



**Sharon Grierson MP**  
Federal Member for Newcastle

**Media Release**  
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**GRIERSON BACKS NEWCASTLE SHIPBUILDING**

Federal Member for Newcastle Sharon Grierson today reaffirmed her support for Newcastle businesses' potential role in the construction of two new Australian Navy Amphibious Warships

A decision on the successful tenderer for Defence's Amphibious Ship contract is expected to be made by the Federal Government in the next month.

The Thales Australia bid includes a significant role for Newcastle's shipbuilding, manufacturing and engineering industries.

"Last month I reaffirmed to the Prime Minister and Minister for Defence my support for the Thales bid which maximises input from local industries," Ms Grierson said.

"This week I met with HunterNet and visited several local of manufacturers in Tomago that could play a key role in servicing this multi-billion dollar defence contract."

"The Newcastle region is forging a strong reputation as a centre for industrial innovation – as evidenced by Federal Labor's commitment to invest \$50m in an Australian Solar Institute in Newcastle."

"This is an opportunity for the Howard Government to show some leadership by recognising our city's expertise and supporting our local businesses."

"I look forward to a positive outcome for our region."

**Canberra**  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600  
Ph: 02 6277 4221  
Fax: 02 6277 8461



**Newcastle**  
427 Hunter Street  
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300  
Ph: 02 4926 1555  
Fax: 02 4926 1895  
[www.sharongrierson.com](http://www.sharongrierson.com)