



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Defence**  
Defence Support and Reform Group

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DGCFI-ID/OUT/2015/AF21566736

**Senator Dean Smith**  
Chair  
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Smith,

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT FOR THE 17<sup>TH</sup> CONSTRUCTION  
SQUADRON RELOCATION INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES PROJECT, RAAF  
BASE AMBERLEY**

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 17<sup>th</sup> Construction Squadron Relocation Infrastructure Facilities Project (the Project).

Broadly, the strategy for community consultation adopted by Defence was undertaken with the objective of:

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

The consultation activities undertaken included:

- 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;
- A Public Consultation Session undertaken, details listed at Annex D;
- Undertaking a Local Industry Forum to identify local contracting and supply chain opportunities for the Ipswich community, details listed at Annex D; and
- Promotion of the Project through local community networks including the Department of State Development, Queensland Government and the RAAF Base Amberley Consultative Working Group.

Key issues raised by the Community through the Consultation sessions are listed at Annex E.

In general, the community feedback regarding the Project was extremely positive and did not raise any issues with the relocation of the Squadron to RAAF Base Amberley. There was strong support from the local community as the Project has the potential to generate employment for small, medium and large sized local businesses.

In conclusion, no significant issues have been identified during Defence's community consultations that will impact on the proposed works, and 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,

**Noel Beutzel**  
Brigadier  
Director General Capital Facilities and Infrastructure

11 May 2015

**Annexes:**

- A. List of Stakeholders consulted
- B. Example correspondence sent to Key Stakeholders
- C. Newspaper and Media Advertisements
- D. Public Consultation Sessions undertaken for the 17<sup>th</sup> Construction Squadron Relocation Infrastructure Facilities Project
- E. Key questions and issues raised during Community Consultation sessions

**ANNEX A TO  
DGCFI-ID/OUT/2015/AF21566736  
DATED 11 MAY 2015**

**LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED**

<b>LEVEL OF CONSULTATION</b>	<b>ORGANISATION AND MEMBER</b>	<b>DATE OF CONSULTATION</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT</b>	Ipswich City Council, Mayor Paul Pisasale	21 April 2015	The Project Team provided an individual briefing to Mr Pisasale.
<b>FEDERAL GOVERNMENT</b>	Federal Member for Blair, Hon Shayne Neumann MP	12 May 2015	This consultation will be held after the date of this letter and the Project Team will provide an individual briefing to Mr Newmann.
<b>STATE GOVERNMENT</b>	State Member for Ipswich, Ms Jennifer Howard MP	Not Applicable	No response received from Ms Howard.
	State Member for Ipswich West, Mr Jim Madden MP	20 April 2015	The Project Team provided an individual briefing to Mr Madden.
	Department of State Development, Queensland Government, Mrs Bridget Edwards	11 February 2015	Provided a brief on the Project and organised a Local Industry Stakeholder Briefing.
	Department of Environment and Heritage Protection	Not Applicable	No response received to the Defence letter.
	Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads	Not Applicable	No response received to the Defence letter.

LEVEL OF CONSULTATION	ORGANISATION AND MEMBER	DATE OF CONSULTATION	COMMENTS
<b>COMMUNITY, INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS</b>	Australian Koala Foundation	Not Applicable	No response received to the Defence letter.
	Ipswich Koala Protection Society	Not Applicable	No response received to the Defence letter.
	RAAF Base Amberley Consultative Working Group	19 May 2015	The Project Team will provide a brief at the local Base Consultative Working Group.
	Local Industry Forum	10 March 2015	Provided a Local Industry Stakeholder Briefing open to all Contractors.
	Community Consultation Evening	5 May 2015	A drop-in Community Evening open to the Public.

**ANNEX B TO  
DGCFI-ID/OUT/2015/AF21566736  
DATED 11 MAY 2015**

**EXAMPLE CORRESPONDENCE SENT TO KEY STAKEHOLDERS**

An example of the email correspondence is as follows:

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Good Afternoon Mayor Pisasale,

I am writing to you on behalf of The Department of Defence regarding RAAF Base Amberley and the 17th Construction Squadron Relocation Infrastructure Project.

The Army's 17th Construction Squadron, currently located in Holsworthy, New South Wales, is relocating to RAAF Base Amberley in Queensland to collocate it with its parent Unit, the 6th Engineer Support Regiment. This project will provide new working accommodation, vehicle shelters, logistics facilities and vehicle repair workshops to support the Unit.

The Project will also construct a new Fire Training Area for the Airfield Rescue and Fire Fighting services on RAAF Base Amberley. The estimated cost of the Project is \$71.8 million, excluding Goods and Services Tax.

The relocation of the 17th Construction Squadron to RAAF Base Amberley will enhance command and control arrangements for the Regiment, provide opportunities for implementation of shared services and efficiencies between the two Construction Squadrons within the Regiment. It will also provide enhanced operational and training effectiveness, as well as increased deployment readiness of the Unit.

The new facilities will provide a consolidated Regiment with modern and fit-for-purpose facilities to work, operate, maintain and support the Army's efforts, both in war time and peace.

The Statement of Evidence, which provides detailed information on the 17th Construction Squadron Relocation Infrastructure Project, can be downloaded from the PWC website: [http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Joint/Public\\_Works/Squadron\\_Relocation/Submissions](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Public_Works/Squadron_Relocation/Submissions)[http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Joint/Public\\_Works/Squadron\\_Relocation/Submissions](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Public_Works/Squadron_Relocation/Submissions)[http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Joint/Public\\_Works/AIR7000/Submissions](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Public_Works/AIR7000/Submissions). The public hearing for the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works is scheduled for 20th May 2015, at a venue in the vicinity of Ipswich which is yet to be confirmed.

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 phone below or e-mail on [paul.wright@defence.gov.au](mailto:paul.wright@defence.gov.au), or the Project Officer for the Project, Ms Sara Clout on (02) 6266 8117 or e-mail [sara.clout@defence.gov.au](mailto:sara.clout@defence.gov.au). We will be in Brisbane for meetings during the week of 20th April 2015 and could make ourselves available to conduct a brief as you may require, or can make alternative arrangements if needed.

Yours sincerely,

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**PAUL WRIGHT**

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Project Director - Regional South Queensland  
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ANNEX C TO  
DGCFI-ID/OUT/2015/AF21566736  
DATED 11 MAY 2015

NEWSPAPER AND MEDIA ADVERTISEMENTS

The PWC public consultation sessions for the 17th Construction Squadron Relocation Infrastructure Facilities Project, were advertised in the Queensland Times (newspaper and online).



Australian Government  
Department of Defence

**Notice of Community Information Forum  
17th Construction Squadron Relocation Project  
RAAF Base Amberley**

The Department of Defence is holding a community information forum for local contractors to outline the proposed Infrastructure project for the 17th Construction Squadron Relocation Project.

This work is subject to Parliamentary approval.

17th Construction Squadron is currently located at Holsworthy Barracks, Sydney and the relocation will require the construction of new facilities and infrastructure at RAAF Base Amberley.

When: Tuesday 10 March 2015  
Time: 18:30pm - 19:30pm  
Where: Silkstone Room, Metro Hotel Ipswich International, 43 South Street, Ipswich



Australian Government  
Department of Defence

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17th Construction Squadron is currently located at Holsworthy Barracks, Sydney and the relocation will require the construction of new facilities and infrastructure at RAAF Base Amberley.

**When: Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2015  
Time: 18:00pm - 19:00pm  
Where: Metro Hotel Ipswich International,  
43 South Street, Ipswich**

**ANNEX D TO  
DGCFI-ID/OUT/2015/AF21566736  
DATED 11 MAY 2015**

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION SESSION FOR THE 17<sup>TH</sup> CONSTRUCTION  
SQUADRON RELOCATION INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES PROJECT**

Public Consultation Sessions were conducted over a period of approximately one hour to allow members of the public to understand the Project and the proposed works. Public Information Sessions were conducted at the following locations and times.

One public information session was held during the pre-planning phase of the Project, as follows:

- The session was conducted on Tuesday 10 March 2015 between 7:30pm and 8:30pm, at the Metro Hotel Ipswich International.
- The information session was targeted at the local construction industry and provided an overview of Defence's construction contracts and tendering requirements.
- The information provided to the Community was in preparation for the Head Contractor procurement to occur after Project Approval.
- Approximately sixty-eight (68) companies registered to attend and forty (40) local contractors and subcontractors attended the evening that represented thirty (30) individual companies.
- Representatives from the Queensland State Government were also in attendance.
- The evening was considered to be a success.

One public information session was held during the PWC referral period as follows:

- A drop in Community Evening was held on Tuesday 5 May 2015 between 6pm and 7pm, at the Metro Hotel Ipswich International.
- A total of seven (7) attendees attended the evening which included members of the local community, an Australian Defence Force member and a representative from the Queensland State Government.

At the request of RAAF, one further public information session will be held after the PWC hearing, which will coincide with the next RAAF Base Amberley Consultative Working Group scheduled for 19 May 2015.

**ANNEX E TO  
DGCPI-ID/OUT/2015/AF21566736  
DATED 11 MAY 2015**

**KEY QUESTIONS AND ISSUES RAISED DURING COMMUNITY CONSULTATION SESSIONS**

A summary of the key issues and questions that were received during the community consultations, including the Defence responses provided, is indicated in the table below:

<b>SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES</b>		
<b>ISSUE/QUESTION</b>	<b>HOW EACH ISSUE/QUESTION WAS ADDRESSED</b>	<b>COMMUNITY MEMBER</b>
<b>OPERATIONAL</b>		
What is the unit make-up and history?	A brief overview was provided of the unit/squadron history.	Local Community/ Interest/Groups/ Members of the Public
What does the Squadron actually do?	The Squadron comprises general trades including electrician, carpenters, plumbers and plant operators who are skilled to construct horizontal and vertical construction.	Local Government
How many RAAF Personnel are there compared with Army on RAAF Base Amberley?	There are approximately 3,000 RAAF personnel and there are currently 1,000 Army Personnel. In total, the Bases current population is in excess of 5,500 personnel with civilian contractors.	QLD State Government
<b>PROJECT SPECIFIC</b>		
Why is the Squadron Moving?	The Squadron is relocating to maximise efficiencies in the Regiment.	Local Community/ Interest/Groups/ Members of the Public
How many people will be coming to Ipswich?	An additional one hundred and fifty Army personnel and their families will relocate to Ipswich on the Projects completion.	Local Community/ Interest/Groups/ Government/ Members of the Public
Where are they moving from?	The Squadron will be relocating from Holsworthy Barracks in Sydney.	Local Government



<b>SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES</b>		
<b>ISSUE/QUESTION</b>	<b>HOW EACH ISSUE/QUESTION WAS ADDRESSED</b>	<b>COMMUNITY MEMBER</b>
When will the Squadron be relocated?	It is anticipated that the Squadron will relocate to Ipswich in time for the January 2017 posting cycle.	Local Community Interest/ Members of the Public
Is the land vacant where the facilities will be constructed?	No, demolition of the existing Fire Training Area will need to make way for the new facilities. However the location for the new Fire Training Area will be on vacant land.	State Government
Is the Project linked to the demolition of the Amberley Heritage Buildings?	No, this Project is not part of the Amberley Heritage Works. There will be very minimal demolition works for the existing Fire Training Area as part of this project only.	QLD State Government
<b>TRAFFIC</b>		
Will there be significant traffic impacts around the Base and specifically Behms Road?	Traffic studies have been completed for the Project and it has been determined that there will be a negligible change to the current traffic conditions surrounding the Base. The use of the Rosewood Road entrance will continue to be the main access route by the construction contractors for the Project. The Unit will conduct its deployments around the peak road user periods to assist in minimising traffic congestion.	Member of the Public
A public member raised concerns with the erratic driving behaviour of the Army, Air Force and Contracted Base personnel along Behms Road	The Behms Road project and road use has limited links to this project; however, the concerns would be included in the consultation report.	Member of the Public
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>		
When will the PWC Hearing be?	The PWC Hearing will be conducted on 20 May 2015.	QLD State Government
Can you describe the PWC process?	The process of PWC public submission, consideration and hearings was explained with reference to the PWC website for further information.	QLD State Government

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES		
ISSUE/QUESTION	HOW EACH ISSUE/QUESTION WAS ADDRESSED	COMMUNITY MEMBER
Will this Project impact the nearby Cricket grounds at the Ivor Marsden Complex?	No, the works are self contained to the west of the Base and are within RAAF Base Amberley.	Local Community Interest/ Members of the Public
Does the Base have plans to purchase further land as part of this project?	No, this Project will not see any expansions to the Base.	Local Community Interest/ Members of the Public
Where will the personnel be housed?	Army personnel will be housed either on the RAAF Base or within the local community facilitated through the Defence Housing Association.	QLD State Government