

**Jump TO Article**



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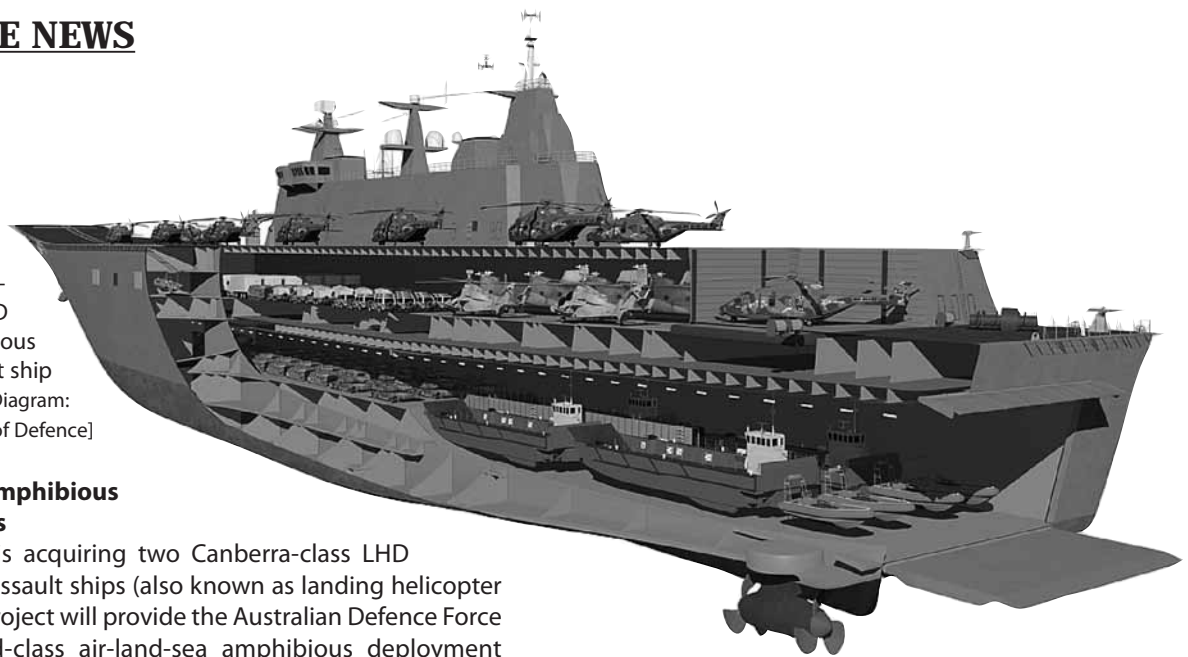
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**Jump TO Article**

## **DEFENCE NEWS**

Canberra-class LHD  
amphibious  
assault ship  
concept [Diagram:  
Department of Defence]



### **Australia's Amphibious Assault Ships**

Australia is acquiring two Canberra-class LHD amphibious assault ships (also known as landing helicopter docks). The project will provide the Australian Defence Force with a world-class air-land-sea amphibious deployment system able to land a force of over 2000 personnel by helicopter and water craft, along with all their weapons, ammunition, vehicles and stores.

Designed with the shallowest possible draft to allow her to manoeuvre tactically in shallow waters common in littoral (near shore) regions, it will be suitable for supporting

missions ranging from disaster relief and humanitarian assistance to higher-end combat operations in Australia's immediate neighbourhood and beyond.

The first LHD, named HMAS *Canberra*, is due to be commissioned in January 2014 and the second ship, HMAS *Adelaide*, is planned to commission in June 2015.

The September issue of *United Service* will feature Australia's new joint amphibious capability.

**Editor**