

Boeing to build military aircraft drones in Australian city

September 23 2021



In this image made from video, Scott Carpendale, managing director of Boeing Defence Australia, speaks during a press conference in Toowoomba, Australia, Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2021. Chicago-based aerospace giant Boeing has announced plans to build a new type of drone military aircraft in Australia. Boeing said Wednesday it has selected Toowoomba city in Queensland state as the final assembly point for its unmanned Loyal Wingman planes. The first test flights were completed earlier this year. Credit: Australian Broadcasting Corporation via AP

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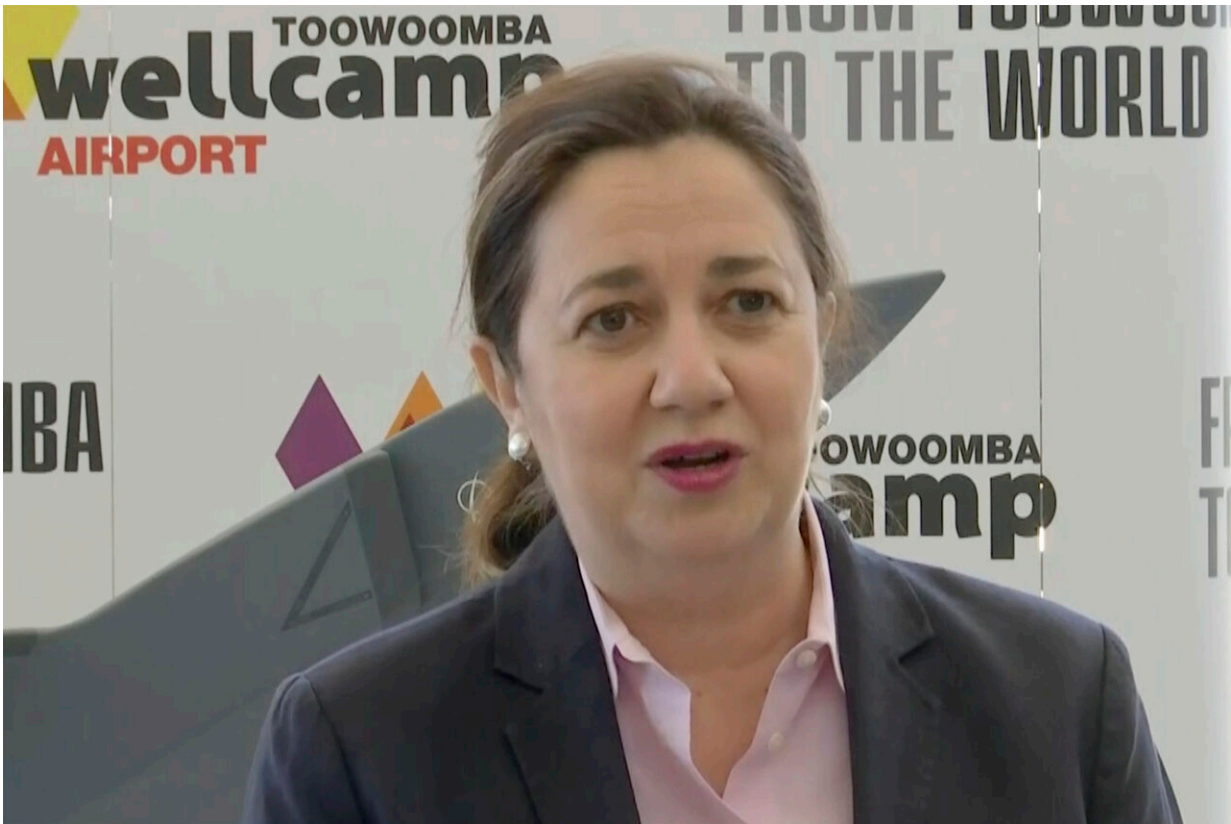
Boeing said Wednesday it has selected Toowoomba city in Queensland state as the final assembly point for its unmanned Loyal Wingman planes. The first test flights were completed earlier this year.

The announcement comes less than a week after the U.S., Britain and Australia announced a new security alliance that will supply Australia with nuclear-powered submarines. The deal was condemned by China and has heightened tensions in the Indo-Pacific region.

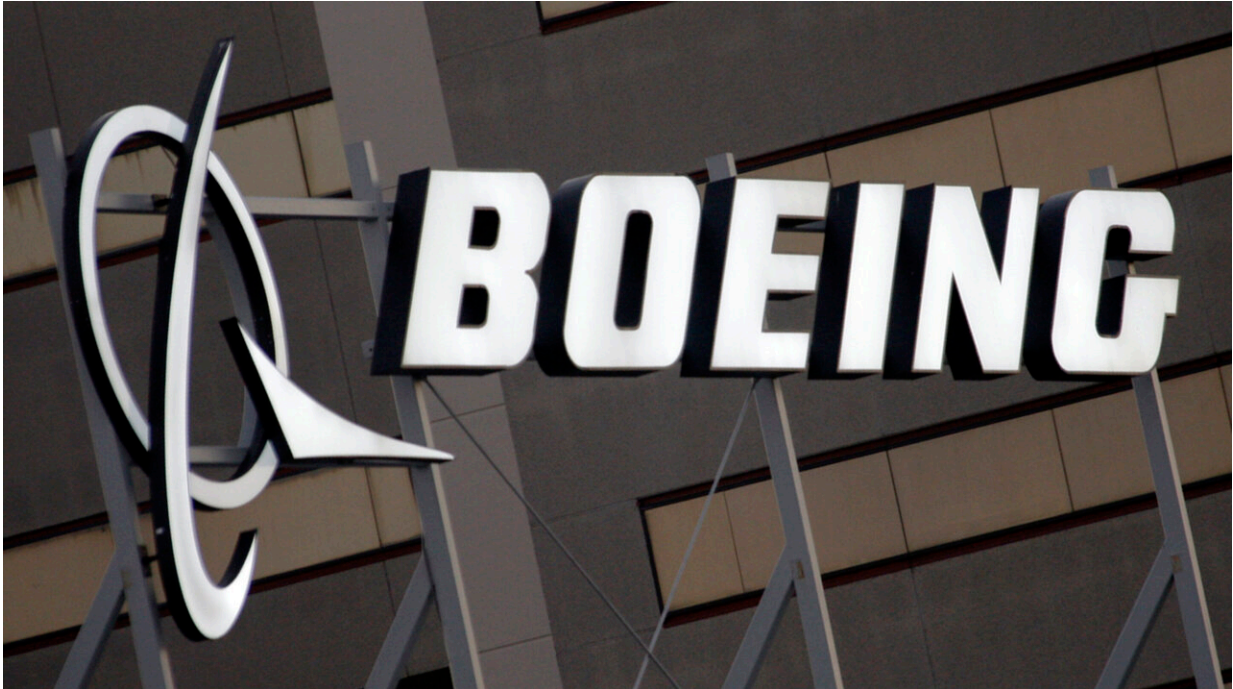
Scott Carpendale, managing director of Boeing Defence Australia, said development of the new aircraft is going to plan. He said it uses artificial intelligence to operate in tandem with manned aircraft and was conceived, designed and developed in Australia.

It's the first military combat aircraft to be designed and manufactured in Australia in half a century. Boeing Australia is currently developing six of the aircraft in partnership with the Royal Australian Air Force.

Carpendale said no orders have been confirmed but the Australian government seems confident and happy about the Loyal Wingman's capabilities.



In this image made from video, Queensland State Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk speaks during a press conference in Toowoomba, Australia, Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2021. Chicago-based aerospace giant Boeing has announced plans to build a new type of drone military aircraft in Australia. Boeing said Wednesday it has selected Toowoomba city in Queensland state as the final assembly point for its unmanned Loyal Wingman planes. The first test flights were completed earlier this year. Credit: Australian Broadcasting Corporation via AP



This Jan. 25, 2011, file photo, shows the Boeing Company logo on the property in El Segundo, Calif. Chicago-based aerospace giant Boeing has announced plans to build a new type of drone military aircraft in Australia. Boeing said Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2021 it has selected Toowoomba city in Queensland state as the final assembly point for its unmanned Loyal Wingman planes. The first test flights were completed earlier this year. Credit: AP Photo/Reed Saxon, File



In this July 13, 2021, file photo, the logo for Boeing appears on a screen above a trading post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Chicago-based aerospace giant Boeing has announced plans to build a new type of drone military aircraft in Australia. Boeing said Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2021 it has selected Toowoomba city in Queensland state as the final assembly point for its unmanned Loyal Wingman planes. The first test flights were completed earlier this year. Credit: AP Photo/Richard Drew, File

"There's a significant interest from other countries," Carpendale added.

He said the drone will be built in a facility at Wellcamp Airport, which is owned by Wagner Corp.

Wagner chairman John Wagner said he hopes a defense and aerospace

precinct at the airport will attract more companies in similar fields.

The project is expected to create 300 jobs during construction of the facility and 70 ongoing operational and production positions.

Queensland State Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk said the announcement was "fantastic news" and represents the first time Boeing has set up a facility of its type outside North America.

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