

1. So we're ready for action!

When things like conflict, natural disasters and emergencies occur, the ADF needs to be able to jump in quickly to protect and defend us, help out our allies, or to supply the people power and equipment to help rebuild communities. The defence industry provides cutting-edge know-how that allows them to do this.

2. To clothe and feed

It takes a whole industry to keep the 80 000 men and women, (full-time personnel and active reservists) of the ADF fed and clothed. That's a lot of mouths to feed and boots to lace!

3. To keep it all functioning

There's a lot involved in maintaining and supporting the activities of the ADF. The defence industry is involved in heaps of projects.

To name just a few:

- The maintenance and modernisation of equipment
- Naval shipbuilding programs
 - submarines, frigates and offshore vessels
- Air combat and strike capabilities
- Military fighting, armoured and other vehicles
- Intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance
- IT, electronic warfare and cyber security
- Aerospace programs
- Healthcare
- Transport and logistics
- Clothing, footwear and body armour
- Food and food technologies

4. Sovereign Defence Capability

It's having the capacity to be able to protect ourselves instead of relying largely on another country to protect us. With a diverse and versatile defence industry we are well on the way to that kind of independence.

5. To build our industry capability

This point goes hand-in-hand with the last. The Australian government has committed billions of dollars to help build and strengthen the defence industry, so that it is capable of developing and manufacturing a greater range of equipment on our own shores. That means a whole lot of opportunities for Australian industry and Australian workers!

6. To boost trade and export

Having a strong defence industry unlocks potential export markets for our products. That means a boost to trade and economic growth that will help to support our future needs, and create more jobs!

7. Because of Australia's geographical position

Having a diverse local defence industry is important because, let's face it, we are a long way from most of the world! Even with advances in transport and communication, our isolation can still impede the timely delivery of goods, the sourcing of raw materials and the manufacture of products - especially in times of crisis.

8. For future risk

History has taught us that we need to insure against future risk. That could be anything from the breakdown of cyber security, food shortages or the next global financial crisis. Research and development within the defence industry provides workable solutions to many of the issues that we face today and could face in the future.

