

DEFENCE WHITE PAPER

**84. Mr F.A. ALBAN to the Premier:**

Before I ask my question, on behalf of the member for Forrestfield, I acknowledge the student leaders and staff from Maida Vale Primary School in the member for Forrestfield's electorate.

I note the release of the federal government's "2016 Defence White Paper" today. Can the Premier please inform the house of some of the benefits for Western Australia, including for RAAF Base Pearce, which is in my electorate?

**Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:**

I thank the member for the question. I think all Australians should feel pleased with the "2016 Defence White Paper" released today. It provides not only a substantial boost to our military as such but also very strong measures to ensure the long-term security of Australia and its defence capability. At a more local level, there are substantial benefits for Western Australia coming out of this. Over the first 10 years, it is expected that something like \$2.4 billion of defence spending will take place in this state, and in the following 10 years a further \$1.9 billion. With respect to the member's electorate and RAAF Base Pearce, initially not that much money is to be spent—\$30 million in the first 10-year cycle. In the second cycle, a further \$500 million is to be spent at Pearce, particularly to give it a capability to deal with strike air fighters. But there is a lot more than that around the state that has been anticipated.

I will summarise very quickly. The size of the submarine fleet, as people know, will go from six to 12 and is to be based at HMAS *Stirling*. HMAS *Stirling* is to have an upgrade in the first 10 years of something like \$700 million. There will be an additional nine antisubmarine frigates, five of which will be based at HMAS *Stirling*. Campbell Barracks in my electorate will get a \$200 million upgrade and Irwin Barracks in the electorate of the member for Nedlands will receive a \$175 million upgrade. In the north of the state there will be substantial spending—\$190 million at RAAF Base Curtin and around a further \$190 million at Exmouth, or Learmonth. It is very substantial expenditure, which I think will be very good for the construction industry here, both for military jobs and for civilian employment.

**Mr P. Papalia** interjected.

**Mr C.J. BARNETT:** I would have thought that you, as an ex-military person, would have welcomed the commitment to our military and the commitment to the security of our state and our country. I would have thought you would have done. This is good news for Western Australia. We are sharing very well in the benefits that will flow from the Defence white paper. I think all Western Australians will strongly support that.