



Australian Government
Defence

Air Commodore RM Tilley
Director General
Capital Facilities and Infrastructure
Brindabella Business Park [REDACTED]
PO Box 7925
CANBERRA BC ACT 2610
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Mr Graham Perrett MP

Chair

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

Parliament House

CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Perrett

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT

**Facilities to Support JP9101 Phase 1 Enhanced Defence High Frequency
Communications System – Project Phoenix**

1. The Facilities to Support JP9101 Phase 1 Enhanced Defence High Frequency Communications System - 'Project Phoenix' was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on 20 June 2023. The project proposes to deliver facilities and infrastructure at the following sites:

- a. Rough Range and Exmouth, Western Australia;
- b. Mount Bunday Training Area, Humpty Doo and Shoal Bay, Northern Territory;
- c. Morundah and Lyndoch, New South Wales;
- d. Speed Creek and Bohle River, Queensland; and
- e. Russell and HMAS *Harman*, Australian Capital 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 proposed works. The aim of the consultation is to ensure local communities and other stakeholders are:

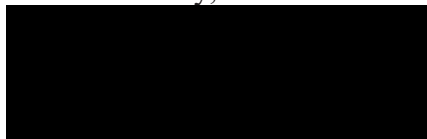
- a. well informed about project details through effective and proven communication channels; and
- b. provided the opportunity to raise any concerns or issues, or to seek further information so that, wherever feasible, Defence could address these concerns or issues in its proposed works.

3. The following stakeholder and community consultation activities are being delivered in accordance with the project's community engagement strategy:

- a. Community information sessions were advertised in relevant local newspapers in the Riverina, New South Wales; Exmouth, Western Australia; Darwin, Northern Territory; and Townsville, Queensland; and establishing a project email address to receive submissions and questions about the project. An example advertisement is shown at **Annex A**.

- b. Four community information sessions have been conducted, one in each region:
- Riverina on 1 June 2023, 2.00pm – 6.00pm;
 - Exmouth on 6 June 2023, 2.00pm – 6.00pm;
 - Darwin on 8 June 2023, 1.00pm – 5.00pm;
 - Townsville on 19 June 2023, 2.30pm – 6.30pm.
- c. Noting the small scale, minimal broader impact and nature of the works in the Australian Capital Territory being mainly limited to internal fit-out work, it was determined that the works do not meet a reasonable threshold to justify undertaking public community consultation. Key stakeholders in the Australian Capital Territory, including Members of Government and the Canberra Business Chamber, have been offered individual briefings.
- d. The type of information Defence presented to the public is shown at **Annex B**, and the level of attendance is provided at **Annex C**.
- e. Inviting key stakeholders, including Federal and State Members of Government, 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 at **Annex E**.
4. A summary of topics and key issues raised during community information sessions is provided at **Annex F**.
5. Information about the proposed works was generally well received at the community information sessions and feedback to date has been constructive and broadly about how the communications system operates. Defence has not been made aware of any objections to the proposed works.
6. Comments raised by members of the community focused on:
- a. seeking if there would be any benefits to the community;
 - b. impacts on the local community with a construction workforce entering town;
 - c. potential interference to other communications systems, such as mobile phones or other Government agency communications stations; and
 - d. whether there would be any potential radiation hazard to the general public from the antenna fields.
7. Consultation activities are continuing, with the potential for Defence to provide further briefings to Federal and State 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

7 July 2023

Annexes:

- A. Newspaper 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 ADVERTISEMENTS

Location	Publication	Dates Published
Riverina (Wagga Wagga), NSW	The Daily Advertiser	19 May 2023 31 May 2023
Exmouth, WA	The West Australian The Pilbara News (local newspaper published weekly)	26 May 2023 31 May 2023
Darwin, NT	Territory News	26 May 2023 5 June 2023
Townsville, QLD	Townsville Bulletin	5 June 2023 14 June 2023

EXAMPLE OF NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS
(Northern Territory News, 26 May 2023)



Australian Government
Defence

NOTICE OF COMMUNITY INFORMATION FORUM

FACILITIES TO SUPPORT JP9101 ENHANCED DEFENCE HIGH FREQUENCY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM - 'PROJECT PHOENIX'

The Department of Defence will conduct a community information forum to outline the proposed construction works associated with the project: Facilities To Support JP9101 Enhanced Defence High Frequency Communications System - 'Project Phoenix'. Subject to Parliamentary Approval, the works will be delivered from 2024 through to 2025 at Defence sites Humpty Doo, Shoal Bay, and Mount Bunday Training Area, Northern Territory.

The proposed works at Humpty Doo include new and upgraded engineering services infrastructure including mechanical, electrical, fire protection, hydraulic, sewerage, potable water elements, minor supporting civil works; and refurbishment of the existing building interior. The proposed works at Mount Bunday Training Area include a new 'green field' construction of building, antenna field, supporting engineering services, and access road. The proposed works at Shoal Bay only include decommissioning selected antennae, ground cabling and supports. The works also include an in-ground fibre link, between the Humpty Doo and Mount Bunday Training Area sites, located on current infrastructure pathways such as existing roads and utility corridors.

Information about the proposed works will be available at the forum with representatives from the Department of Defence available to answer any questions.

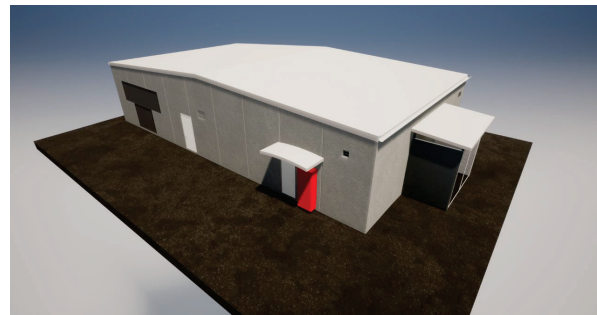
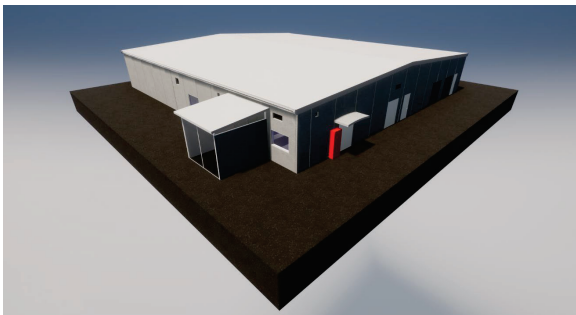
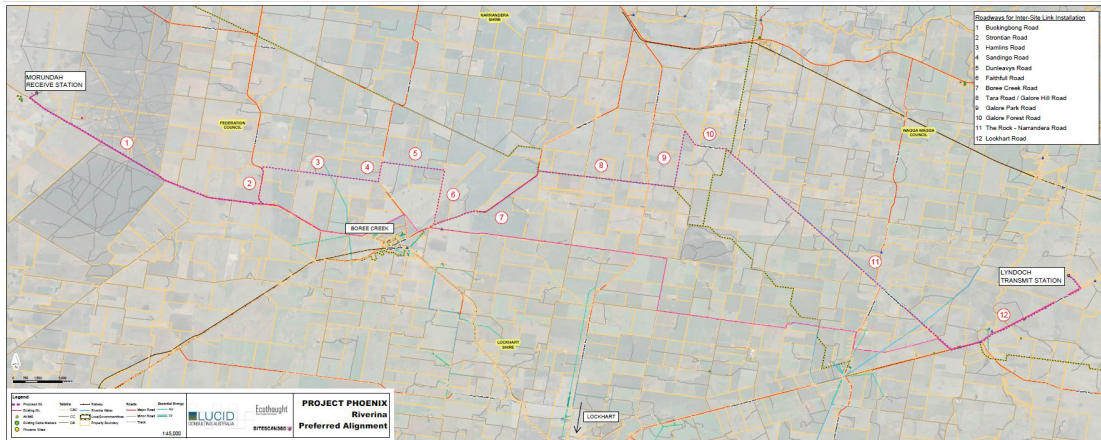
Community Information Forum Details

Date and Time:	Time:	Venue
Thursday 8 June 2023	1:00pm–5:00pm	Pandanus Room, Level 1, 48-50 Smith Street Mall Darwin, NT

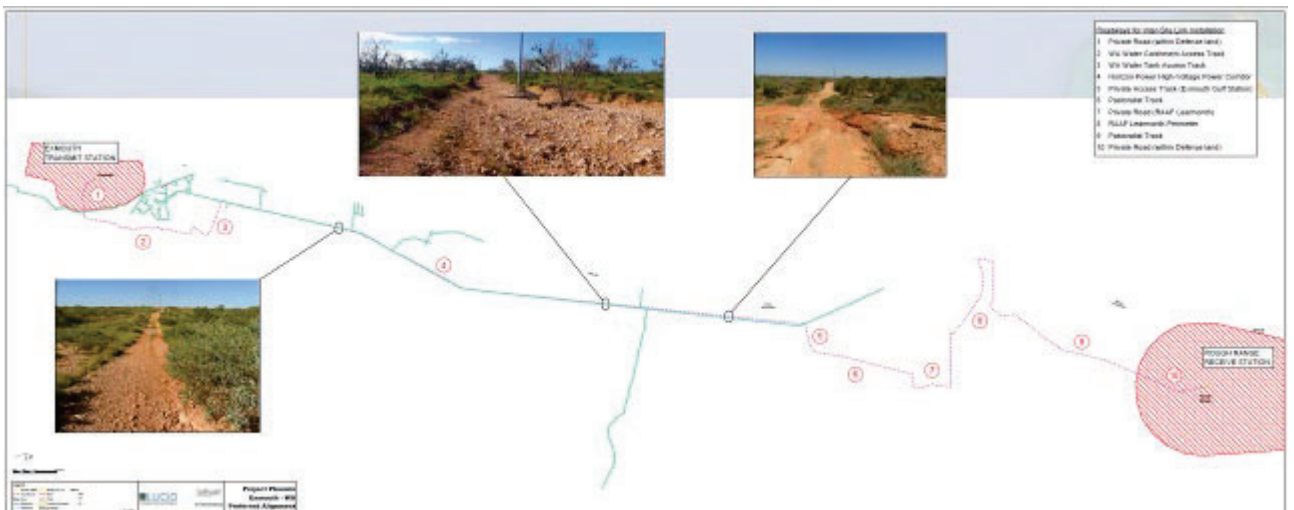
If you would like further information on the forum, please contact the project team via email at phoenix_pwc@kbr.com.
(email account active until 15 September 2023).

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION RESOURCES (INFORMATION BOARDS)

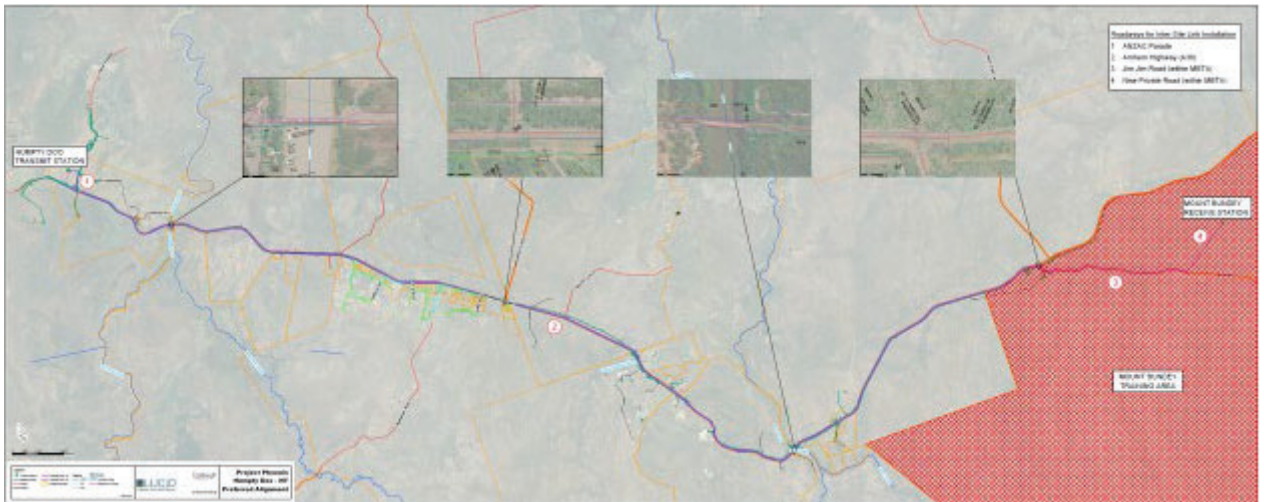
Riverina – Public Information Session – Project Boards



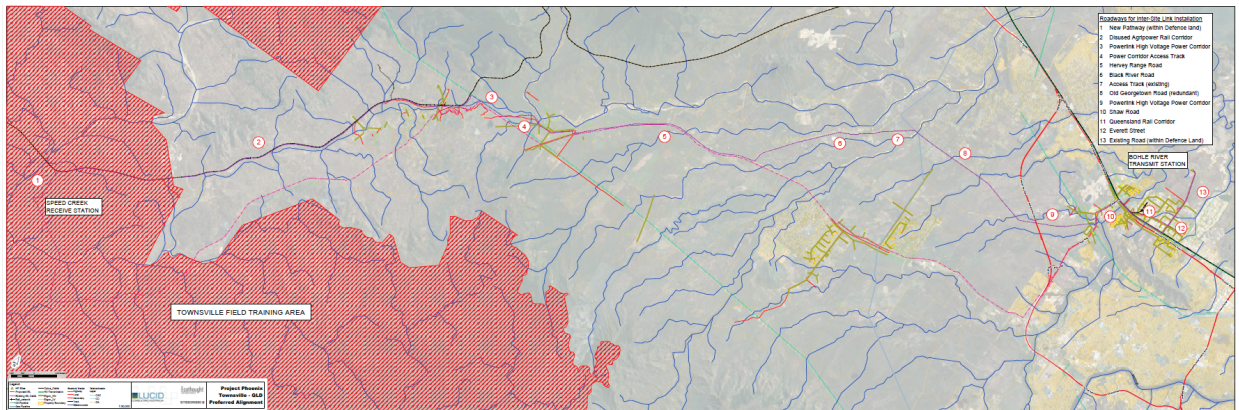
Exmouth– Public Information Session – Project Board



Darwin – Public Information Session – Project Board




Townsville – Public Information Session – Project Boards



Example Pamphlet Available for Collection at Public Consultation Locations


UNCLASSIFIED

 Australian Government
Defence

EST9101PH1 Facilities to Support JP9101 Enhanced Defence High Frequency Communications Systems

Briefing for Public Consultation

June 2023

To defend Australia and its national interests in order
to advance Australia's security and prosperity
www.defence.gov.au 

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

 Australian Government
Defence

Project Aim and Overview

Aim

- Project aims to provide fit for purpose facilities to support the Enhanced Defence High Frequency Communications System

Overview

- ADF's sole strategic high frequency communication bearer
- Reliable, survivable, long range standalone system, operates 24/7
- Supports command and control
- Primary bearer for users without access to satellite communications; and an alternative bearer for satellite communications users

To defend Australia and its national interests in order
to advance Australia's security and prosperity
www.defence.gov.au 

2

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED



Australian Government
Defence

Facilities Project Context

- EST9101PH1 is an **estate project** to provide facilities to support JP9101 Project Phoenix.
- JP9101 is a **capability project** to upgrade (enhance) the Defence High Frequency Communications System (DHFCS to EDHFCS)



3

To defend Australia and its national interests in order
to advance Australia's security and prosperity
www.defence.gov.au



UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED



Australian Government
Defence

Defence High Frequency Communications System



4

To defend Australia and its national interests in order
to advance Australia's security and prosperity
www.defence.gov.au



UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED



Need for the Project

- Required to provide facilities to enhance the strategic high-frequency communications capability to support regional and global operations.
- Complement Defence's investment in secure and resilient satellite communications to support Australia's forces on operations at home and abroad.
- Key enabler for the proposed future force.
- 2016 Defence White Paper and 2020 Defence Strategic Update highlight enhancing resilience to communications technology, infrastructure and estate underpinning conducting and sustaining operations, including in response to disasters.
- Defence Strategic Review maintains strong support for the enhancement to strategic communications.

5

To defend Australia and its national interests in order
to advance Australia's security and prosperity
www.defence.gov.au



UNCLASSIFIED



Key Capabilities Supported

- High Frequency communications provides deployed units - aircraft, ships or soldiers - a means to communicate important information back to the centralised command element
- The Project will enhance the system from basic voice communications to modern digital voice, tactical data and email capability
- The enhanced system will ensure Australia remains interoperable with our coalition partners
- The enhanced system will ensure Australia remains and improves interoperability with agencies already using the system, such as:
 - Australian Maritime Safety Authority (including MH370 search)
 - Australian Communications and Media Authority
 - Air Services Australia

6

To defend Australia and its national interests in order
to advance Australia's security and prosperity
www.defence.gov.au



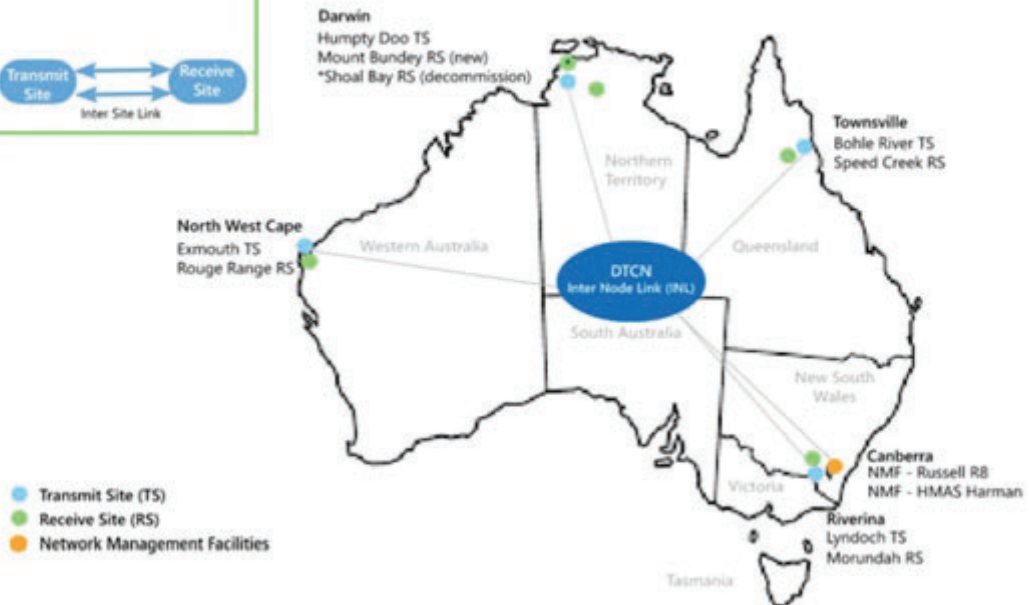
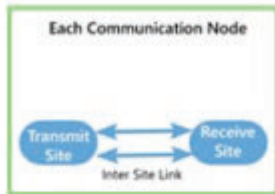
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED



Australian Government
Defence

Locations and Network in Context

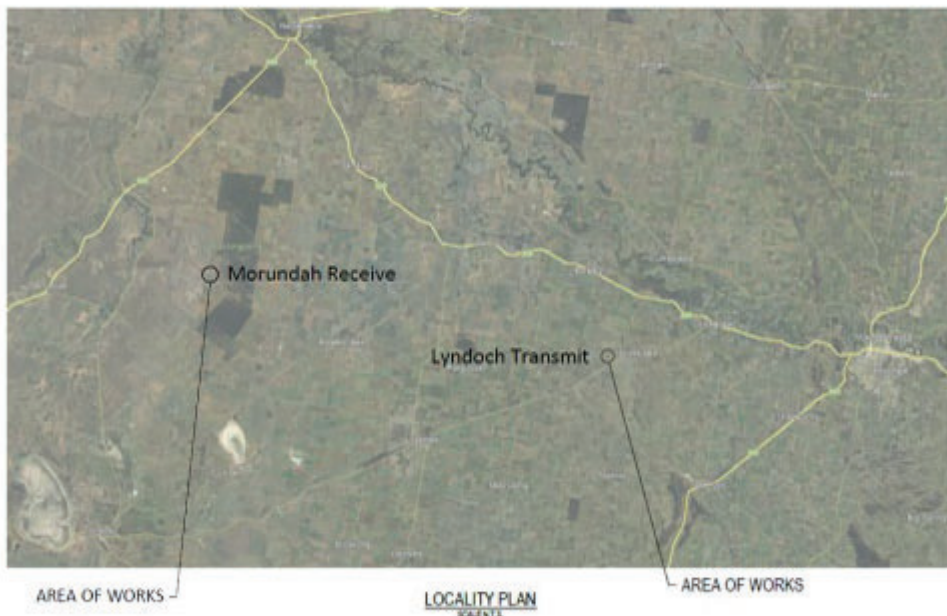


UNCLASSIFIED



Australian Government
Defence

Riverina Site Reference



To defend Australia and its national interests in order
to advance Australia's security and prosperity
www.defence.gov.au

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED



Australian Government
Defence

Lyndoch Transmit Site Map



SITE PLAN

To defend Australia and its national interests in order
to advance Australia's security and prosperity
www.defence.gov.au



UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED



Australian Government
Defence

Lyndoch Transmit Site Photo



To defend Australia and its national interests in order
to advance Australia's security and prosperity
www.defence.gov.au



UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED



Australian Government
Defence

Lyndoch Transmit Site Photo



To defend Australia and its national interests in order
to advance Australia's security and prosperity
www.defence.gov.au



UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED



Australian Government
Defence

Morundah Receive Site Map



SITE PLAN

To defend Australia and its national interests in order
to advance Australia's security and prosperity
www.defence.gov.au

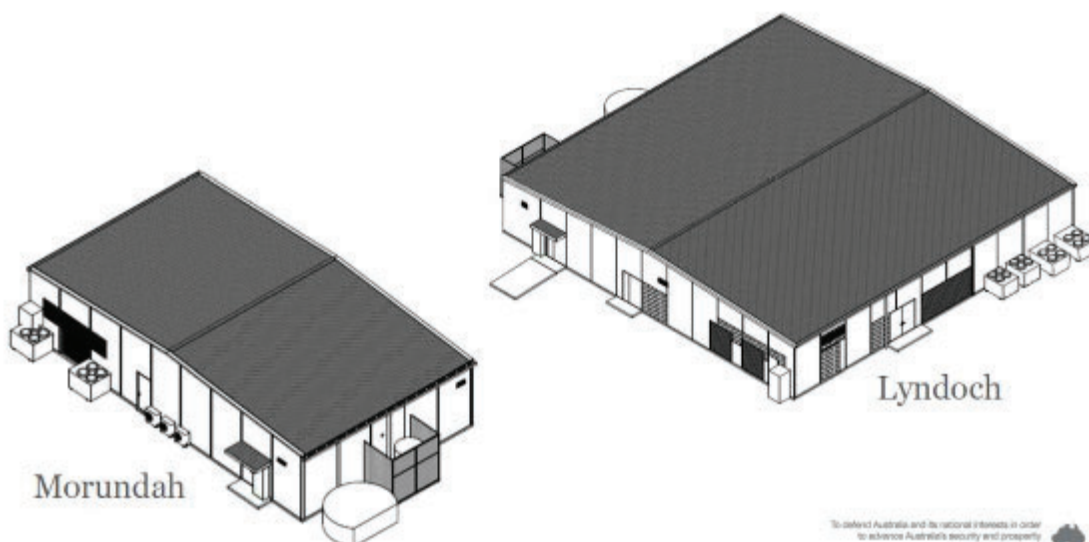


UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED



Scope of Works: Control Buildings for Morundah and Lyndoch



To defend Australia and its national interests in order
to enhance Australia's security and prosperity
www.defence.gov.au

UNCLASSIFIED



Scope of Works: Lyndoch and Morundah - Riverina NSW

- **Building Works:** repurposing and refurbishment of existing control buildings through architectural, security, and minor structural upgrades to meet capability and Building Code requirements. Extension of existing Lyndoch control building.
- **Building Services:** replacement and upgrade to electrical, mechanical, hydraulic, fire protection, security, and passive ICT elements to meet capability requirements and Building Code requirements. New local emergency generator.
- **External Works:** upgrade sections of perimeter fence tracks impacted by water flow, external fencing as needed, and physical and electronic security upgrades.
- **External Services:** above ground fuel storage tanks and water storage tanks.

To defend Australia and its national interests in order
to enhance Australia's security and prosperity
www.defence.gov.au

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED



Scope of Works – Inter-site Link - Riverina NSW



15

To defend Australia and its national interests in order
to advance Australia's security and prosperity
www.defence.gov.au

UNCLASSIFIED



UNCLASSIFIED

Questions

16

To defend Australia and its national interests in order
to advance Australia's security and prosperity
www.defence.gov.au

UNCLASSIFIED

**COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION
ATTENDANCE AND SUMMARY**

Riverina, NSW

Details

Public Information Session

- Wagga Wagga (Gallery Conference Room, Mercure Hotel, 1 Morgan St, Wagga Wagga)
- 1 June 2023, 2pm to 6pm

Resources

- Materials on display included the information boards and pamphlets shown at **Annex B**, with the pamphlet in presentation form on a projection screen.
- Defence consultation team in attendance included members from:
 - Defence's Project Delivery Team
 - Consultant Project Management Team
 - Design Services Consultant

Attendance

Number of attendees	Interest Group
0	N/A
Total: 0	

Key points raised:

- Nil

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION ATTENDANCE AND SUMMARY

Exmouth

Details

Public Information Session

- Exmouth (Mandu Mandu Room - West, Ningaloo Function Centre, 2 Truscott Cres, Exmouth)
- 6 June 2023, 2pm to 6pm

Resources

- Materials on display included the information boards and pamphlets shown at **Annex B**, with the pamphlet in presentation form on a projection screen. This was presented to the attendees.
- Defence consultation team in attendance included members from:
 - Defence's Project Delivery Team
 - Consultant Project Management Team
 - Design Services Consultant

Attendance

Number of attendees	Interest Group
2	Local residents
Total: 2	

Key points raised:

- Queries regarding potential radio interference with local services such as the Bureau of Meteorology stations adjacent to Learmonth airport.
- Seeking information regarding any microwave communication links.
- Seeking how the project proposed to house the workers for the project.
- Comment regarding the project to consider the cyclone season.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION ATTENDANCE AND SUMMARY

Darwin

Details

Public Information Session

- Darwin (Pandanus Room, Level 1, 48-50 Smith Street Mall, Darwin)
- 8 June 2023, 1pm to 5pm

Resources

- Materials on display included the information boards and pamphlets shown at **Annex B**, with the pamphlet in presentation form on a projection screen. This was presented to the attendees
- Defence consultation team in attendance included members from:
 - Defence's Project Delivery Team
 - Consultant Project Management Team
 - Design Services Consultant

Attendance

Number of attendees	Interest Group
2	Local residents
Total: 2	

Key points raised:

- Usage of town power.
- Whether the public could use the proposed inter-site link.
- Local contractor involvement.
- Potential extension of Defence land.
- Importance of sustainability as a key design and operation consideration.
- Consider further advertising of public consultations.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION ATTENDANCE AND SUMMARY

Townsville

Details

Public Information Session

- Townsville (Ross Creek Room, Hotel Grand Chancellor, 334 Flinders Street, Townsville)
- 19 June 2023, 2.30pm to 6.30pm

Resources

- Materials on display included the information boards and pamphlets shown at **Annex B**, with the pamphlet in presentation form on a projection screen. This was presented to the attendee.
- Defence consultation team in attendance included members from:
 - Defence's Project Delivery Team
 - Consultant Project Management Team
 - Design Services Consultant

Attendance

Number of attendees	Interest Group
1	Local resident
Total: 1	

Key points raised:

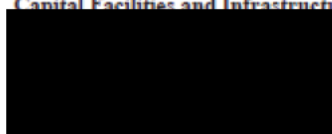
- Frequency range of the Defence High Frequency Communications System.
- Usage of triangulation.
- Comparison of the system frequency to mobile phone frequency.
- Communication range.
- Inter-site link depth.
- Manufacturing source of the proposed fibre.
- Current users of the high frequency spectrum.
- Public safety of the system.
- Project's next steps.

EXAMPLE OF LETTER OF INVITATION TO KEY STAKEHOLDERS



Australian Government
Department of Defence
Security and Estate Group

LTCOL James Scott
Project Director
Capital Facilities and Infrastructure



[Redacted]
Hon. Michael McCormack MP
Member for Riverina
Suite 2 11-15 Fitzmaurice St
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

Dear Mr McCormack,

FACILITIES TO SUPPORT JP9101 ENHANCED DEFENCE HIGH FREQUENCY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM - 'PROJECT PHOENIX'

I would like to inform you of works proposed by the Department of Defence under the Facilities to Support JP9101 Enhanced Defence High Frequency Communications System - 'Project Phoenix' (project). The works are at geographically dispersed Defence sites across the country, including:

- Bohle River and Speed Creek, Queensland;
- Shoal Bay, Humpty Doo and Mount Bunday Training Area, Northern Territory;
- Exmouth and Rough Range, Western Australia;
- Lyndoch and Morundah (Riverina), New South Wales; and
- Russell and HMAS Harman, Australian Capital Territory.

The project will shortly be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC). The project, which is subject to Parliamentary Approval, can shortly be viewed on the PWC website (approximately mid-late June 2023):

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Public_Works

The aim of the project is to refurbish existing facilities and infrastructure to support the new capability which is an enhancement to the existing Defence High Frequency Communications System. The project will also provide a new in-ground fibre link between the regionally paired sites.

The proposed works for New South Wales are on Defence managed land at Defence sites Lyndoch and Morundah, and the new in-ground fibre link will be located on current infrastructure pathways such as existing roads or utility corridors between the sites.

The works include:

- New and upgraded engineering services infrastructure including mechanical, electrical, fire protection, hydraulic, sewerage, potable water elements;
- minor supporting civil works where required;
- refurbishment of the interior the existing building, minor extension to control building at Lyndoch;

- new in-ground fibre link between the sites.

Subject to Parliamentary approval, construction is proposed to commence at the end of this year, with completion scheduled in 2024. The in-ground fibre will be constructed between 2024 and 2025.

Representatives of the project team will be in Wagga Wagga for a public drop-in information session, and a separate opportunity for a one on one discussion if desired. The details are below:

Date	Location	Time
1 June 2023	Gallery Room, Mercure Hotel 1 Morgan St Wagga Wagga	Public Consultation 2pm – 6pm
2 June 2023	Gallery Room, Mercure Hotel 1 Morgan St Wagga Wagga	Opportunity for One on One Meeting by Appointment 9am – 1pm

The Department's Statement of Evidence to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC), will be sent as a link in a follow up correspondence.

If you or your staff would like a personal briefing on the project, please contact the team via email at phoenix_pwc@kbr.com.

Yours sincerely,



James Scott
Lieutenant Colonel
Project Director
Capital Facilities and Infrastructure
18 May 2023

STATUS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS

ORGANISATION AND MEMBER	NOTES
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	
<p>The Hon. Michael McCormack MP Federal Member for Riverina</p>	<p>18 May 2023. Defence emailed a letter to Mr McCormack providing project information, contact details and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>31 May 2023. Defence briefed Mr McCormack and Mr Ken Grimsen in his office in Parliament House Canberra.</p> <p>Mr McCormack queried the land ownership regarding the inter-site links. Defence advised Mr McCormack that the land for the inter-site links was not privately owned and the intent of the route was to select existing infrastructure pathways to mitigate any risks and issues with private land ownership, environmental and heritage aspects. The project team has been in consultation with planning authorities and utilities accordingly.</p> <p>Mr McCormack also queried if there were any indigenous, environment or heritage concerns. Defence advised that there were minimal environmental and heritage concerns noting the existing sites are well known and the inter-site link route has been designed to avoid any issues. The team has been in consultation with the local Traditional Owners as part of the planning process.</p> <p>Mr McCormack queried the radiation hazard status of the sites. Defence advised that there were not radiation hazard risks to the general public. The team advised that the radiation hazard is localised to the transmit site only, and well within the secure perimeter of the site. The employees on site are trained accordingly to ensure that no personnel on site are exposed to radiation hazard through work health and safety inductions and procedures.</p>
<p>Hon Sussan Ley MP Federal Member for Farrer</p>	<p>18 May 2023. Defence emailed a letter to Ms Ley providing project information, contact details, and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>03 July 2023. Defence sent a follow-up invitation to Ms Ley.</p>
<p>Hon Melissa Price MP Federal Member for Durack</p>	<p>25 May 2023. Defence emailed a letter to Ms Price providing project information, contact details, and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>03 July 2023. Ms Price has requested a briefing on 02 or 03 August 2023.</p>
<p>Ms Marion Scrymgour MP Federal Member for Lingiari</p>	<p>25 May 2023. Defence emailed a letter to Ms Scrymgour providing project information, contact details, and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>03 July 2023. Defence sent a follow-up invitation to Ms Scrymgour.</p>

ORGANISATION AND MEMBER	NOTES
<p>Mr Luke Gosling MP Federal Member for Solomon</p>	<p>25 May 2023. Defence emailed a letter to Mr Gosling providing project information, contact details, and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>03 July 2023. Defence sent a follow-up invitation to Mr Gosling.</p>
<p>Mr Phillip Thompson OAM MP Federal Member for Herbert</p>	<p>05 June 2023. Defence emailed a letter to Mr Thompson providing project information, contact details, and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing. Mr Thompson declined the offer for a briefing.</p>
<p>Hon Bob Katter MP Federal Member for Kennedy</p>	<p>05 June 2023. Defence emailed a letter to Mr Katter providing project information, contact details, and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>03 July 2023. Defence sent a follow-up invitation to Mr Katter.</p>
<p>Ms Alicia Payne MP Federal Member for Canberra</p>	<p>22 June 2023. Defence emailed a letter to Ms Payne providing project information, contact details, and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>03 July 2023. Defence sent a follow-up invitation to Ms Payne.</p>
<p>Mr David Smith MP Federal Member for Bean</p>	<p>22 June 2023. Defence emailed a letter to Mr Smith providing project information, contact details, and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>03 July 2023. Defence sent a follow-up invitation to Mr Smith.</p>
STATE/TERRITORY GOVERNMENT	
<p>Dr Joe McGirr MP NSW Member for Wagga Wagga</p>	<p>18 May 2023. Defence emailed a letter to Dr McGirr providing project information, contact details, and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>2 June 2023: A staff member for Dr McGirr sent an apology for not being able to attend a briefing.</p>
<p>Mr Justin Clancy MP NSW Member for Albury</p>	<p>18 May 2023. Defence emailed a letter to Mr Justin Clancy providing project information, contact details, and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>02 June 2023. Defence briefed Mr Justin Clancy over a video conference session.</p> <p>Mr Clancy raised a query regarding the community benefit including the inter-site fibre link.</p> <p>Defence advised Mr Clancy that there is minimal direct benefit to the community noting purpose of facilities is to support the capability. The team also noted that the capability is used to support civilian agencies as well, and was heavily utilised for the MH370 search. The team also noted the fibre link is a closed system just for the capability.</p> <p>Mr Clancy queried if there were any anticipated impacts on the local community.</p> <p>Defence advised there would be minimal impact to the local community, and that the design has been driven by minimising impact</p>

ORGANISATION AND MEMBER	NOTES
	<p>on land owners, traditional heritage, environment, and focussing on utilising existing infrastructure pathways. The team noted no new easements were being created.</p> <p>Mr Clancy also sought information regarding the timing of construction and any impact on the local community.</p> <p>Defence noted the construction period would be between 3-5 months and that there would be relatively low but additional vehicular movements and construction personnel during construction. The team also noted there would be some partial road closures but that single lanes would remain under traffic control by the head contractor.</p> <p>Mr Clancy queried if there was any radiation hazard related to the project.</p> <p>Defence advised that there would be minimal change from the current system, and noted the only radiation hazard was localised to immediately near a transmit antenna which is not accessible by the general public. The team also noted the system was in the High Frequency band and would not impact GPS signal or other civilian communications systems.</p> <p>Mr Clancy noted the importance of updating the community on construction activity and recommended the local council would be a suitable forum as a convenient single point of contact for members of the community seek information. Mr Clancy also recommended advertising to the community that the local council would be the key point of contact for information on the project.</p> <p>Defence noted Mr Clancy's comments regarding advertising to the community that the local council would be the key point of contact for information on the project. The team also noted the construction would commence in Q1/Q2 2024.</p>
<p>Ms Merome Beard MLA WA Member for North West Central</p>	<p>25 May 2023. Defence emailed a letter to Ms Beard providing project information, contact details, and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>12 June 2023. A staff member for Ms Beard emailed to request briefing on 29 or 30 June 2023. Defence called the staff member to discuss options and subsequently issued an invitation to conduct the briefing on 30 June 2023.</p> <p>Ms Beard queried whether the sites were manned.</p> <p>Defence advised that the transmit site was manned and the number of personnel would be similar to current operations, however the receive site was only manned on occasion for maintenance works.</p> <p>Ms Beard queried the separation between the receive and transmit sites.</p> <p>Defence advised that this was required for technical requirements to allow the system to operate without radio frequency interference between the sites.</p> <p>Ms Beard queried if solar power was being considered.</p>

ORGANISATION AND MEMBER	NOTES
	<p>Defence advised that a solar farm was planned for Rough Range as a primary power supply supported by back up diesel generator, as this was within the budget constraints. The team noted that solar power was a later addition to the design noting it was not in the original system requirements. The project has subsequently endeavoured to include solar where budget and technical limitations allow. If budget becomes available through favourable market responses and risk provision utilisation, Defence would seek to include more solar power at other sites initially to sites that operate on 24/7 diesel generators.</p> <p>Ms Beard noted the recent changes to the state legislation related to the <i>Aboriginal and Cultural Heritage Act 2021</i> (WA).</p> <p>Defence committed to raising this with their expert design and environmental consultants for consideration of impacts to the project, and make revisions if required.</p> <p>Ms Beard queried the duration of the construction.</p> <p>Defence responded noting the construction phase would be approximately 6 months and the team would endeavour to coordinate with other projects to mitigate impacts on the local town where possible. The team also noted the construction would commence in 2025.</p> <p>Ms Beard asked about the expected life of the facilities.</p> <p>Defence responded that they would be designed for a minimum 25 year lifespan, and noted the capability was initially designed for a 15 year operation however that there would be subsequent operation phases.</p>
Ms Kezia Purick MLA Northern Territory Member for Goyder	<p>25 May 2023. Defence emailed a letter to Ms Purick providing project information, contact details, and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing. Ms Purick sent an apology that she was not available to attend a briefing.</p>
Mr Manuel Brown MLA Northern Territory Member for Arafura	<p>25 May 2023. Defence emailed a letter to Mr Brown providing project information, contact details, and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>03 July 2023. Defence sent a follow-up invitation to Mr Brown.</p>
Gerard Maley MLA Northern Territory Member for Nelson	<p>25 May 2023. Defence emailed a letter to Mr Maley providing project information, contact details, and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>03 July 2023. Defence sent a follow-up invitation to Mr Maley.</p>
Hon Scott Stewart MP Queensland Member for Townsville	<p>05 June 2023. Defence emailed a letter to Mr Stewart providing project information, contact details, and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>03 July 2023. Defence sent a follow-up invitation to Mr Stewart.</p>
Mr Robert Katter MP Queensland Member for Traeger	<p>05 June 2023. Defence emailed a letter to Mr Katter providing project information, contact details, and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p>

ORGANISATION AND MEMBER	NOTES
	13 June 2023. Mr Katter's staff member sent an email noting he was unable to attend a briefing and extended his apologies.
Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Chief Minister of the ACT, ACT Members for Kurrajong	22 June 2023. Defence emailed a letter to Mr Barr providing project information, contact details, and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing. 03 July 2023. Defence sent a follow-up invitation to Mr Barr.
Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA ACT Members for Kurrajong	22 June 2023. Defence emailed a letter to Ms Lee providing project information, contact details, and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing. 03 July 2023. Defence sent a follow-up invitation to Ms Lee.
Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA ACT Members for Kurrajong	22 June 2023. Defence emailed a letter to Mr Rattenbury providing project information, contact details, and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing. 03 July 2023. Defence sent a follow-up invitation to Mr Rattenbury.
Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA ACT Members for Kurrajong	22 June 2023. Defence emailed a letter to Ms Stephen-Smith providing project information, contact details, and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing. 03 July 2023. Defence sent a follow-up invitation to Ms Stephen-Smith.
Ms Rebecca Vassarotti MLA ACT Members for Kurrajong	22 June 2023. Defence emailed a letter to Ms Vassarotti providing project information, contact details, and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing. 03 July 2023. Defence sent a follow-up invitation to Ms Vassarotti.
COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS GROUP	
Greg Ireland, Chief Executive Officer, Northern Territory Chamber of Commerce	22 June 2023. Defence emailed a letter to Mr Ireland providing project information, contact details, and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing. 03 July 2023. Defence sent a follow-up invitation to Mr Ireland.
Chris Rodwell, Chief Executive Officer, Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA	22 June 2023. Defence emailed a letter to Mr Rodwell providing project information, contact details, and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing. 03 July 2023. Defence sent a follow-up invitation to Mr Rodwell.
Catherine Hughes, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Business Chamber Queensland	22 June 2023. Defence emailed a letter to Ms Cooper providing project information, contact details, and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing. 03 July 2023. Defence sent a follow-up invitation to Ms Cooper.
Daniel Hunter, Chief Executive Officer, Business NSW	22 June 2023. Defence emailed a letter to Mr Hunter providing project information, contact details, and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing. 03 July 2023. Defence sent a follow-up invitation to Mr Hunter.
Greg Harford (commences	22 June 2023. Defence emailed a letter to the office of the Chief

ORGANISATION AND MEMBER	NOTES
role in late July), Chief Executive Officer, Canberra Business Chamber	Executive Officer of the Canberra Business Chamber providing project information, contact details, and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing. 03 July 2023. Defence sent a follow-up invitation.

**SUMMARY OF TOPICS AND KEY ISSUES RAISED DURING COMMUNITY
 INFORMATION SESSIONS**

TOPIC	RAISED BY	DEFENCE RESPONSE
Query regarding potential Radio Frequency interference on other communication or systems using the high frequency band.	Exmouth local resident	The project representatives committed to seek a response related to radio frequency interference to other local instrumentation sites, and noted the source the low likelihood of the source of the local interference being from the transmit station based on it being approximately 50km to the north. Defence responded on 3 July 2023 noting the interference is unlikely to be emanating from the transmit site but also offered a follow up meeting to discuss any technical issues if required.
Are there any microwave communication links?	Exmouth local resident	There would be no microwave communication links as the project intends to use in-ground fibre inter-site links instead.
Has the project considered the housing of construction workers?	Exmouth local resident	<p>The Defence Head Contractor is required to ensure their proposal considers where their workforce are located. In addition, the Contractor will need to provide a Local Industry Capability Plan to provide opportunities for local involvement during the construction phase of the project.</p> <p>The team also noted that the project would be coordinating with other Defence and civilian projects in the region to understand their timeframes and potential impacts on the town and mitigate this where possible within the context of required build timeframes. The project team also noted it could set up a key point of contact both within the project team but also a single point of information with the local council, if considered useful for the town.</p>
Has the project considered the potential impacts of the weather, such as cyclone season?	Exmouth local resident	The seasons have been included as a key consideration for the timing of construction.
Do the facilities operate on town power supply?	Darwin local resident	The project team advised that Humpty Doo and Mount Bunday sites would run on High Voltage mains grid power.
Can the inter-site link be used by the general public?	Darwin local resident	The project team advised that the inter-site link was a closed system service only used for the Defence High Frequency Communication System.
Will there be	Darwin local resident	The project team noted the intention is to

TOPIC	RAISED BY	DEFENCE RESPONSE
opportunities for Local Contractor Involvement		provide opportunities for local contractors to participate in the construction works.
Will there be any extension of Defence land?	Darwin local resident	The project team advised there was no proposed extension of Defence land and all works at sites would be on existing Defence land except for the inter-site links which would be on existing infrastructure pathways.
Sustainability is really important, have you considered this?	Darwin local resident	The project team noted the comment regarding the importance of sustainability and advised that the project was considering sustainability options where possible, such as including solar power supplies, and minimising impacts on environment and heritage through both construction and operations. The project team summarised a series of environmental and heritage mitigations particularly for the Mount Bunday site, covering design, construction activity, and subsequent operations.
Comments on future advertising of public consultation	Darwin local resident	An attendee suggested in future that Defence consider advertising more widely such as on Facebook / Defence social media, noting some of the populace would not be reading newspapers. The attendee also noted the importance of face to face contact with the public compared to virtual consultation. The project team committed to taking this feedback and consider application for future projects.
What is the frequency range of the Defence High Frequency Communications System?	Townsville local resident	Project team noted that the system ran in the High Frequency range, approximately 3 - 30 Mhz.
Is there any triangulation?	Townsville local resident	The project team noted the system was for communication only.
How does the system's frequency compare to the frequency of mobile phone networks?	Townsville local resident	Project team noted the high frequency band is lower than the mobile phone frequency bands.
What is the range of the communication system?	Townsville local resident	Project team noted the system was a long range communications system.
At what depth are the inter-site links buried?	Townsville local resident	Project team noted the inter-site links would be direct buried at about 1.2m depth.
Where does the fibre come from?	Townsville local resident	Project team noted the fibre would likely be Australian made, noting there are existing fibre manufacturers and suppliers present in Australia. The project team also noted the fibre is designed to last for a minimum of 25 years.
Who are the current users of the high frequency	Townsville local resident	Defence is a key user of the high frequency spectrum however there are a number of other

TOPIC	RAISED BY	DEFENCE RESPONSE
spectrum?		regulated users.
Is there a concern to the public's safety?	Townsville local resident	<p>Defence has previously conducted a radiation hazard assessment and noted that only the transmit site contains a radiation hazard, with the receive sites not broadcasting a signal. The radiation area is contained with safety clearance zones around the antennae, and inductions required for anyone visiting / operating the sites.</p> <p>There is no risk to the general public outside of the site perimeter and no increased risk to the operations of the site.</p>
What are the project's next steps?	Townsville local resident	<p>The project team advised the upcoming referral to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC) and that the Statement of Evidence would be available on the Parliament House website containing a more detail for the public.</p> <p>The team also noted that the public can make submissions to the PWC and they would be loaded on the website at www.aph.gov.au. The project team provided the website for the PWC, and the project email address should the attendee wish to seek further information.</p>