



**SENATOR THE HON ARTHUR SINODINOS AO
SENATOR FOR NEW SOUTH WALES**

MEDIA RELEASE

Blaxland benefits from F-35A Joint Strike Fighter program

The historic arrival of Australia's first two F-35 Joint Strike Fighter aircraft last week at the Australian International Air Show in Avalon Victoria, demonstrates the multi-billion dollar Fifth Generation stealth fighter jet program is not only delivering for our defence capability but also creating jobs and driving economic growth.

Senator the Hon. Arthur Sinodinos said Australia has committed to 72 of the F-35A aircraft to address Australia's future threat environment and replace the ageing fleet of F/A-18A/B Hornet fleet.

"More than 50 Australian businesses have already shared in \$800 million of value in the F-35 production program which has created 2,400 jobs across the country," Senator Sinodinos said.

"In the next six years it is anticipated this number will double to 5,000 jobs nationwide, with Blaxland standing to benefit with a local business involved in the JSF production and maintenance program.

"Spending our defence dollar locally and promoting our defence industry globally is part of the Turnbull Government's commitment to creating high tech manufacturing jobs.

"I am particularly proud of the work done by Quickstep, a local Blaxland business, as they demonstrate the best of Australian defence industry innovation securing jobs in Australia but more importantly in our region," Senator Sinodinos said.

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