



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
CULTANA TRAINING AREA REDEVELOPMENT PHASE 2 PROJECT

1. The Cultana Training Area Redevelopment Phase 2 Project (the Project) was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on 24 November 2022. The Project proposes to deliver facilities and infrastructure at the Cultana Training Area in the Whyalla and Port Augusta region, South Australia.
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 proposed works. The aim of the consultation is to ensure local communities and other stakeholders are:
 - a. well informed about project details through effective and proven communication channels
 - b. provided the opportunity to raise any concerns or issues, or to seek further information so that, wherever feasible, Defence can address these in its proposed works.
3. The following stakeholder and community consultation activities were delivered in accordance with the Project's comprehensive community engagement strategy:
 - a. Advertising details of community information sessions in relevant local newspapers in Adelaide and the Whyalla and Port Augusta regions, and establishing a project email address to receive submissions and questions about the Project. Some local businesses posted notice of the information sessions on their social media platforms. Further advertisements were placed with some publications after the community information sessions to continue advertising Defence's contact details. These details are included in the example advertisement shown at **Annex A**.
 - b. Conducting two community information sessions, one each in Whyalla and Port Augusta on 25 and 26 October 2022 respectively. The type of information Defence presented to the public is shown at **Annex B**, and the level of attendance is provided at **Annex C**.

- c. Inviting key stakeholders, including Federal, State and Local Members of Government, and local community and business groups to receive a personal briefing about the Project. An example of the invitation that was sent out is at **Annex D**, and a list of all stakeholders engaged by the Project, including the status of each engagement, is provided at **Annex E**.
- d. A summary of topics and key issues raised during community information sessions is provided at **Annex F**.
- 4. Information about the proposed works was generally well received at the community information sessions and feedback to date has been supportive. Defence has not been made aware of any objections to the proposed works.
- 5. Comments raised by members of the community focused on:
 - a. availability of accommodation and housing in both Whyalla and Port Augusta for construction personnel that do not reside locally
 - b. the likelihood of increased noise and vibration in the Whyalla township, resulting from Defence training activities associated with the proposed works
 - c. opportunity for local industry participation in the proposed work.
- 6. Consultation activities are continuing, with the potential for Defence to provide further briefings to Federal, State and Local Members of Government. These ongoing activities can be further advised at the upcoming Hearing.

Yours sincerely,

RM Tilley

Air Commodore

Director General Capital Facilities and Infrastructure

27 January 2023

Annexes:


- A. Newspaper and Social Media Platform Advertisements
- B. Community Information Session Resources (Information Boards)
- C. Community Information Session Attendance and Summary
- D. Example of Letter of Invitation to Key Stakeholders
- E. Status of Key Stakeholder Communications
- F. Summary of Topics and Key Issues Raised during Community Information Sessions

NEWSPAPER AND SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM ADVERTISEMENTS

Location	Publication	Dates published
Whyalla	Whyalla News	12 – 13 October 2022 19 – 20 October 2022 24 November – 08 December 2022
Port Augusta	The Transcontinental	12 – 13 October 2022 19 – 20 October 2022 23 November – 07 December 2022
Adelaide	The Advertiser	15 October 2022
South Australia	Defence SA (social media platform)	21 October 2022
Port Augusta	Business Port Augusta (social media platform)	21 October 2022
Shack Owners along Spencer Gulf	Shack Owner Newsletter*	14 December 2022

* The Shack Owner Newsletter is published quarterly, which is why the advertisement was placed in the December 2022 edition.

EXAMPLE OF NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS (The Advertiser, 15 October 2022)



Australian Government
Defence

NOTICE OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Cultana Training Area Redevelopment
Phase 2 Project.

The Department of Defence is proposing to progress works associated with the Cultana Training Area Redevelopment Phase 2 Project. These works are subject to Parliamentary approval.

The project proposes to provide fit-for-purpose facilities and infrastructure delivering increased safety within the training area, whilst enhancing and increasing the complexity of training for the Australian Defence Force. The proposed works include extensions to the all-weather road network, a vehicle firing range, ammunition transfer points and upgrades to the existing urban operations training facility.

The Department of Defence is offering the community the opportunity to attend information sessions about the proposed works providing an opportunity to ask questions with Defence representatives.

Community Information Session details

Date: Tuesday 25 October 2022
Time: 4:00PM to 8:00PM
Venue: West Augusta Football Club, 13 Gardiner Ave, Port Augusta West SA 5700

Date: Wednesday 26 October 2022
Time: 4:00PM to 8:00PM
Venue: Quest, Whyalla, 4 Moran St, Whyalla Norrie SA 5608

If you are unable to attend the information session, you can email questions to CUTA2@aurecongroup.com

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION RESOURCES (INFORMATION BOARDS)



CULTANA TRAINING AREA INFRASTRUCTURE EXAMPLES

Urban Operations Training Facility



Image 1: Existing Urban Operations Training Facility under construction 2019

The Project proposes to expand the existing Urban Operations Training Facility (Image 1).

The proposed design articulates a simulated urban environment which will include streets, light poles and other obstructions to support a realistic training opportunity for Defence.

The proposed buildings will be constructed of reinforced concrete panels with suspended concrete floor slabs and steel framed roof structures.

An all-weather unsealed road network will connect the facility to the greater training area.



Image 2: Cultural Centre Building



Image 3: Simulated street scene



Image 4: Commercial Building



Image 5: Urban Firing Line Building 1

All-Weather Unsealed Road Network



Image 6: Typical road infrastructure



Image 7: Reinforced swale for erosion protection



Image 8: Road to Lincoln Highway

The Project proposes to increase the road infrastructure delivered within the training area in 2020.

The proposed all-weather unsealed road network will provide safe access to current and proposed training facilities across the training area.

Constructed for heavy wheeled and tracked vehicles, the proposed roads will increase safety of the road network in support of medical evacuation.

The proposed roads will connect to Eyre, Iron Knob and Lincoln Highways to support emergency evacuation requirements.

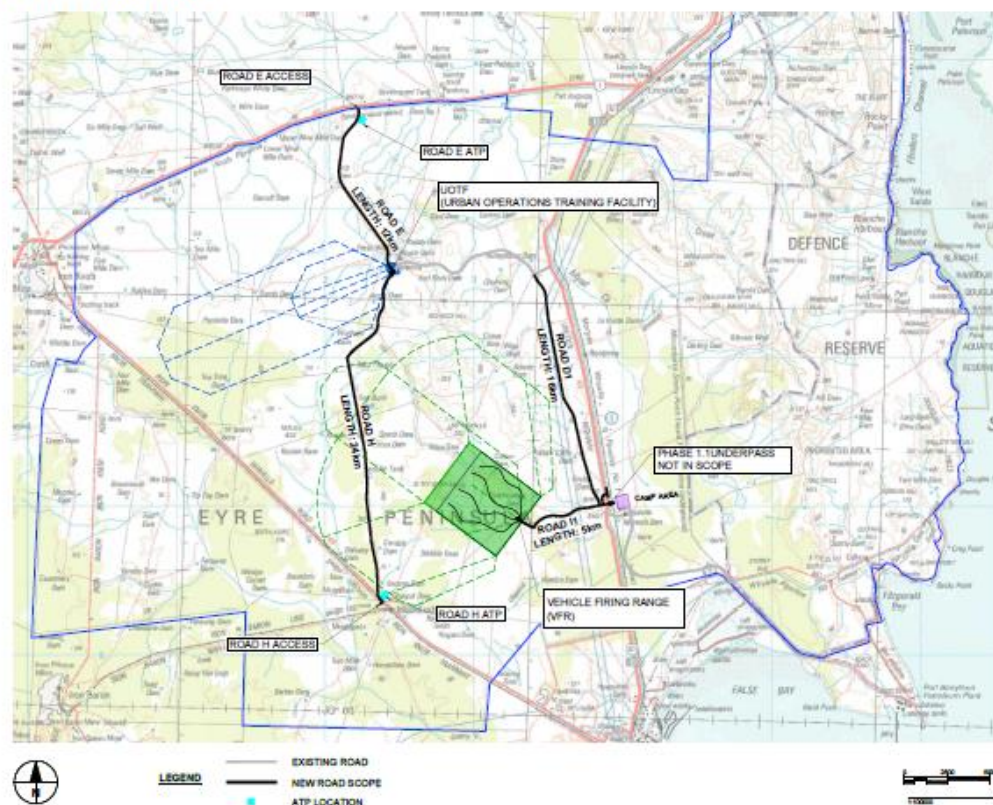


COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION RESOURCES (INFORMATION BOARDS)



Australian Government
Department of Defence

CULTANA TRAINING AREA SCOPE OVERVIEW



Project Scope and Description

All-Weather Unsealed Road Network

The proposed works will provide suitable access to current and additional training facilities and meet medical evacuation requirements. The proposed roads will be constructed for heavy wheeled and tracked vehicles.

Vehicle Firing Range

The proposed works will provide a range to support live firing from vehicles and dismounted personnel to enable joint and combined Defence activities.

Ammunition Transfer Points

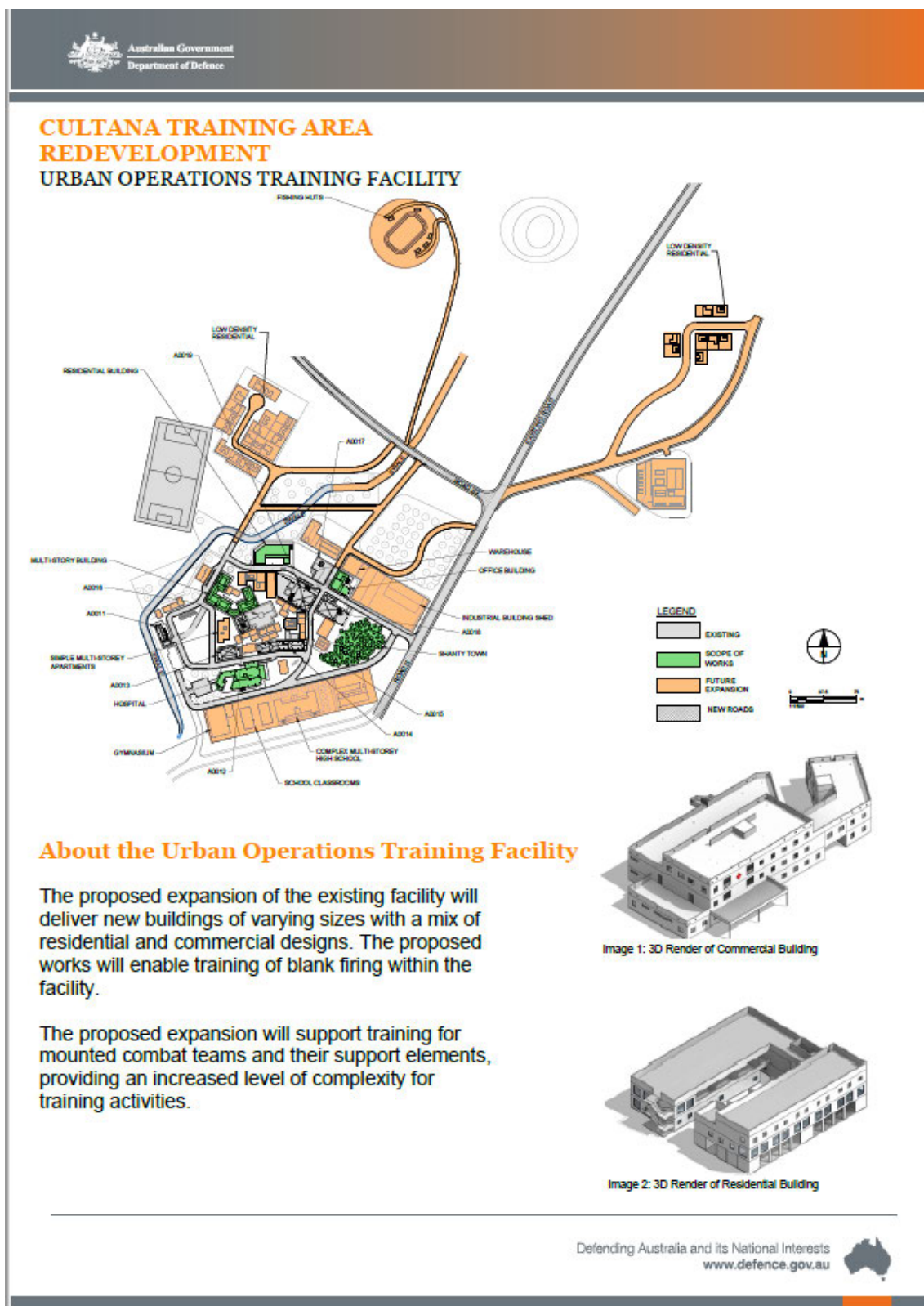
The proposed ammunition transfer points will provide the infrastructure to facilitate storage and distribution of ammunition for units during training activities.

Urban Operations Training Facility


The proposed expansion of the existing facility will provide a combination of mixed residential and commercial buildings. The works will enable blank firing training within the facility.



COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION RESOURCES (INFORMATION BOARDS)







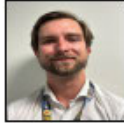


COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION RESOURCES (INFORMATION BOARDS)



Cultana Training Area Redevelopment

Where can I make a comment or ask questions?

If you have a comment or question today, please feel free to approach the projects representatives at this forum:


Defence - Capital Facilities and Infrastructure Branch	Project Manager / Contract Administrator - Aurecon
 Mrs Joanne Morritt – Project Director	 Mr Tyson Jones – Project Director
 Captain Sean Welch – Senior Project Officer	 Mr Tim Pengilly – Project Manager
 Mr Eugene Comisari – Project Officer	 Mr Anthony Avolio – Contract Administrator
	 Ms Carissa McLaren – Assistant Project Manager & Contract Administrator

The Community Consultation period will remain open to 23 November 2022. If you have any further comments or questions during this period, please contact the project team at: CUTA2@aurecongroup.com

The proposed project is anticipated to be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works in November 2022. The public will be able to access further information on the project, and make a submission following referral at the Current Inquiries page:
https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/public_works

Subject to referral, the committee's Inquiry into the project generally involves a public hearing. The location, date, and time of the hearing will be confirmed following referral on the Upcoming Public Hearings page:
https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Upcoming_Public_Hearings

Defending Australia and its National Interests
www.defence.gov.au



COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION ATTENDANCE AND SUMMARY

Details

- Port Augusta (West Augusta Football Club, 13 Gardiner Ave, Port Augusta)
- 25 October 2022, 4pm to 8pm.
- Whyalla (Quest Whyalla, 4 Moran St, Whyalla Norrie)
- 26 October 2022, 4pm to 8pm.

Resources

- Materials on display included the information boards shown at **Annex B**
- Defence consultation team in attendance included members from:
 - The Project Delivery Team
 - Consultant Project Management Team
 - Indigenous Liaison Officer
 - Estate Planning
 - Operations and Training Area Management

Attendance

Number of Attendees	Interest Group
Port Augusta (25 October 2022)	
02	Local Residents
01	Local Government
Whyalla (26 October 2022)	
00	Local Residents
02	Local Government
Total: 05	

Key points raised:

- availability of accommodation and housing in both Whyalla and Port Augusta for construction personnel that do not reside locally
- increased noise and vibration in the Whyalla township, resulting from Defence training activities associated with the proposed works
- opportunities for local industry participation in the proposed works.

Defences responses are detailed at **Annex F**.

EXAMPLE OF LETTER OF INVITATION TO KEY STAKEHOLDERS



Australian Government
Department of Defence

Ms Joanne Morritt
Project Director
Capital Facilities & Infrastructure Branch
Brindabella Business Park
PO Box 7925
CANBERRA ACT 2610

Ms Clare McLaughlin
Mayor, City of Whyalla
PO Box 126, Whyalla SA 5600

PROPOSED CULTANA TRAINING AREA REDEVELOPMENT PHASE 2

Dear Mayor,

On behalf of the Department of Defence, I would like to offer you a personal briefing on the proposed works at the Cultana Training Area under the Cultana Training Area Redevelopment Phase 2 project. The aim of the project is to provide fit-for-purpose facilities and infrastructure delivering increased safety within the training area, whilst enhancing and increasing the complexity of training for the Australian Defence Force. The proposed works include extensions to the all-weather road network, a vehicle firing range, ammunition transfer points and upgrades to the existing urban operations training facility.

Defence anticipates this major infrastructure project will generate employment opportunities during construction and potential additional employment opportunities in related support sectors in the local area.

These works are subject to Parliamentary approval, the Department of Defence is seeking referral of the project to the Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Public Works for consideration in early 2023. If approved, the works will be delivered within Defence managed land, with the works anticipated to commence in August 2023.

For your information, the Department of Defence will be holding community information sessions on the proposed works in Whyalla and Port Augusta. Your constituents may be interested in attending one of these sessions which will be held at:

When: 26 October 2022

Time: 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm (ACST)

Where: Quest Whyalla, 4 Moran Street, Whyalla Augusta

When: 25 October 2022

Time: 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm (ACST)

Where: West Augusta Football Club, 13 Gardiner Ave, Port Augusta

If you or your staff would like to accept or decline this invitation for a personal briefing on the proposed works, please contact me via email at CUTA2@arecongroup.com.

Yours sincerely

Joanne Morritt
Project Director
06 October 2022

STATUS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS

ORGANISATION AND MEMBER	NOTES
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	
Mr Rowan Ramsey MP, Federal Member for Grey	<p>06 October 2022. Defence emailed a letter providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>07 November 2022. Defence briefed Mr Ramsey at Australian Parliament House. Mr Ramsey queried the proximity of the Live Fire Training Facility to the township of Whyalla, noting the number of noise complaints he has received in the past with regards to live fire activities on the western portion of the training area.</p> <p>Mr Ramsey questioned local employment opportunities and expressed his satisfaction with engagement undertaken to date by the Project.</p>
STATE/TERRITORY GOVERNMENT	
Hon Geoff Brock MP State Member for Stuart	<p>06 October 2022. Defence emailed a letter providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p>
Mr Eddie Hughes MP State Member for Giles	<p>06 October 2022. Defence emailed a letter providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>26 October 2022. Mr Hughes attended the Whyalla Community Information Session, and topics raised are summarised at Annex F.</p>
LOCAL GOVERNMENT	
Mayor Brent Benbow Mayor of Port Augusta	<p>06 October 2022. Defence emailed a letter providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>25 October 2022. Mayor Benbow attended the Port Augusta Community Information Session, and topics raised are summarised at Annex F.</p>
Mayor Clare McLaughlin Mayor of Whyalla	<p>06 October 2022. Defence emailed a letter providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>23 January 2023. Whyalla City Council accepted Defence's invitation, and a briefing date is to be confirmed.</p>

COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS GROUP	
Mr Jason Bilney Chairperson of Barngarla Aboriginal Corporation (Barngarla People)	<p>21 October 2022. Defence emailed a letter providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>19 December 2022. Defence followed up via an email to Mr Bilney.</p> <p>12 January 2023. Defence followed up again via an email to Mr Bilney. A response has not yet been received.</p>

SUMMARY OF TOPICS AND KEY ISSUES RAISED DURING CONSULTATION

TOPIC	RAISED BY	DEFENCE'S RESPONSE
Noise Pollution Local Engagement	Mr Eddie Hughes MP, State Member for Giles	Consideration is being given to relocating the Live Fire Training Facility from the western portion of the Training Area to the eastern portion of the Training Area to alleviate the community concerns associated with this range facility. Whilst within the remit of the Head Contractor (not yet procured) to engage its subcontractors, the Project and Commonwealth has key performance indicators and incentives to facilitate and promote local engagement.
Local Engagement Accommodation strain	Mayor Brent Benbow Mayor of Port Augusta	The same explanation as above was provided with regards to local engagement. Defence will mitigate the risk of accommodation strain by investigating vacancy rates in the local real estate and accommodation market, and recommend the successful Contractor monitor the pipeline of activities in the region that may impact vacancy rates.
Local Engagement	Local Port Augusta Fencing Subcontractor	The Project team spoke to the information boards shown at Annex B .
Local Engagement	Local Port Augusta Resident	The Project team spoke to the information boards shown at Annex B .