



Australian Government

Department of Defence
Defence Science and
Technology Organisation



Quonset hut.

DSTO Scottsdale Laboratory Redevelopment

The Defence Science and Technology Organisation's food and nutrition sciences capability has been enhanced with a major multi-million dollar upgrade of its research facility at Scottsdale.

For 60 years the Tasmanian-based laboratory has been providing scientific research and technical expertise to develop and maintain feeding systems aimed at achieving peak performance and optimum fitness for Defence personnel in all operational environments – at home and away. It delivers quality food and nutrition advice based on extensive research and development, develops prototype ADF rations and produces freeze dried meals.

With the \$18.7 million redevelopment completed, DSTO Scottsdale is now geared to deliver new levels of support to ensure the Australian Defence Force has the food required to operate at peak cognitive and physical performance in a range of military operations.

Redevelopment

The redevelopment project was designed to modernise DSTO Scottsdale, bringing leading edge facilities, new functionality and streamlined workflows.

The site redevelopment began in May 2012 with upgrades to the service infrastructure, followed by the demolition of the administration building and half the laboratory building. Over the course of the project, four main outcomes were delivered:

- New science laboratories, principally for chemistry, microbiology and food technology;
- Pilot plant for new product development;
- Extensive refurbishment of an existing building to provide new open plan office accommodation; and
- Upgraded and new infrastructure for gas, water and electricity services, resurfaced car park and new landscaping.

The redevelopment was completed in August 2014 and the new laboratory was officially opened on 5 November 2014 by the Hon Stuart Robert, Assistant Minister for Defence.

Key Facts

Cost: \$18.7 million

Funding: Department of Defence

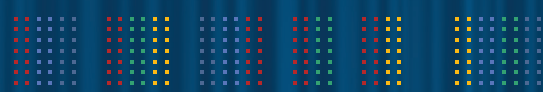
Construction: Cockram Constructions Ltd

Employment during project works: 15 people from Scottsdale directly hired on construction site. More than 90% of labour force drawn from Launceston and surrounding regions.

Project duration: May 2012 – August 2014

Food production: Approx. 72,000 freeze-dried meals and 76,000 freeze-dried rice sachets per year (average for 2010-14).

Chemistry laboratory.



DSTO

Science and Technology for Safeguarding Australia



Pilot plant room.

Looking ahead

The redevelopment of the Scottsdale laboratory enables DSTO to better deliver these key science and technology services to Defence:

- **Rationing**
Development and testing of combat rations and approaches to fresh feeding.
- **Specialised food products**
Production of freeze dried food products (a niche capability).
- **Food Science**
Extensive research in food science and technology and food systems.
- **Nutrition Science**
Research and specialist advice to the ADF on nutrition for sustained cognitive and physical performance.
- **Support to the DMO**
Science and technology support to the Defence Materiel Organisation for quality assurance, test and evaluation, and advice on combat ration pack acquisition and sustainment activities.

DSTO Scottsdale is a member of the Centre for Food Innovation along with CSIRO and the University of Tasmania. Through this partnership, the upgraded Scottsdale laboratory will grow its research capabilities in food science and technology, and draw on a broader pool of experts to develop new and innovative foods for Defence and the wider Australian community.

History of DSTO Scottsdale



The Army Food Research Station, established in 1954, was the earliest incarnation of DSTO Scottsdale. Initially it conducted research into

the dehydration and compression of vegetables. In 1958, work on the development of lightweight ration packs commenced and the research station became the Army Food Science Establishment. In 1971 it was renamed the Armed Forces Food Science Establishment. In 1975 it was incorporated into the then newly created Defence Science and Technology Organisation. It was renamed the Materials Research Laboratory Tasmania in 1988. Over the years it has been known by various other names including the Defence Nutrition Research Centre. It is now known as DSTO Scottsdale.

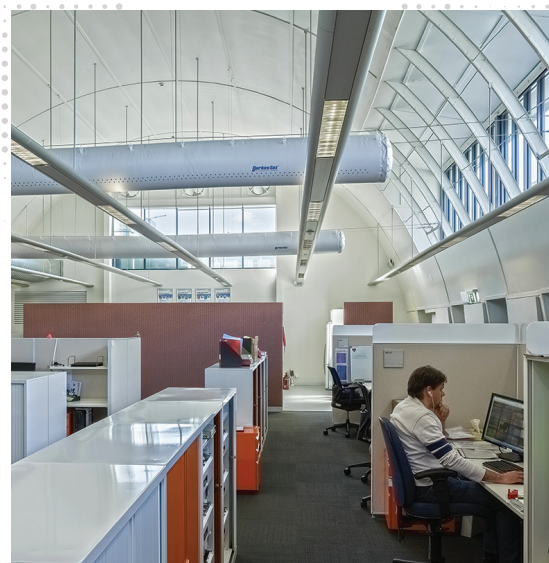
The Quonset Hut



The iconic Quonset Hut is a distinctive Scottsdale landmark. It was built during World War II and moved to the DSTO Scottsdale site in 1954. The hut was attached to what was then the Dewcrisp vegetable processing factory and was used to conduct vegetable dehydration research for Army. It quickly became known as the 'Annex', later on as the 'Hangar' and more recently as the 'Quonset Hut.' It was extensively refurbished during the recent redevelopment and transformed into an office and meeting space.



Above: Construction of new laboratory.
Left: Food packing line, c. 1960s.



Above: Offices and work stations.

Left: Quonset Hut, late 1950s.

Below: Chemical analysis equipment.



Further information:

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