



Australian Government
Department of Defence
Estate and Infrastructure Group

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DGCFI/OUT/2015/O10750884

Senator Dean Smith

Chair

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

Parliament House

CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Smith,

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT - GROWLER AIRBORNE ELECTRONIC
ATTACK CAPABILITY FACILITIES PROJECT, VARIOUS LOCATIONS**

This letter is to inform the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC) of the nature and extent of community consultation undertaken as part of the Growler Airborne Electronic Attack Capability Facilities Project (the Project).

Broadly, the objectives of the strategy for community consultation adopted by Defence were to:

- Ensure that the public was informed about the project using cost effective, wide ranging communication channels; and
- Ensure that the public had every opportunity to raise issues of concern or seek further information.

The consultation activities undertaken included:

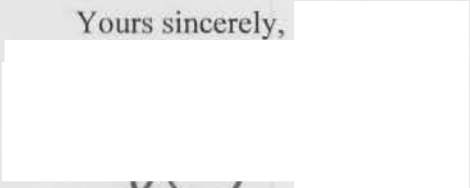
- Individual and group information provided through existing relationships with the neighbouring property owners and managers;
- Detailed email correspondence with local groups, State and Federal members with individual briefings conducted where requested. The members and groups consulted, with a short description of the outcomes of the contact, are detailed in Annex A. An example of the correspondence sent to the respective groups is detailed at Annex B;
- Advertisements in the local newspapers, listed in Annex C;
- Community Information Forum and Barbeque Information Evening, details listed at Annex D; and
- Promotion of the Project through local community networks including the QLD Department of State Development, Queensland Government, the RAAF Base Amberley Consultative Working Group, the Katherine Town Council and the Katherine Regional Economic Development Committee.

Key questions and issues raised by the Community through the Community Information Forums are listed at Annex E.

In general, the community feedback regarding the Project was positive. There was good support from the local communities as the Project has the potential to generate employment for local businesses.

In conclusion, no significant issues have been identified during Defence's community consultations that will impact on the proposed works. Defence is satisfied that it has taken all reasonable steps to inform the Community about the project and to provide opportunities for the Community to raise concerns.

Yours sincerely,


N. F. BEUTEL
Brigadier
Director General
Capital Facilities and Infrastructure

23 October 2015

Annexes:

- A. List of Stakeholders Consulted
- B. Example Correspondence Sent to Key Stakeholders
- C. Newspaper and Media Advertisements
- D. Community Information Forum and Barbeque Information Evening undertaken for the Growler Airborne Electronic Attack Capability Facilities Project
- E. Key Questions and Issues Raised During Community Information Forums

**ANNEX A TO
DGC/OUT/2015/O10750884
DATED OCT 15**

LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED – AMBERLEY AND OAKEY

LEVEL OF CONSULTATION	ORGANISATION AND MEMBER	DATE OF CONSULTATION	COMMENTS
LOCAL GOVERNMENT	Ipswich City Council, Mayor Paul Pisasale	08 October 2015	Email correspondence sent on 22 September 2015. The Project team provided a briefing to Mr Pisasale comprising both the Growler Facilities Project and the Battlefield Airlifter Facilities Project.
	Toowoomba Regional Council, Mayor Paul Antonio	Not Applicable	Email correspondence sent on 22 September 2015. Follow up email correspondence sent on 19 October 2015. No response received.
STATE GOVERNMENT	Member for Ipswich, Ms Jennifer Howard	Not Applicable	Email correspondence sent on 22 September 2015. Ms Howard's Executive Assistant responded on 24 September 2015 requesting details of the 03 November PWC Hearing. Information regarding the Hearing provided by the Project team.
	Member for Ipswich West, Mr Jim Madden	Not Applicable	Email correspondence sent on 22 September 2015. Follow up email correspondence sent on 19 October 2015. No response received.

LEVEL OF CONSULTATION	ORGANISATION AND MEMBER	DATE OF CONSULTATION	COMMENTS
STATE GOVERNMENT	Member for Condamine, Mr Patrick Weir	Not Applicable	Email correspondence sent on 22 September 2015. Follow up email correspondence sent on 19 October 2015. No response received.
	Department of State Development, Queensland Government, Mrs Bridget Edwards	07 October 2015	The Project team provided a brief on the Project. Mrs Edwards also attended the Community Information Forum.
	Queensland Department of Environmental and Heritage Protection, Ms Ruth Lewis	Not Applicable	Email correspondence sent on 22 September 2015. Follow up email correspondence sent on 19 October 2015. No response received.
	Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads	Not Applicable	Project information was provided on the 'Contact Us' page of the Department's website. Follow up email correspondence sent on 19 October 2015. No response received.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	Member for Groom, Hon Ian McFarlane	Not Applicable	Email correspondence sent on 22 September 2015. Follow up email correspondence sent on 19 October 2015. No response received.
	Member for Blair, Hon Shayne Neumann	09 October 2015	Email correspondence sent on 22 September 2015. A project brief was provided to Mr Newman by the Project team.
COMMUNITY, INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS COMMUNITY, INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS	Australian Koala Foundation	Not Applicable	Email correspondence sent on 22 September 2015. Follow up email correspondence sent on 19 October 2015. No response received.
	RAAF Base Amberley Consultative Working Group	20 October 2015	The Project Team provided a brief at the local Base Consultative Working Group.
	Community Information Forum	07 October 2015	A Community Information Forum that was open to interested members of the public and industry was conducted on 7 October 2015.

LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED – DELAMERE and KATHERINE

LEVEL OF CONSULTATION	ORGANISATION AND MEMBER	DATE OF CONSULTATION	COMMENTS
LOCAL GOVERNMENT	Katherine Town Council, CEO Robert Jennings	26 August 2015 and 14 October 2015	The Project Team provided an individual briefing to Mr Jennings. Mr Jennings also attended the Community Information Forum on 14 October 2015.
	Katherine Town Council, Mayor Fay Miller	14 October 2015	Email correspondence sent on 22 September 2015. Mayor Fay Miller attended Community Information Forum.
	Victoria Daly Shire, Mayor Steve Hennesy	Not Applicable	Email correspondence sent on 22 September 2015. Follow up email correspondence sent on 19 October 2015. No response received.
TERRITORY GOVERNMENT	Member for Stuart, Bess Price	Not Applicable	Email correspondence sent on 22 September 2015. Follow up email correspondence sent on 19 October 2015. No response received.
	Member for Katherine, Willem Westra Van Holthe	Not Applicable	Email correspondence sent on 22 September 2015. Follow up email correspondence sent on 19 October 2015. No response received.
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	Member for Lingiari, Warren Snowden	Not Applicable	Email correspondence sent on 22 September 2015. Follow up email correspondence sent on 19 October 2015. No response received.

LEVEL OF CONSULTATION	ORGANISATION AND MEMBER	DATE OF CONSULTATION	COMMENTS
COMMUNITY, INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS	Northern Land Council, Chris Kennedy	25 August 2015	The Project Team provided an individual briefing to Mr Kennedy.
			Mr Hamann was invited to attend the BBQ Information Evening however, did not attend.
	Killarney Station, Dave Hamann	Not Applicable	Email correspondence sent on 22 September 2015. Follow up email correspondence sent on 19 October 2015. No response received.
	Willeroo Station, David and Linda Bowman	14 May 2015	Provided information during the BBQ Information Evening
	East Matheson Station, Jay Mohr-Bell	14 May 2015	Provided information during the BBQ Information Evening.
	Delamere Station, Scott Doherty	27 August 2015	The project team provided an individual brief to Mr Doherty.
	Margaret Downs Station, Neil Miller	Not Applicable	Mr Miller was invited to attend the BBQ Information Evening however, did not attend. Email correspondence sent on 22 September 2015. Follow up email correspondence sent on 19 October 2015. No response received.
	Katherine Regional Economic Development Committee	14 October 2015	The project team met with a sub-committee to develop a Framework for Indigenous Participation in Commercial Opportunities within the Katherine Region.

LEVEL OF CONSULTATION	ORGANISATION AND MEMBER	DATE OF CONSULTATION	COMMENTS
COMMUNITY, INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS (cont)	Industry Capability Networks	14 October 2015	Attended Community Information Forum.
	Katherine Mining Services Association	14 October 2015	The project team met with the Chair of the Association and received information on capability of supply and services in the Katherine region.
	Manager Defence Industry Projects, Julie Wilson	14 October 2015	Attended Community Information Forum.
	Community Information Forum	14 October 2015	A Community Information Forum that was open to interested members of the public and industry was conducted on 14 October 2015.

ANNEX B TO
DGCFI/OUT/2015/O10750884
DATED OCT 15

EXAMPLE CORRESPONDENCE SENT TO KEY STAKEHOLDERS

An example of the email correspondence is as follows:

Dear

I am writing to you on behalf of The Department of Defence regarding RAAF Base Amberley and Growler Airborne Electronic Attack Capability Facilities Project.

The Growler Airborne Electronic Attack Capability Facilities Project will provide fit for purpose facilities to support and sustain the operation of the EA-18G Growler capability.

The Project will also support the safe employment of the new Growler – Mobile Threat Training Emitter Systems at the Army Aviation Centre Oakey, Queensland and the Delamere Air Weapons Range in the Northern Territory.

The Project will provide new or upgraded working and living accommodation, administration, logistics, and maintenance facilities, training and simulator facilities, multi-storey car park and associated support services and infrastructure.

The estimated cost of the Project is \$348 million, excluding Goods and Services Tax.

Subject to Parliamentary approval of the Project, construction is expected to begin in the first half of 2016 with Initial Operating Capability facilities completed by early 2018 and Final Operating Capability facilities completed by 2021.

The Statement of Evidence, which provides detailed information on the Growler Airborne Electronic Attack Capability Facilities Project, can be downloaded from the PWC website: http://www.apf.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Public_Works/Growler The public hearing for the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works is scheduled for 4 November 2015, at the Metro International Hotel, Ipswich.

If you would like any additional information or would like to organise a brief on the project to be conducted please don't hesitate to contact either myself via the mobile phone listed below or e-mail on lindsay.murray@defence.gov.au or the Project Officer for the Project, SQNLDR Simon West (02) 6266 8494 or e-mail simon.west@defence.gov.au

Yours sincerely,

Lindsay Murray
Project Director - Enoggera

Capital Facilities and Infrastructure
Infrastructure Division - DSRG

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**ANNEX C TO
DGCFI/OUT/2015/O10750884
DATED OCT 15**

**NEWSPAPER AND MEDIA ADVERTISEMENTS
AMBERLEY/ OAKEY**

The Community Information Forum for the Growler Airborne Electronic Attack Capability Facilities Project, were advertised in the Courier Mail, Toowoomba Chronicle and Queensland Times (newspaper and online) as follows:

Courier Mail	Toowoomba Chronicle	Queensland Times
Thursday 24 th September	Thursday 24 th September	Thursday 24 th September
Saturday 26 th September	Saturday 26 th September	Saturday 26 th September
Friday 2 nd October	Friday 2 nd October	Friday 2 nd October



Australian Government

Department of Defence

Notice of Community Information Forum

**Growler Airborne Electronic Attack Capability Facilities Project
And
Battlefield Airlifter Main Operating Base Facilities Project**

RAAF Base Amberley and Army Aviation Centre Oakey

The Department of Defence is holding a community information forum to outline the proposed construction works related to the Growler Airborne Electronic Attack Capability and Battlefield Airlifter Main Operating Base Facilities Projects. These works are subject to Parliamentary approval.

The Growler Airborne Electronic Attack Capability and Battlefield Airlifter Main Operating Base Projects incorporate the provision of new RAAF capabilities and aircraft that will require the construction of new facilities and infrastructure at RAAF Base Amberley

The Growler Airborne Electronic Attack Capability Project will also require minor refurbishment of existing facilities at Army Aviation Centre Oakey.

The Department of Defence and representatives from each of the Managing Contractors will be in attendance to provide one-on-one information on the projects and to answer any questions.

When: Wednesday 7 October 2015

Time: 6:00pm – 7:00pm


Where: Lockyer Room, Ipswich Civic Centre, Cnr Limestone and Nicholas Streets, Ipswich, QLD 4305

**NEWSPAPER AND MEDIA ADVERTISEMENTS
DELAMERE/KATHERINE**

The Community Information Forum for the Delamere Air Weapons Range Redevelopment Project, were advertised in the Northern Territory News (NT News) and Katherine Times newspapers as follows:

Northern Territory News	Katherine Times
Wednesday 30 th September	Wednesday 30 th September
Saturday 3 rd October	Wednesday 7 th October
Wednesday 7 th October	Wednesday 14 th October
Saturday 10 th October	

Example advertisement below:



Australian Government
Department of Defence

Notice of Community Information Forum
Delamere Air Weapons Range Redevelopment Project
And
Growler Airborne Electronic Attack Capability Facilities Project
Delamere Air Weapons Range

The Department of Defence is holding a community information forum to outline the proposed construction works at the Delamere Air Weapons Range. These works are subject to Parliamentary approval.

The Delamere Air Weapons Range Redevelopment Project and the Growler Airborne Electronic Attack Capability Facilities Project include construction of new facilities and infrastructure and upgrades of existing infrastructure at the range.

The Department of Defence and representatives from the Managing Contractor will be in attendance to provide one-on-one information on the projects and to answer any questions.

When: Wednesday 14th October 2015
Time: 6:00pm - 7:00pm
**Where: Katherine Town Council Chambers, Civic Centre,
Lot 1865 Stuart Highway, Katherine NT, 0850.**

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DATED OCT 15

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION FOR THE GROWLER AIRBORNE ELECTRONIC ATTACK FACILITIES PROJECT

IPSWICH CONSULTATION

A Community Information Forum was conducted over a period of approximately one hour to allow members of the public to understand the Project and the proposed works. The Community Information Forum was conducted at the following location and time:

- A drop in Community Information Forum was held on Wednesday 07 October 2015 between 6pm and 7pm, at the Ipswich Civic Centre, Lockyer Room. The Session was advertised in the Courier Mail, Toowoomba Chronicle and Queensland Times and through industry groups.
- A total of Twenty Three (23) members of the public attended the evening which included members of the local community, contractors from Brisbane, Ipswich and Gatton as well as a representative from the Queensland State Government.

KATHERINE CONSULTATION

Two Community Information Sessions were conducted to allow members of the public to understand the Project and the proposed works. Community Information Sessions were conducted at the following locations and times:

- The Delamere Range staff hosted a **Barbecue and Information Evening** on the 14th May at the Delamere Range. Managers and owners of all neighbouring stations were invited. Willeroo Station manager and East Matheson Station owner attended. The concerns that were raised at this information session were primarily operational issues regarding the use of aircraft flares and the subsequent bushfires that have affected some of their properties.
- The second concern that was raised was from Jay Mohr-Bell, the owner of East Matheson Station who noted the lack of a northern boundary fence which was reducing his ability to use some grazing areas. Defence's Estate and Infrastructure Group has since supported Mr Mohr-Bell with funding to complete fencing works in accordance with recognised NT property fencing requirements.
- A **Community Information Forum** was held on 14th October at the Katherine Civic Centre. The Session was advertised in the Katherine Times and NT news and through industry groups.
- A total of twenty five (25) people attended the Forum, representing the local community, contractors, industry participation group and local Council Officials. Information was made available that explained the reasons for the project, the scope

of works, and the planned construction program. A number of issues were raised, and are detailed in Annex E.

**ANNEX E TO
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KEY QUESTIONS AND ISSUES RAISED DURING COMMUNITY INFORMATION FORUMS

A summary of the key issues and questions that were received during the Community Information Forums, including the Defence responses provided, are detailed in the table below:

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES		
ISSUE/QUESTION	HOW EACH ISSUE/QUESTION WAS ADDRESSED	COMMUNITY MEMBER
PROJECT SPECIFIC		
What is the Scope of the works for the Growler Project?	A brief overview was provided of the various stages and facilities being provided under the Growler Project.	Contractors
What is the proposed timeframe for the works at Amberley?	A brief overview was provided of the expected timeframe for delivery of the works; being construction for phase one expected to begin in first half of 2016 and be completed by end 2017 and construction for phase two expected to begin in second half of 2020 and be completed by mid 2021.	Contractors
What is the proposed timeframe for the works at Delamere?	The program for the works was explained. Construction of the camp should commence in March/April 2016 with all construction complete by mid 2018.	Local Community / Contractors
How will the works be tendered for the subcontractors?	The Managing Contractor (MC) arrangement was explained, and an opportunity was provided to pass company details to the Managing Contractor representative present at the consultation. Works are expected to be advertised in local newspapers and through internet based industry networks.	Contractors
How will the works be packaged into trade packages?	An overview of the procurement methodology was provided and the contractor was directed to liaise directly with the Managing Contractor.	Contractors

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES		
ISSUE/QUESTION	HOW EACH ISSUE/QUESTION WAS ADDRESSED	COMMUNITY MEMBER
Will there be a Construction Industry Brief for Subcontractors looking to work on the Projects	Construction Industry Briefs for Subcontractors looking to work on the Project may be provided by the Managing Contractor if required.	Contractors
GENERAL		
How will water at the range be treated noting issues with ground water quality in Katherine?	It was explained that hydrogeological investigations will include analysis of the water quality and the treatment plant will be constructed to produce potable water that meets drinking water guidelines.	Local Government
Concerns raised for the payment of sub-contractors	The Managing Contractor form of contract was explained particularly the use of a trust account that will be established by the Managing Contractor to ensure the payment of sub-contractors.	Local Government
How do local companies ensure they have a good chance at being engaged as a sub-contractor on the project?	The project team noted code compliance, and using the available industry participation groups (some of which were present at the Community Information Forum) to assist with understanding the documentation required to tender for trade packages during the delivery.	Local Government / Contractors

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES		
ISSUE/QUESTION	HOW EACH ISSUE/QUESTION WAS ADDRESSED	COMMUNITY MEMBER
A paper has been developed by members of the Katherine Regional Economic Development Committee to increase indigenous involvement in local employment opportunities through a number of local commercial organisations. This initiative is being actively supported by a leading local business that has received approval for an indigenous employment skills program using the jobactive program.	Defence noted that the Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) in place for the Delamere Range requires that the Wardaman People, as the Traditional Owners, are given the opportunity to provide a capability statement as to services they may provide to the project. Additionally the Project will support the objectives of the Indigenous Procurement Policy. Commonwealth buyers can purchase directly from Indigenous small and medium size enterprises for contracts of any size using the Indigenous business exemption under the Commonwealth Procurement Rules. Indigenous business must still demonstrate value for money however the exemption avoids the need to complete a costly tender submission.	Local Community / Members of the Public / Contractors