



**Australian Government**  
**Defence**

Air Commodore RM Tilley  
Director General  
Capital Facilities and Infrastructure

**Mr Graham Perrett MP**

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

Dear Mr Perrett

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT**  
**ROBERTSON BARRACKS BASE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**

1. The Robertson Barracks Base Improvements Project (the Project) was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for consideration on 27 September 2022. The Project proposes to deliver facilities and infrastructure at Robertson Barracks, Darwin, Northern Territory.
2. This letter is to inform the Committee of the nature and extent of community consultation that has been undertaken by the Department of Defence for these works. The aim of the consultation is to ensure local communities and other stakeholders are:
  - a. well informed about the Project details through effective and proven communication channels
  - b. provided the opportunity to raise any concerns or to seek further information so that, wherever feasible, Defence could address these in the program of works.
3. The following stakeholder and community consultation activities are being delivered in accordance with the Project's comprehensive community engagement strategy:
  - a. Advertising community information session details locally, via newspaper and letterbox drop. A Project email address has also been established to receive submissions and questions about the Project. These details were included in the advertisement at **Annex A**, which was also used as the brochure for the letterbox drops. The distribution area for the letterbox drops, and a map, are at **Annex B**.
  - b. Conducting a community information session in Palmerston, Darwin, on 11 October 2022. The type of information Defence presented to the public is shown at **Annex C**, and the level of attendance is provided at **Annex D**.
  - c. Inviting key stakeholders, including Federal, State and Local Members, and local industry business associations, to receive a personal briefing about the Project. An example of the invitation sent is at **Annex E**, and a list of all stakeholders engaged by the Project and the status of the engagement is provided at **Annex F**.
  - d. A summary of topics and key issues raised during all consultation activities is provided at **Annex G**.

4. Key areas of interest included sub-contracting opportunities for small to medium sized businesses, engagement with local authorities, such as Power and Water Corporate and the NT Fire Brigade. Capacity of the construction workforce in Darwin, engagement with industry through Master Builders Association, and direct liaison with contractors, were also points raised.

5. Consultation activities continue, and ongoing activities can be further advised at the Hearing.

Yours sincerely,

**RM Tilley**

Air Commodore

Director General Capital Facilities and Infrastructure

24 October 2022

**Annexes**

- A. Newspaper Advertisements and Project Brochure
- B. Distribution Zone and Map for Letterbox Drops
- C. Community Information Session Resources (Information Boards)
- D. Community Information Session Attendance and Summary
- E. Example of Letter of Invitation to Key Stakeholders
- F. Status of Key Stakeholder Communications
- G. Summary of Topics and Key Issues Raised during Consultation

## **NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Publication</b>	<b>Delivery Area</b>	<b>Date Published</b>
Robertson Barracks	NT News	Northern Territory, including Darwin, Palmerston, and surrounding suburbs	Sunday 02 October 2022 Wednesday 05 October 2022 Saturday 08 October 2022 Sunday 09 October 2022

### **EXAMPLE OF NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS IN NT NEWS. EXAMPLE - ALSO USED AS THE LETTERBOX DROPS**



## **NOTICE OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT**

### **ROBERTSON BARRACKS BASE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**

The Department of Defence is proposing to progress works associated with the Robertson Barracks Base Improvements Project (the "Project"). It is proposed that the facilities and infrastructure associated with the Project will be delivered at Robertson Barracks, NT. The works are proposed to occur from 2023 through to 2026.

These works are subject to Parliamentary approval and the Project has now been referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC). The function of the PWC is to openly inquire into the purpose, need, cost-effectiveness, revenue and value of proposed Commonwealth projects.

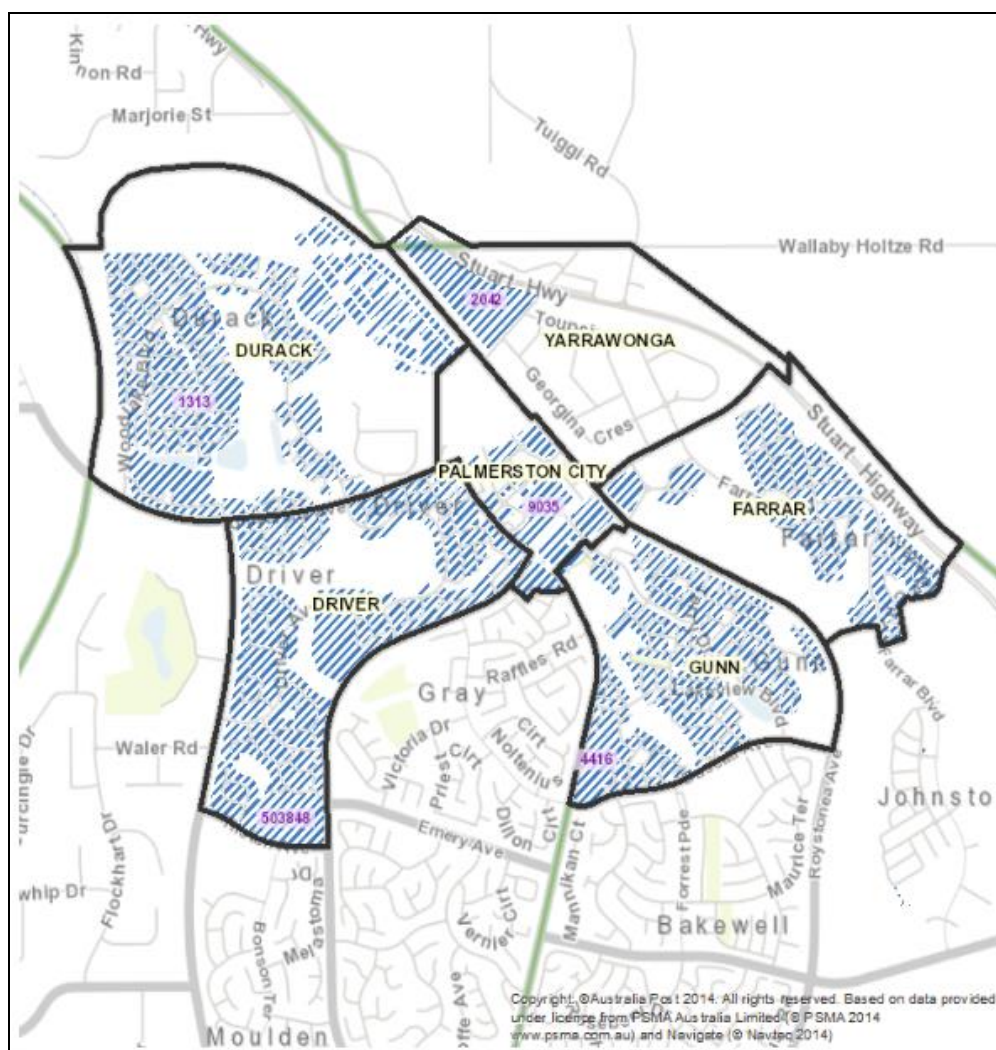
The Project will provide essential upgrades to facilities and infrastructure at Robertson Barracks to meet the projected demands of the Australian Defence Force. The proposed works for the Project are new Living in Accommodation buildings, additional Messing facilities and engineering upgrades to Base-wide water infrastructure and electrical works.

Members of the public are invited to view the indicative plans for the proposed works to be undertaken at Robertson Barracks, at a Public Consultation meeting being held **3:30pm-5:30pm on 11 Oct 2022 at Palmerston Recreation Centre**, 11 the Boulevard, Palmerston City, Northern Territory 0830.

Queries about the project should be addressed to [RBBIPPMCA@jacobs.com](mailto:RBBIPPMCA@jacobs.com)

# DISTRIBUTION ZONE AND MAP FOR LETTERBOX DROPS

Suburb	Postcode	No. of Drops	Delivery Dates
Driver	0830	1,049	03 to 07 October2022
Durack	0830	1,429	
Farrar	0830	504	
Gunn	0832	806	
Palmerston	0830	81	
	0831	1,541	
Yarrowonga	0830	1	
Total		5,411	



## COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION RESOURCES (INFORMATION BOARDS)



### Robertson Barracks Base Improvements Project

Robertson Barracks is a major Army establishment, located approximately 15km east of the Darwin Central Business District in the Northern Territory. Built in the 1990s, the Base is home to the Army's 1st Brigade and 1st Aviation Regiment. It provides Defence with a significant number of living, working and training facilities, for both military and civilian personnel.

The Robertson Barracks Base Improvements Project aims to provide essential upgrades to facilities and infrastructure to support the Australian Defence Force and allied partners. When completed, the Project will provide Robertson Barracks with new living-in accommodation, increased messing capacity, as well as upgraded water and electrical infrastructure.



Location of Robertson Barracks

#### Proposed project details

The proposed works at Robertson Barracks will be delivered across three packages:

- Package 1 – Living-in accommodation, including:
  - New accommodation facilities,
  - Covered walkways, and
  - A relocated sports field
- Package 2 – New Combined Ranks Mess including:
  - New and upgraded messing facilities
  - Outdoor gymnasiums
- Package 3 – Engineering service upgrades, including:
  - Fire water system upgrades
  - Potable water system upgrades
  - Electrical works



## COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION RESOURCES (INFORMATION BOARDS)



External view of living-in accommodation



External view of mess facility

### Public value

#### • Economic impacts

Over its life, the Robertson Barracks Base Improvements Project will employ a diverse range of consultants, contractors and construction workers. To date, the Project has engaged 48 consultants local to Darwin to provide project management, contract administration and design services. The Project will also provide opportunities for the up-skilling and training of businesses and individuals, to improve their knowledge, skills and employability on future projects.

#### • Employment opportunities

Defence anticipates that approximately 1,050 personnel could be provided with employment opportunities over the life of the Project.

#### • Local industry and Indigenous business involvement opportunities

Defence anticipates providing local businesses with opportunities to supply construction materials and labour. The Project team will actively promote opportunities for small to medium local enterprises through construction trade packages tied to the Head Contracts. There will be opportunities for Indigenous business involvement in accordance with the Indigenous Procurement Policy. Works to be undertaken must comply with the Government Policy for Local Industry Participation, which requires successful tenderers to provide detailed commitments on how they will utilise and develop Australian industry.

#### How do I make a comment or ask questions?

- If you have a comment or question today, please approach the representatives at this forum.
- If you have a comment or question after the forum, please contact the Project Team at [RBBIPMCA@jacobs.com](mailto:RBBIPMCA@jacobs.com)

- Additionally, you can find more information on the project and make a submission at the inquiries page at the at the APH website: [https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Joint/Public\\_Works](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Public_Works)

The Committee's Inquiry into the project will be conducted through a public hearing. The location, date and time of the hearing is to be confirmed.



## COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION RESOURCES (INFORMATION BOARDS)



### Robertson Barracks Base Improvements Project – Living-in Accommodation

The provision of additional living-in accommodation is a key component of the Robertson Barracks Base Improvements Project. The current stock of living-in accommodation in the Darwin region is reaching capacity and end of life.

#### Proposed works:

The proposed works included in Package 1 – Living-in Accommodation at Robertson Barracks will be delivered as three work elements:

- Project Element 1 – Living-in accommodation
- Project Element 2 – Covered walkways
- Project Element 3 – Relocation of a sports field



External view of living-in accommodation



External view of courtyard



Internal view of common room



Internal view of bedroom



## COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION RESOURCES (INFORMATION BOARDS)



### Robertson Barracks Base Improvements Project – Combined Ranks Mess

The existing messing facilities at Robertson Barracks require an upgrade. Mess staffing and resources are currently split across four locations, with kitchen capability, servery, and storage capacities limiting the ability to achieve adequate throughput.

When completed, the Robertson Barracks Base Improvements Project will provide the Base with increased messing capacity.

#### Proposed Works:

The proposed works included in Package 2 – Messing will be delivered as three work elements:

- Project Element 4 – New Combined Ranks Mess
- Project Element 5 – Officers Mess upgrades
- Project Element 6 – Outdoor gymnasiums



External view of messing facility



Internal view of Other Ranks dining area



Internal view of Sergeants dining area



Internal view of Sergeant's lounge area



## COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION RESOURCES (INFORMATION BOARDS)



### Robertson Barracks Base Improvements Project – Engineering Services Upgrades

The engineering services upgrades are a key component of the Robertson Barracks Base Improvements Project. These vital upgrades will support the upgraded messing facilities, additional living-in accommodation, and ongoing capability of Robertson Barracks.



#### Proposed works

The proposed works included in Package 3 – Engineering Service Upgrades will be delivered as three work elements:

- Project Element 7 - Fire water system upgrades
- Project Element 7 - Potable water system upgrades
- Project Element 8 - Electrical services upgrades

#### Fire and potable water upgrades

The proposed works will deliver upgrades to the site-wide fire water and potable water systems through replacement of critical infrastructure items. This includes upgrades to key areas in the existing combined fire water and potable water main. Sections of the main that are in good serviceable condition will be retained.

Existing sewerage and storm water services are proposed to be extended to the new living in accommodation and mess to suit design requirements. Potable water will be connected to the existing supply via sub-metering to each new building.

#### Electrical services upgrades

The proposed works will provide lighting, power and lightning protection in accordance with Australian Standards and Defence engineering requirements.

Sub-metering will also be included in each new facility. The meters will be monitored through a new building management system which will support an active energy management program on the site.



## **COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION ATTENDANCE AND SUMMARY**

### Details

- 11 October 2022, 3.30pm to 5.30pm
- Palmerston Recreation Centre, 11 the Boulevard, Palmerston City, Northern Territory.

### Resources

- Materials on display included the information boards shown at **Annex C**
- Defence consultation team in attendance included members from:
  - Defence's Project delivery team
  - Defence's consultant Project management team

### Attendance

<b>Number of attendees</b>	<b>Interest Group</b>
9	Local residents Small business owners Robertson Barracks stakeholders Representative from NT News publication

Key points raised and Defence's responses are detailed at **Annex G**

- sub-contracting opportunities for small to medium sized businesses
- engagement with local authorities such as Power and Water Corporation and the NT Fire Brigade
- capacity of the construction workforce in Darwin
- engagement with industry through Master Builders Association, and direct liaison with contractors.

## EXAMPLE OF LETTER OF INVITATION TO KEY STAKEHOLDERS



**Australian Government**  
**Defence**

**LTCOL Tim Napper**  
Project Director – North Directorate  
Capital Facilities and Infrastructure



**Hon Natasha Fyles MLA**  
PO Box 1283  
Nightcliff, NT 0814

Email: [chief.minister@nt.gov.au](mailto:chief.minister@nt.gov.au)

Dear Chief Minister,

### **PROPOSED ROBERTSON BARRACKS BASE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT – DARWIN, NT**

On behalf of the Department of Defence, I would like to offer you a personal briefing on proposed works at Robertson Barracks, Darwin. These works are part of the Robertson Barracks Base Improvements Project, which aims to provide essential facility and infrastructure upgrades to meet the projected demands of the Australian Defence Force. The proposed works include new living-in accommodation, additional messing facilities and engineering upgrades to Base-wide water infrastructure and electrical works.

If you or your staff would like to accept or decline this invitation for a personal briefing on the proposed works, please contact the project management team via email at [RBBIPPMCA@jacobs.com](mailto:RBBIPPMCA@jacobs.com).

For your information, the Department of Defence will be holding a community information session on the proposed works in Darwin. Your constituents may be interested in attending this session which will be held at:

**When:** 11 October 2022  
**Time:** 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm (CST)  
**Where:** Palmerston Recreation Centre, 11 Boulevard, Palmerston City, NT.

Further detail on the proposed works, as well as the upcoming community information session, is available at <https://defence.gov.au/id/Default.asp>.

Yours sincerely,

**LTCOL Tim Napper**  
Project Director  
Capital Facilities and Infrastructure Branch

29 September 2022

## STATUS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS

ORGANISATION AND MEMBER	NOTES
<b>FEDERAL GOVERNMENT</b>	
Marion Scrymgour – Australian Labor, Member for Lingiari	<b>30 September 2022</b> – Defence emailed a letter providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.
Luke Golsing – Australian Labor, House of Representatives	<b>30 September 2022</b> – Defence emailed a letter providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.
Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet	<b>30 September 2022</b> – Defence emailed a letter providing Project information, contact details and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.  The office has accepted a personal briefing.
<b>STATE/TERRITORY GOVERNMENT</b>	
Gerard Maley – Deputy Leader Opposition NT	<b>30 September 2022</b> – Defence emailed a letter providing Project information, contact details and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.  Defence briefed Mr Maley’s Advisor on 17 October 2022. No issues were raised.
Eva Lawler – Member of NT Legislative Assembly	<b>30 September 2022</b> – Defence emailed a letter providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.
Lia Finocchiaro – Opposition Leader NT	<b>30 September 2022</b> – Defence emailed a letter providing Project information, contact details and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.  The office accepted a personal briefing that occurred on 17 October 22. No issues were raised.
Natasha Fyles – Chief Minister NT	<b>30 September 2022</b> – Defence emailed a letter providing Project information, contact details and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.  The office accepted a personal briefing that occurred on 12 October 2022. No issues were raised.
Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics	<b>30 September 2022</b> – Defence emailed a letter providing Project information, contact details and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.

Department of Trade, Business and Innovation	<b>30 September 2022</b> – Defence emailed a letter providing Project information, contact details and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.
Litchfield Council	<b>30 September 2022</b> – Defence emailed a letter providing Project information, contact details and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.
Darwin Council	<b>30 September 2022</b> – Defence emailed a letter providing Project information, contact details and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.
<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT</b>	
Northern Land Council	<b>30 September 2022</b> – Defence emailed a letter providing Project information, contact details and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.
Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority	<b>30 September 2022</b> – Defence emailed a letter providing Project information, contact details and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.
Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation	<b>30 September 2022</b> – Defence emailed a letter providing Project information, contact details and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.
Power and Water Corporation	<b>30 September 2022</b> – Defence emailed a letter providing Project information, contact details and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.
<b>COMMUNITY GROUPS</b>	
NT Northern Territory Chamber of Commerce	<b>30 September 2022</b> – Defence emailed a letter providing Project information, contact details and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.
NT Industry Capability Network	<b>30 September 2022</b> – Defence emailed a letter providing Project information, contact details and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.
NT Indigenous Business Network	<b>30 September 2022</b> – Defence emailed a letter providing Project information, contact details and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.-
NT Master Builders Association	<b>30 September 2022</b> – Defence emailed a letter providing Project information, contact details and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.
NT Chamber of Commerce	<b>30 September 2022</b> – Defence emailed a letter providing Project information, contact details and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.

**SUMMARY OF TOPICS AND KEY ISSUES RAISED DURING CONSULTATION**

<b>THEME</b>	<b>RAISED BY</b>	<b>DEFENCE'S RESPONSE</b>
Contracting / employment opportunities  Industry engagement	Advisor to Gerard Maley – Deputy Leader Opposition NT  Advisor to Natasha Fyles – Chief Minister NT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sub-contracting opportunities for small-medium sized businesses.</li> <li>• Avenues for small-medium businesses to meet and partner with larger head contractors on the works (e.g., through the industry briefing).</li> <li>• Engagement with industry through NT Government and the Master Builders Association.</li> <li>• Procurement / delivery strategy and expected timeframes.</li> <li>• Capacity limitations of the Darwin construction workforce.</li> </ul>
Engagement with local authorities	Advisor to Gerard Maley – Deputy Leader Opposition NT  Advisor to Natasha Fyles – Chief Minister NT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defence confirmed engagement has taken place throughout design development with local authorities, such as Power and Water Corporation, NT Fire Brigade.</li> </ul>
Changes to base messing and banking arrangements on base	Local resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defence advised the Project will deliver new messing.</li> <li>• The Project will not impact current banking arrangements on base.</li> </ul>
Potential for landlord opportunities nearby Robertson Barracks  General interest in works in the local community	Local resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defence advised that potential housing investment opportunities are not related to the Project.</li> <li>• Local resident provided with information on Project scope.</li> </ul>