

DIGO's new home opens

FEDERAL Defence Minister Joel Fitzgibbon has opened the \$52 million Defence Imagery and Geospatial Organisation facility at Junortoun.

The DIGO geospatial analysis centre is the sole provider of geospatial intelligence, which supports Australia's defence and national interests.

"Bendigo has played an important role in Australia's defence since 1942, when Defence mapping was moved to the previous Fortuna site," Mr Fitzgibbon said.

"The new \$52 million facility will ensure that DIGO remains a worldclass organisation at the forefront of geospatial information and services delivery."

Defence spends about \$130 million a year in Bendigo on personnel, equipment, services and facilities.

During his visit to Bendigo last Friday, Mr Fitzgibbon also visited Thales Australia, which is home to the design, production and support operations for the Bush-



Joel Fitzgibbon

master Protected Mobility Vehicle.

The minister recently announced that Defence had signed for another 293 Bushmasters, bringing the total number acquired to 737.

Mr Fitzgibbon also visited the local facilities of Australian Defence Apparel last Friday.

Earlier this year ADA won an \$81 million contract to provide Defence with a new modular combat body armour system.

Premier John Brumby, who also attended the opening, said the DIGO facility promoted employment and economic growth.