



**Sharon Grierson MP**  
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## Media Release

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### **NEWCASTLE FIRMS COMBINE FOR DEFENCE PROJECTS**

The announcement today that ADI and Forgacs will team to bid for Defence's amphibious ships and oil tanker conversion projects fits well with Labor's defence policy offer of an increased number of amphibious ships.

That Labor's amphibious ships will also be smaller and more suited to local manufacturing conditions, presents a better opportunity for Newcastle ship builders.

To have the capacity of ADI and Forgacs combined rather than competing, as was the case for the Patrol Boat tender, is a welcome development that should be supported by local business interests and their organisations.

The teaming arrangement by these two firms also provides an opportunity for a more competitive presence in ship building on the east coast of Australia and should encourage NSW and Queensland to work together to promote ship building and defence industries to compete with the big industry players in SA and WA.

Labor's defence and defence procurement policies provide more opportunities for Newcastle and the Hunter.

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