

**INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY
CHIEF OF AIR FORCE
AIR MARSHAL GEOFF BROWN, AO
CHIEF OF AIR FORCE SEMINAR
MELBOURNE, 23 FEBRUARY 2015**

My first task this morning is simple—I wish to welcome you all to this Chief of Air Force seminar. This seminar will set the scene for the Avalon Air Show. The Avalon Air Show is now firmly established in the calendar of a large community of air power thinkers and military professionals, as well as industry representatives, and others who simply love aircraft and technology.

So welcome one and all. I am especially grateful to those who travelled from overseas and interstate to be with us over the course of the week. I wish to extend a particular welcome to members of allied and neighbouring air forces. Your attendance is a powerful symbol of our shared desire for a peaceful region and a secure global order.

I am pleased that so many of our industry partners and suppliers have joined us again. Your support and collaboration is central to our performance. I will address more specific remarks to you in my address today and later in the week. But let me record my thanks for your sterling efforts in making Avalon the significant event it has become.

To my air force colleagues from all over Australia—welcome. Use this week to raise your situational awareness and to share your recent experiences—especially those from operations—with your mates. Sometimes the informal discussions enabled by these events are as important as the scheduled discussions.

Finally I am delighted to welcome and to also introduce the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence, Mr Darren Chester. He has made time in a very demanding schedule to join us and I am really grateful that he has done so. Parliament is in session today, so the Parliamentary Secretary has honoured us by taking time to attend this event amid a very busy week.

I have some important announcements to make about the future of Air Force today and they derive from the context in which we employ air power and from the implications of our profound modernisation agenda. The Government has shaped that requirement both through its substantial, sustained investment in Australian Air and Space Power as well as through its guidance to the ADF as to how we are to plan for our key tasks and roles.

We have a lot to get through today. Without further delay may I welcome our Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Defence, Mr. Darren Chester.