

Media Release

The Hon Natalie Hutchins MP
Minister for Jobs and Industry
Minister for Treaty and First Peoples
Minister for Women



Thursday, 4 July 2024

ARB EXPANSION DELIVERING MORE LOCAL MANUFACTURING JOBS

The Allan Labor Government is backing one of the world's largest manufacturers and distributors of 4WD accessories to expand and invest in Victoria – creating more local jobs, investment and innovation in the automotive sector.

Minister for Jobs and Industry Natalie Hutchins today visited ARB's new \$25 million global headquarters and Research and Development Engineering Centre in Kilsyth, with the expansion made possible thanks to support from the Labor Government.

The 5,100 square metre HQ and Research and Development Centre is adjacent to ARB's new state-of-the-art showroom where the company continues to manufacture premium 4WD equipment including bull bars, air compressors, side rails, air lockers, battery trays and canopies.

Bringing ARB's HQ, R&D centre, showroom and manufacturing facility together at Kilsyth is creating up to 70 new local jobs for Melbourne's east.

ARB recently unveiled a major new product developed right here in Victoria. Part of its 4WD range, the Earth Camper is an all-terrain durable, off-road camper trailer and will be sold nationally and across the US, Europe, United Kingdom, UAE, Thailand and New Zealand.

Established in Melbourne in 1975, ARB has grown into a leading global company with an export network that extends across more than 100 countries. The Kilsyth hub is now home to 600 staff, including 85 engineers, with the company's employee numbers growing to over 2,000 across Australia and internationally.

Victoria's \$33.5 billion manufacturing industry is a driving force of Victoria's economy, made up of over 23,000 businesses, supporting more than 260,000 jobs, and exporting goods worth \$23.9 billion.

We're investing in our advanced manufactures across Victoria so they can continue to grow, innovate and support local jobs – made possible by the Government's programs including the *Manufacturing and Industry Sovereignty Fund*, the *Industry and R&D Infrastructure Fund* and the *Made in Victoria - Manufacturing Growth Program*.

Quote attributable to Minister for Jobs and Industry Natalie Hutchins

"Victoria leads the nation in advanced manufacturing because our government backs our innovators to develop world-class products here, that are sold around the world."

Quote attributable to Member for Eastern Metropolitan Region Shaun Leane

"We're investing in Victoria's manufacturing industry to help local businesses like ARB innovate and expand as they are key to growing our economy and supporting local jobs."

Quote attributable to ARB Chief Executive Officer Lachlan McCann

"We are very pleased to have engaged with the Victorian Government whose support and facilitation has assisted our expansion here in Melbourne. ARB's new Global Head Office and Research and Development Centre ensures

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ARB is set up to continue innovating, designing, engineering, and manufacturing premium 4x4 products here in Australia.”