



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Defence**  
Estate and Infrastructure Group

Brigadier Matt Galton  
Director General  
Capital Facilities & Infrastructure Branch  
Department of Defence  
Brindabella Business Park (BP26-1-B101)  
PO Box 7925  
Canberra BC ACT 2610

☎:  
📠:

DGCFI/OUT/2018/AF31948699

**Mr Scott Buchholz MP**  
Chair  
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Buchholz,

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT – ENGINE TEST CELL 1 UPRGRADE PROJECT, RAAF BASE AMBERLEY, QUEENSLAND**

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 proposed Engine Test Cell 1 Upgrade Project (the Project).

The objectives of the community consultation undertaken by Defence were to ensure that the community:

- a. was well informed about the Project by using effective and proven communication channels to convey details of the proposed works; and
- b. had every opportunity to raise issues of concern or seek further information so that wherever feasible, they could be addressed by Defence in its program of works.

Multiple activities were undertaken in accordance with the Project's Stakeholder and Community Consultation Plan, namely:

- a. Correspondence sent by email to local groups, State and Federal members with the offer of individual briefings upon request. A list of the members and groups consulted is at Annex A, with a short description of the outcomes of the consultation. An example of the correspondence and accompanying Fact Sheet sent from 4 December 2017 to the members and respective groups is provided at Annex B and Annex C respectively.
- b. Advertisements promoting the single Public Information Session were placed in local newspapers from Thursday 30 November 2017 until Thursday 7 December 2017. Publications included the Ipswich Advertiser and The Queensland Times. An example advertisement is provided at Annex D.
- c. One Public Information Session was held on 7 December 2017 at the Ipswich Civic Centre as summarised by Annex E, including matters raised by attendees.

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- d. A sample of the displays used at the Public Information Session is provided at Annex F.
- e. The Amberley Consultative Working Group (ACWG) was briefed by the RAAF Base Amberley Base Support Manager (BSM) when it met on 14 November 2017. The ACWG meets quarterly and is chaired by the Air Base Executive Officer and attended by Base representatives, State and Local Government representatives, representatives from community organisations and neighbouring residents.
- f. A web page was created on the Department of Defence's website regarding the Project at [www.defence.gov.au/id/etc1](http://www.defence.gov.au/id/etc1); it was viewed 167 times between 4 December 2017 and 10 January 2018. This web page provided information regarding the project itself as well as information about the Public Information Session to promote attendance and inquiries. A sample of the website content is provided at Annex G.

Although limited, feedback received was both positive and neutral; this included incidental media reporting such as that shown at Annex H. The community were interested in noise, vibration and employment opportunities. It was expected that traffic impacts would be raised as an issue of concern, but this did not eventuate. Defence agreed to consider ground vibration measurement due to engine testing and to communicate actions and outcomes relating to this matter through the ACWG.

Defence is satisfied that it has taken all reasonable steps using a variety of methods to inform the Community about the Project and to provide opportunities for the Community to raise concerns and questions.



**M. J. GALTON, DSC**  
Brigadier  
Director General  
Capital Facilities and Infrastructure

23 January 2018

**Annexes:**

- A. List of Stakeholders Consulted
- B. Sample Stakeholder Letter
- C. Fact Sheet
- D. Newspaper advertising
- E. Public Information Session
- F. Sample of display boards
- G. Website content
- H. Media coverage

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ANNEX A TO  
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# LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED

STAKEHOLDER GROUP	ORGANISATION AND MEMBER	DATE OF CONSULTATION	COMMENTS
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	Member for Ryan, Hon Jane Prentice MP	5 December 2017	5 December 2017 – Defence emailed Stakeholder Letter to recipient with offer of a briefing.
	Member for Blair, Hon Shayne Neumann MP	5 December 2017	5 December 2017 – Defence emailed Stakeholder Letter to recipient with offer of a briefing. Mr Neumann is also a member of the ACWG.
	Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Hon Dr Mark Bailey MP	19 December 2017	19 December 2017 – Defence emailed Stakeholder Letter to recipient with offer of a briefing once QLD election result was finalised. 19 December 2017 – Letter acknowledged and thankful for the email.
STATE GOVERNMENT	Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Manufacturing, Hon Cameron Dick MP	19 December 2017	19 December 2017 – Defence emailed Stakeholder Letter with offer of a briefing once QLD election result was finalised. 19 December 2017 – Letter acknowledged and thankful for the email.
	Member for Ipswich West, Mr James (Jim) Madden MP	5 December 2017	5 December 2017 – Defence emailed Stakeholder Letter with offer of a briefing. Mr Madden is also a member of the ACWG.

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STAKEHOLDER GROUP	ORGANISATION AND MEMBER	DATE OF CONSULTATION	COMMENTS
STATE GOVERNMENT	Member for Ipswich, Ms Jennifer Howard MP	5 December 2017	5 December 2017 -- Defence emailed Stakeholder Letter with offer of a briefing.  5 December 2017 -- Letter acknowledged and Ms Howard advised she was not available for the Information Session or a briefing.  Ms Howard is also a member of the ACWG.
	Member for Lockyer, Mr Ian Rickuss MP	4 December 2017	5 December 2017 -- Defence emailed Stakeholder Letter with offer of a briefing.  Mr Rickuss is also a member of the ACWG.
	Director General, Department of State Development/Defence Industries Queensland	4 December 2017	4 December 2017 -- Defence emailed Stakeholder Letter with offer of a briefing.
	Director General, Department of State Development	4 December 2017	4 December 2017 -- Defence emailed Stakeholder Letter with offer of a briefing.  6 December 2017 -- Received email response saying thankful for the email.
	Director General, Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR)	4 December 2017	4 December 2017 -- Defence emailed Stakeholder Letter with offer of a briefing.  11 December 2017 -- Received letter response indicating TMR holds key interest in any development of new facilities at RAAF Base Amberley, particularly if there is a potential impact to the state-controlled road network surrounding the Base.

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STAKEHOLDER GROUP	ORGANISATION AND MEMBER	DATE OF CONSULTATION	COMMENTS
LOCAL GOVERNMENT	Ipswich City Council CEO, Jim Lindsay	4 December 2017	4 December 2017 – Defence emailed Stakeholder Letter with offer of a briefing.
	Mayor, Andrew Antoniolli	5 December 2017	5 December – Defence emailed Stakeholder Letter with offer of a briefing. This consultation was handled personally by Senior ADF Officer RAAF Base Amberley given their close working relationship.
	Deputy Mayor, Paul Tully	4 December 2017	4 December 2017 – Defence emailed Stakeholder Letter with offer of a briefing.
	Councillor, David Morrison	4 December 2017	4 December 2017 – Defence emailed Stakeholder Letter with offer of a briefing.
	Councillor, Kerry Silver	4 December 2017	4 December 2017 – Defence emailed Stakeholder Letter with offer of a briefing.
	Councillor, Kylie Stoneman	4 December 2017	4 December 2017 – Defence emailed Stakeholder Letter with offer of a briefing.
	Councillor, Wayne Wendt	4 December 2017	4 December 2017 – Defence emailed Stakeholder Letter with offer of a briefing.
	Councillor, Cheryl Bromage	4 December 2017	4 December 2017 – Defence emailed Stakeholder Letter with offer of a briefing.  5 December 2017 – Letter acknowledged and thankful for the email.
	Councillor, Charlie Pisasale	4 December 2017	4 December 2017 – Defence emailed Stakeholder Letter with offer of a briefing.
	Councillor, Sheile Ireland	4 December 2017	4 December 2017 – Defence emailed Stakeholder Letter with offer of a briefing.

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STAKEHOLDER GROUP	ORGANISATION AND MEMBER	DATE OF CONSULTATION	COMMENTS
LOCAL GOVERNMENT	Councillor, David Pahlke	4 December 2017	4 December 2017 – Defence emailed Stakeholder Letter with offer of a briefing.
	President, Ipswich Chamber of Commerce and Industry	4 December 2017	4 December 2017 – Defence emailed Stakeholder Letter with offer of a briefing.
	Members of the Amberley Consultative Working Group (ACWG)	14 November 2017	14 November 2017 – Briefing provided by RAAF Base Amberley Base Support Manager about the Project and upcoming Public Information Session.
COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS	President, Ipswich Residents Against Toxic Environment	4 December 2017	4 December 2017 – Defence emailed Stakeholder Letter.
	President, Willowbank Area Residents Group	4 December 2017	4 December 2017 – Defence emailed Stakeholder Letter.
	President Winston Glades Community Group	4 December 2017	4 December 2017 – Defence emailed Stakeholder Letter.
	President, Ipswich Ratepayers and Residents Association	4 December 2017	4 December 2017 – Defence emailed Stakeholder Letter.
			4 December 2017 – Received acknowledgement email where President said he will publicise event with members.
	Principal, West Moreton Anglican College	4 December 2017	4 December 2017 – Defence emailed Stakeholder Letter.
	Marburg & District Residents Association	4 December 2017	4 December 2017 – Defence emailed Stakeholder Letter.
	President, Ipswich RSL Sub-Branch Inc.	4 December 2017	4 December 2017 – Defence emailed Stakeholder Letter.
	President, Ipswich Railway RSL Sub-Branch	4 December 2017	4 December 2017 – Defence emailed Stakeholder Letter.

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## SAMPLE STATEHOLDER LETTER



Australian Government  
Department of Defence  
Capability Acquisition and  
Sustainment Group

Joint Strike Fighter Division  
Office BP1-2-056  
PO Box 7922  
CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

R31897262

NAME  
TITLE  
ADDRESS  
ADDRESS

Dear Sir / Madam

I am writing to you on behalf of the Department of Defence regarding the proposed upgrade of an existing facility at RAAF Base Amberley.

Amberley is home to a specialist facility that tests the aircraft engines of RAAF's F/A-18F Super Hornet and E/A-18G Growler fleet. The Engine Test Cell 1 (ETC1) Upgrade project will modify the existing facility to be capable of testing F-35 Lightning II aircraft engines while retaining the capability to test Super Hornet and Growler aircraft engines.

In anticipation of this upgrade being referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC), we are commencing local stakeholder and community consultation which is an important part of providing the PWC with a balanced view of the proposed works.

You are invited to review this proposal and to attend a Community Information Session to be held on **Thursday, 7 December 2017 at the Ipswich Civic Centre 4:30 – 7:30 pm**. You may attend at any time throughout this session.

Once referred to PWC, the full Statement of Evidence will be available at [www.sph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Joint/Public\\_Works](http://www.sph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Public_Works) where formal submissions can also be lodged.

Subject to Parliamentary approval, construction is proposed to begin in second-quarter of 2018 and conclude by fourth-quarter 2019. Enclosed for your reference is a project fact sheet. If you have any questions or require additional information please send an email to [etc1@newgateengage.com.au](mailto:etc1@newgateengage.com.au) or write to the address at the top of this page.

The ETC1 Upgrade is an important element in delivering the F-35A capability to meet Australia's future air combat needs while helping to ensure Amberley's long-term role as a venue for military jet engine maintenance, delivering long term economic benefits to the South-East Queensland economy.

Yours sincerely

SJ Green  
Group Captain  
Project Director – F-35 In-Service Support

November 2017

Figure B-1 –Stakeholder Letter

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## FACT SHEET



Australian Government  
Department of Defence

### FACT SHEET Engine Test Cell 1 (ETC1) Upgrade Project

#### Background

- The F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Program is currently the largest defence program in the world. Led by the United States it is a cooperative program with a membership of nine partners worldwide including Australia.
- The Australian F-35A Project is introducing a fifth generation air combat capability to meet Australia's future air combat and strike needs beyond 2030.
- The Australian F-35 Project is delivering 72 F-35A aircraft as well as facilities, weapons and new support systems to meet the fifth generation capability requirements. The F-35A capability will transform the way Air Force and Defence will operate in the future.
- There will be three operational F-35A squadrons; two at RAAF Base Williamtown, NSW and one at RAAF Base Tindal, NT; and a training squadron at RAAF Base Williamtown.
- The worldwide F-35 fleet will be supported by the F-35 Global Support Solution providing logistics support to F-35 operators to increase capability, availability and affordability through economies of scale, interoperability and international cooperation.
- Australia has been assigned the F-35 engine maintenance, repair, overhaul and upgrade responsibility for the Asia Pacific Region. Engine testing is part of this role. Australia will service a regional volume of F-35 engines as part of the Global Support System.

For more information on the F-35A capability visit [www.airforce.gov.au](http://www.airforce.gov.au)

#### What is the ETC1 Upgrade Project?

- The ETC1 Project involves the upgrade of the existing ETC1 facility to enable testing of an uninstalled F-35 engine, while retaining the ability to test the Super Hornet and Growler engines. This requires a restructure of the facility.
- Subject to Parliamentary approval, ETC1 Upgrade construction is proposed to begin in second-quarter of 2018 and conclude by fourth-quarter 2019.
- The ETC1 Upgrade Project represents a \$23.7 million investment in Defence capability.



Figure C-1 – Page 1 of Fact Sheet



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#### Community benefits

- During the construction period, up to 120 personnel will be employed in construction and fit-out activities.
- The Project Manager will aim to maximise opportunities for local industry participation in order to provide a positive economic impact for the region.
- This project will help ensure Amberley's long-term role as a venue for military jet engine maintenance, delivering long term economic benefits to the South-East Queensland economy.

#### Environmental considerations

- The ETC1 Project is expected to have minimal impact on the community during construction as it is well within RAAF Base Amberley's boundaries and will only involve upgrades to an existing building.
- Traffic impacts on the local community are expected to be minimal. A specific Traffic Management Plan will be developed by the Construction Contractor and access to the site will be from the Contractor Gate on Hansens Road to minimise disruption.
- Noise from engine test operations within the upgraded ETC1 facility is expected to have minimal impact on the community. The upgrade to the facility includes acoustic treatments that will ensure noise from the operation of the facility will have less impact on the community than the base's daily jet movements.
- The Project is not expected to have any impact on Indigenous or non-Indigenous cultural heritage values.
- The removal and disposal of any hazardous materials will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant health and safety guidelines by an appropriately licenced operator.
- An Environmental Report has identified and addressed potential environmental and heritage impacts. The Environmental Report can be viewed at <http://www.defence.gov.au/id/Default.asp>

#### Next steps


- All infrastructure projects worth in excess of \$15 million are subject to approval by the Federal Parliament after review by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC).
- Defence is committed to ensuring that the views of the local community and other stakeholders are considered. An important part of this process is ensuring the community has an opportunity to provide submissions regarding the project.
- The PWC Hearing is yet to be scheduled but will be advertised in local newspapers and on the PWC website at [https://www.sph.gov.au/Parliamentary/Business/Committees/Joint/Public\\_Works](https://www.sph.gov.au/Parliamentary/Business/Committees/Joint/Public_Works).
- The Defence website also contains information about the ETC1 Upgrade project at : <http://www.defence.gov.au/id/etc1>

Figure C-2 – Page 2 of Fact Sheet

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**NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING**



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Defence**

**Notice of Public Information Session**

**Engine Test Cell 1 (ETC1) Upgrade Project at  
RAAF Base Amberley**

The Department of Defence is holding a public information session to outline the proposed modification of the ETC1 facility to be capable of testing the F-35 Lightning II aircraft's engine while retaining the capability to test the F/A-18F Super Hornet and E/A-18G Growler aircraft engines, and seek feedback from the community.

The ETC1 Upgrade Project is to be reviewed by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC). For more information on the PWC process and how to make a submission, please go to [www.defence.gov.au/id/etc1](http://www.defence.gov.au/id/etc1)

Community members are welcome to drop-in to the public information session at any time during the hours below.

**When: Thursday, 7 December 2017**  
**Time: 4:30 pm – 7:30 pm**  
**Where: Ipswich Civic Centre located at Limestone St & Nicholas St, Ipswich QLD**

For more information email [etc1@newgateengage.com.au](mailto:etc1@newgateengage.com.au)

Figure D-1 – Newspaper advertising

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**PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION**

A single Public Information Session was held on Thursday, 7 December 2017, at the Ipswich Civic Centre, over a three-hour period starting at 4:30pm. The Public Information Session was attended by 12 people and this was in line with Project expectations considering that the proposed works are within the Base and of a far smaller magnitude than separate works already underway at the Base.

Project personnel plus the RAAF Base Amberley Base Support Manager were on hand at the sessions to answer questions. The Fact Sheet already emailed to targeted stakeholders was available as a take-away for those who attended to ensure consistent messaging.

The room was configured with a series of display boards that talked to key project areas. The display boards explained the project, provided information around environmental considerations and the next steps in the approval process.



Figure E-1 -Public Information Session at the Ipswich Civic Centre

A summary of the issues raised during the Public Information Session, as well as Defence's response to these issues, is shown in the table below.

ISSUE/QUESTIONS	RAISED BY	RESPONSE PROVIDED
Will the noise levels of the new facility be greater than what they currently are?	Local resident and member of ACWG	Noise generated by the day-to-day operation of the facility will be mitigated by in-built acoustic dampening measures. The anticipated operation noise levels are below average conversation levels at the 2000m radius.
Is there currently vibration monitoring carried out on the Base? If not is it possible to do so as I feel vibrations at night time when I am sleeping.	Local resident and member of ACWG	Defence doesn't monitor ground vibration levels on the Base. Defence agreed to assess the need for ground vibration measurement due to engine testing and communicate actions and outcomes relating to this issue through the ACWG.

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ISSUE/QUESTIONS	RAISED BY	RESPONSE PROVIDED
What employment opportunities will become available?	Representative from the Department of State Development	<p>The Project will aim to maximise opportunities for local industry participation through early communication and consultation.</p> <p>Defence agreed to keep the representatives included in future project updates.</p>
Can I please have a copy of the display board information?	Member of the public	Copies of the display boards were provided on 8 December 2017 via email.

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SAMPLE OF DISPLAY BOARDS

Community Information Session  
Engine Test Cell 1 Upgrade Project

## Welcome

Welcome to the community information session for the Engine Test Cell 1 (ETC1) Upgrade Project. The purpose of this session is to inform the community and stakeholders about the project and invite feedback.

Representatives from Defence and the project team are available so you can ask questions. Your comments today will be captured and provided in a report to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC).

### About RAAF Base Amberley

RAAF Base Amberley is a major defence installation in Queensland, home to the 13th Wing and the 13th Squadron. The base is a key part of the Australian Defence Force's capability in the Pacific region.

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### Main infrastructure projects

- ETC1 Upgrade Project
- C-17 Maintenance Facility, Apron and associated infrastructure
- Airfield Phase 2 Surface Area Project
- Airfield Phase 2 Surface Area Project
- Air Traffic Control



Community Information Session  
Engine Test Cell 1 Upgrade Project




## About the project

### What is the ETC1?

The ETC1 is the primary engine test cell for the F-35 fighter jet. It is a key part of the Australian Defence Force's capability in the Pacific region.

### What is the ETC1 upgrade project?

The ETC1 upgrade project is a major infrastructure project that will modernise the engine test cell. The project will involve the construction of a new test cell, the upgrade of existing test cells, and the installation of new equipment.

Community Information Session  
Engine Test Cell 1 Upgrade Project

## New facility




### What the ETC1 currently looks like



Community Information Session  
Engine Test Cell 1 Upgrade Project

## Environment



### Traffic

The ETC1 facility is located in a rural area. The project will involve the construction of a new test cell, the upgrade of existing test cells, and the installation of new equipment.

### Noise

The ETC1 facility is located in a rural area. The project will involve the construction of a new test cell, the upgrade of existing test cells, and the installation of new equipment.

### Contamination

The ETC1 facility is located in a rural area. The project will involve the construction of a new test cell, the upgrade of existing test cells, and the installation of new equipment.

### Heritage

The ETC1 facility is located in a rural area. The project will involve the construction of a new test cell, the upgrade of existing test cells, and the installation of new equipment.

Figure F-1 – Sample of Display Boards (originals printed at A1 size)

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## WEBSITE CONTENT

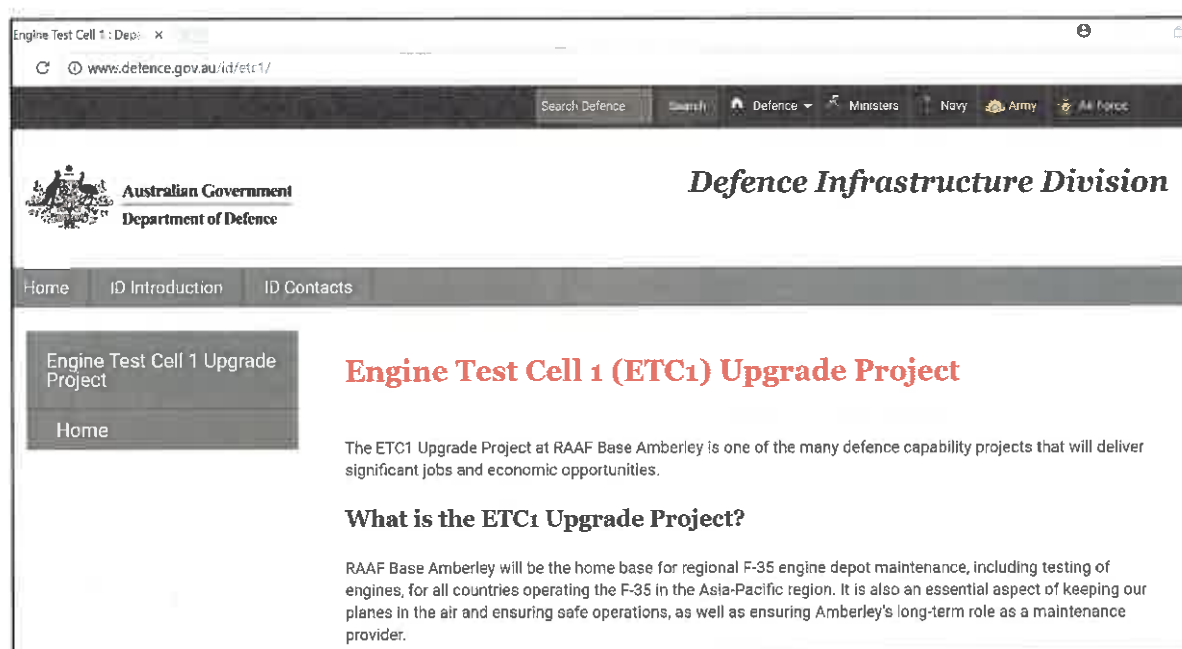


Figure G-1 – Screenshot taken 19 December 2017 from address <http://www.defence.gov.au/id/etc1/>



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**MEDIA COVERAGE**

The following article was published in the Queensland Times on December 4, 2017. It was retrieved from online from <https://www.qt.com.au/news/growler-lightning-super-hornets-engines-tested-at/3281932/> on 12 December 2017.

12/12/2017

Growler, Lightning, Super Hornets engines tested at Amberley | Queensland Times

NEWS

## Growler, Lightning, Super Hornets engines tested at Amberley

4th Dec 2017 2:30 PM

2



The Department of Defence is holding a public information session to outline the proposed modification of the facility to be capable of testing a range of aircraft engines which could make a bit of a racket at Amberley.  
RAAF Base Amberley  
S&T Photo Bureau



by Emma Clarke

USE THIS CONTENT

SUPER Hornet, Lightning and Growler aircraft engines will be tested at Amberley RAAF Base if a proposed Engine Test Cell upgrade goes ahead

The Department of Defence is holding a public information session to outline the proposed modification of the facility to be capable of testing a range of aircraft engines which could make a bit of a racket at Amberley

Part of the upgrade will accommodate the EA-18G Growler aircraft and F/A-18F Super Hornets engines as well as the F-35 Lightning II aircraft

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works will review the upgrade project

Community members are welcome to the public information session at any time between 4:30pm and 7:30pm on Thursday, December 7 at the Ipswich Civic Centre

It comes after 40 tenders were called to build the new Growler Airborne Attack Capability facilities at Amberley

Work is expected to start between February 2018 and October 2018

A statement of evidence to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works in August 2015 revealed the EA-18G Growler, an airborne electronic attack aircraft, was capable of providing force level electronic warfare support by disrupting, deceiving or denying a broad range of military electronic systems, including radars and communications

The aircraft will be able to support the full spectrum of defence tasks, from peacetime evaluation to major conflicts

"12 new-build EA-18G Growler aircraft will operate in conjunction with air, land and sea forces. The capability will reduce the risk to forces and improve their situational awareness," the statement of evidence read

8.1

8.2

8.3