



Australian Government
Department of Defence
Estate and Infrastructure Group

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DGCFI/OUT/2015/AF22900567

Senator Dean Smith

Chair
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Smith,

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT - BATTLEFIELD AIRLIFTER MAIN
OPERATING BASE 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 as part of the Battlefield Airlifter Main Operating Base 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:

- Detailed email correspondence with local interest groups, State and Federal members with individual briefings conducted where requested. A list of members and interest groups consulted, with a short description of the outcomes of the contact, is detailed at Annex A. An example of the correspondence sent to the respective groups is detailed at Annex B;
- Advertisements placed in the local newspapers are detailed at Annex C;
- Community Information Forum, 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 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. FBENTEL
Brigadier
Director General
Capital Facilities and Infrastructure

23 October 2015

Annexes:

- A. List of Stakeholders Consulted
- B. Example correspondence send to Key Stakeholders
- C. Newspaper and Media Advertisements
- D. Public Consultation Sessions undertaken for the BFA Facilities Project
- E. Key questions and issues raised during the Community Consultations sessions.

**ANNEX A TO
DGC/OUT/2015/AF22900567
DATED OCT 2015**

LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED

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 21 September 2015. The Project team provided a briefing to Mr Pisasale, combined with the Growler Facilities project briefing, on 08 October 2015.
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	Federal Member for Blair, The Hon Shayne Neumann MP	09 October 2015	Email correspondence sent on 21 September 2015. The Project team provided a briefing to Mr Newman, combined with the Growler Facilities project briefing, on 09 October 2015.
STATE GOVERNMENT	State Member for Ipswich, Ms Jennifer Howard MP		Email correspondence sent on 21 September 2015. Ms Howard's EA responded on 24 September 2015 requesting details of November 03 Hearing. Information regarding the Hearing was provided by the Project team.
	State Member for Ipswich, Mr James Madden MP		Email correspondence sent on 21 September 2015. No response received.

LEVEL OF CONSULTATION	ORGANISATION AND MEMBER	DATE OF CONSULTATION	COMMENTS
	Department of State Development, Queensland Government, Mrs Bridget Edwards	07 July 2015	The Project team provided a brief on the Project to Mrs Edwards on 07 July 2015 via a teleconference call. Email correspondence sent on 21 September 2015. Mrs Edwards also attended the Community Information Forum on 07 October 2015.
	Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads		Project information was provided on the 'Contact Us' page of the Department's website. No response received.
COMMUNITY, INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS	Australian Koala Foundation		Email correspondence sent on 21 September 2015. No response received.
	Ipswich Koala Protection Society		Email correspondence sent on 21 September 2015. No response received.
	RAAF Base Amberley Consultative Working Group	20 October 2015	The Project Team provided a brief at the RAAF Base Amberley Consultative Working Group on 20 October 2015.
	Community Consultation Evening	07 October 2015	A Community Information Forum that was open to interested members of the public and industry was conducted on 07 October 2015.

**ANNEX B TO
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DATED OCT 2015**

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 the Battlefield Airlifter Facilities Project.

The Battlefield Airlifter Facilities Project will provide fit for purpose facilities to support and sustain the operation of the C-27J aircraft capability.

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 \$380 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 Final Operating Capability facilities completed by mid 2019.

The Statement of Evidence, which provides detailed information on the Battlefield Airlifter Facilities Project, can be downloaded from the PWC website: http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Public_Works/Battlefield_Airlifter

The public hearing for the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works is scheduled for 3 November 2015, at the Metro International Hotel Ipswich.

If you would like any additional information or would like to be briefed on the project please do not hesitate to contact either myself via mobile phone below or e-mail on christopher.sankey1@defence.gov.au or the Project Officer for the Project, Chris Homann (02) 6266 8146 or e-mail chris.homann@defence.gov.au "

Regards

Chris Sankey

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**ANNEX C TO
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DATED OCT 2015**

The PWC public consultation sessions for the Battlefield Airlifter Facilities Project were advertised in the Courier Mail and Queensland Times (newspaper and online).



Australian Government
Department of Defence

Notice of Community and 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

**ANNEX D TO
DGCFI/OUT/2015/AF22900567
DATED OCT 2015**

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION SESSION FOR THE BATTLEFIELD AIRLIFTER MAIN
OPERATING BASE FACILITIES PROJECT**

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.
- 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.

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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:

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 Battlefield Airlifter Project?	A brief overview was provided of the various stages and facilities being provided under the Battlefield Airlifter Project.	Contractor
What is the proposed timeframe for the Project?	A brief overview was provided of the proposed timeframe associated with the procurement and construction activities associated with the proposed delivery of the Battlefield Airlifter Project.	Contractor
How will the works be tendered for the subcontractors?	An overview of the process was provided and the contractor was directed to liaise directly with the Managing Contractor.	Contractor
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.	Contractor
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 to assist with understanding the documentation required to tender for trade packages during the delivery.	Contractor

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES		
ISSUE/QUESTION	HOW EACH ISSUE/QUESTION WAS ADDRESSED	COMMUNITY MEMBER
GENERAL		
What is the reason behind basing 35SQN at RAAF Amberley?	35SQN is moving to Amberley to collocate with other Air Mobility Group assets and is in line with Defence strategic intent for RAAF Base Amberley.	Member of the Public