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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Defence uniforms – a huge mistake**

The Australian Made Campaign (AMCL) is in disbelief that the Government has awarded a contract to make Australian Defence Force uniforms to a company who sources the clothing out of China.

The \$9 million contract was awarded to Australian Defence Apparel to produce the clothing using “established sub-contractor arrangements” overseas. The uniforms will be used in non-combat situations such as parades and other formal occasions.

The Government apparently has chosen the cheapest option in order to save taxpayers money but AMCL questions the efficacy of such a use of taxpayers’ money which seemingly ignores the positive flow on effects in terms of jobs, economic benefits and taxes paid that would come by choosing an Australian Manufacturer.

Then there is the emotive side of the argument, where overwhelmingly Australians would want to see their soldiers decked out in Australian made clothing.

AMCL Chief Executive Ian Harrison says it beggars belief that the Defence Department is dressing its soldiers in clothing made in China apparently because of a cheaper upfront price.

“To put our soldiers in uniforms made in other countries, when we have the capacity here in Australia to make uniforms, is mind blowing,” Mr Harrison said.

“There are not many things more Australian than the Defence Force and Australia is where its uniforms should be made.”

“The Government has failed to look at the longer term impact of its decision. Government procurement shouldn’t just be about looking for the cheapest price. It should be about using taxpayers’ dollars to invest in building a more competitive manufacturing industry in Australia.”

**--ENDS--**

### **NOTE TO MEDIA**

Australian Made Campaign Chief Executive, Ian Harrison, is available for interview and vision opportunities. Please contact us if you would like to schedule a time.

### **MEDIA CONTACT**

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## **ABOUT THE AUSTRALIAN MADE, AUSTRALIAN GROWN LOGO**

The green-and-gold Australian Made, Australian Grown (AMAG) logo is the only registered country-of-origin certification trade mark for the full range of genuine Australian products and produce.

It has been helping Australian consumers, farmers, processors and manufacturers for thirty years.

The AMAG logo can only be used on products that are registered with the not-for-profit organisation Australian Made Campaign Limited. The strict set of rules governing the logo's use also require that it must always be used with one of five descriptors; 'Australian Made', 'Australian Grown', 'Product of Australia', 'Australian Seafood' or 'Australian' (for export use only). To use the logo goods must meet the criteria set out in Australian Consumer Law as well the more stringent Australian Made, Australian Grown Logo Code of Practice. More than 2500 businesses are registered to use the AMAG logo, which can be found on some 15,000 products sold here and around the world.

Australian Made Campaign Limited is located at Suite 105, 161 Park Street, South Melbourne, VIC 3205.

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