F/A-18F Super Hornet

For more than a decade, Boeing has partnered with the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) to help develop Australia's F/A-18F Super Hornet fleet into one of the most advanced and formidable multi-role fighters in the world today.

The combat-proven aircraft, which delivers cutting-edge, next-generation multi-role strike fighter capability, is critical to the defence of the nation and its allies.

The twin seat F/A-18F Super Hornet is able to perform virtually every mission in the tactical spectrum, including air superiority, day/night strike with precision-guided weapons, fighter escort, close air support, suppression of enemy air defences, maritime strike, reconnaissance, forward air control and tanker missions.

The aircraft's in-country history began on 3 May 2007, when the Australian Government signed a contract to acquire 24 Boeing F/A-18Fs for the RAAF, becoming the Super Hornets' first export customer. It was designed to fill the capability gap following the retirement of the F-111 fleet in 2010 and the delayed arrival of the F-35A Joint Strike Fighters.

TECHNICAL DATA: Boeing F/A-18F Super Hornet

Power plant	Two low-bypass F404-GE-400 turbofans (7,258kg thrust each)
Span	12.4m (40 ft)
Length	17.1m (56 ft)
Height	4.7m (15 ft)
Empty weight	10,660kg (23,500 pounds)
Loaded weight	20,412kg (45,000 pounds)
Maximum speed	2,200 kph (1,367 mph)
Range	2,700 km (1,678 mi)
Service ceiling	13,716m (45,000 feet)
Armament	AIM-120 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile; AIM-132 Advanced Short Range Air-to-Air Missile; Practice, Conventional and Laser-Guided Bombs; Joint Direct Attack Munition and Laser JDAM; AGM-158 Joint Air-To-Surface Stand-Off Missile; and M61 Nose-Mounted 20mm Cannon

The Block II package aircraft offered to the RAAF included installed engines and six spares, APG-79 AESA radars, Link 16 connectivity, LAU-127 guided missile launchers, AN/ALE-55 fibre optic towed decoys and other equipment.

The RAAF's first five F/A-18Fs arrived at Amberley on 26 March 2010 and were joined by six more aircraft on 7 July 2010. Following the arrival of another four aircraft in December 2010, the RAAF achieved Initial Operating Capability on 9 December 2010.

In October 2011, the final Hornets arrived at Amberley, completing the delivery of all 24 aircraft, ahead of contract schedule and on-budget.

After achieving Final Operational Capability in December 2012, the Hornets excelled in a range of exercises and operations, including Exercise Pitch Black in the Northern Territory, Exercise Bersama Shield on the Malaysian Peninsula and two deployments to Operation OKRA in the Middle East in 2014-15 and 2017-18.

Today, the RAAF's 24 F/A-18F Super Hornets, operated by No. 1 Squadron at RAAF Base Amberley, are sustained under Boeing's Air Combat Electronic Attack Sustainment Program (ACEASP). The aircraft are tied in with the United States Navy spiral development program – ensuring the platforms keep their capability edge – with significant hardware and software enhancements delivered to the fleet on a two-yearly cycle.