanned Aviation Vehicles in the Asia Pacific region.

QUT researchers estimate the development of a UAV industry has the potential to contribute \$500 million to the Queensland economy over the next decade.

The State Government has allocated \$48,000 to Unmanned Technologies Australia to prepare a Manual of Standards aimed at ensuring safety measures were in place for designated UAV testing and training airspace at Kingaroy.

"Two weeks ago I said that Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, or UAVs, are the next big thing in international aviation and Queensland is evolving as the leading centre for their testing and development," Ms Bligh said.

"Today's announcement confirms this," she said.

Apart from the military versions UAVs can be used in traffic and road monitoring, fisheries and wildlife surveillance, emergency services and police surveillance, agricultural spraying, stock monitoring, aerial photography and coastal surveillance.

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