

You might have noticed...

Our defence industry has been a hot topic of late. The Federal Government has committed to spending billions of \$\$\$ over the next couple of decades, with the promise of thousands of new and exciting jobs for Australian workers.

The defence industry might be big (and getting bigger), but believe it or not it started out in humble beginnings – and it's been around longer than you think!

All the accoutrements for WWI

In 1914, (just 13 years after Federation), Australia was still a dominion of the British Empire, and found itself at war with Germany and its allies.

Australia relied on the British military for more sophisticated equipment, but the fledgling Australian defence industry was able to send their troops off to Europe and the Middle East wearing Aussie made uniforms, webbing and boots, and using Aussie made saddles, water bottles and even small arms, grenades, mortar and explosives!

War on the doorstep

The threat came closer to home in the Second World War with Japanese forces invading Timor and Papua New Guinea, and the bombing of Darwin in 1942.

The outdated weapons and equipment from WW1 needed to be replaced in a hurry. The Australian government built shipyards, munitions and aircraft factories. Other industry redirected their efforts towards developing equipment to meet the needs and conditions of the war in the Pacific.

No time for rest!

The Australian military has been constantly busy for over a century, at war alongside its allies, at home in times of natural disaster, or working with communities in need. It also plays a peacekeeping role in the to maintain regional and global stability.

That means the defence industry has to constantly evolve to keep up with ADF needs, playing a role in scientific, industrial and technological research and development and boosting the Australian economy. And that's good for all of us!

**Learn more about Australian military history
on the brilliant Australian War Memorial website:**

www.awm.gov.au/

