



Australian Government
Defence

Air Commodore RM Tilley
Director General
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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 ADVANCED GROWLER PHASE 6

1. The Facilities to Support Advanced Growler Phase 6 Project was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on 7 February 2024. The project proposes to deliver facilities and infrastructure at:
 - a. RAAF Base Amberley in the Ipswich Region, Queensland; and
 - b. Delamere Air Weapons Range in the Victoria Daly Region, 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 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 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. Community information sessions were advertised in relevant local newspapers in the Ipswich and Katherine regions. A project mailbox was also established to receive submissions and questions about the project. These details are included in the advertisements shown at **Annex A**.
 - b. Three community information sessions were conducted, including one drop-in session each in Katherine and Ipswich on 5 March 2024 and 14 March 2024 respectively, and an online virtual session on 18 March 2024. Information presented by Defence to the public is outlined at **Annex B**, and level of attendance is provided at **Annex C**.
 - c. Key stakeholders, including Federal, State and Local Members of Government, and local community members were offered a personal briefing about the project. An example of the invitation that was sent out is at **Annex D**. A list of all stakeholders

engaged by the project, including the status of each engagement, is provided at **Annex E**.

4. Information about the proposed works was generally well received at the community information sessions and feedback to date has been positive. Defence has not been made aware of any objections to the proposed works.
5. Comments raised by members of the community focused on:
 - a. highlighting the limited availability of accommodation, housing and support services in the Katherine and Victoria Daly regions for those construction personnel who do not reside locally;
 - b. maximising opportunities for local industry participation for proposed works at the Delamere Air Weapons Range, noting the current constraints in the Katherine and Victoria Daly regions;
 - c. limiting further impact to the already damaged access road from Victoria Highway Turn-off (owned by the Northern Territory Government) into the Delamere Air Weapons Range;
 - d. avoiding further environmental impacts from use of the Delamere Air Weapons Range;
 - e. understanding if there would be any increase to Communication Tower capacity at the Delamere Air Weapons Range;
 - f. understanding how Defence designs and maintains wash bays in the Northern Territory;
 - g. identifying and minimising noise and traffic impacts to local neighbouring residents at RAAF Base Amberley; and
 - h. understanding potential impacts to existing fence lines at both RAAF Base Amberley and the Delamere Air Weapons Range.
6. A summary of topics raised during community information sessions, along with the Defence responses, is provided at **Annex F**.
7. Consultation activities have concluded. Defence will provide a briefing to Federal, State and Local Members of Government contacted during the consultation process should they request one.

Yours sincerely,

RM Tilley
Air Commodore
Director General Capital Facilities and Infrastructure

30 March 2024

Annexes:

- A. Newspaper Advertisements
- B. Examples of 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 |
|-----------------|---|---|
| Katherine, NT | Katherine Times | Physical newspaper 28 February 2024 to 5 March 2024 Daily online 28 February to 5 March 2024 |
| Delamere, NT | Notice issued to surrounding Land Owners directly from Base Manager | Correspondence via email 6 March 2024 |
| Ipswich, QLD | Ipswich News Today (weekly edition) | Physical newspaper - 29 February 2024 - 7 March 2024 - 14 March 2024 |
| Ipswich, QLD | Ipswich Tribune | Daily online 28 February to 13 March 2024 |

EXAMPLE OF NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertisement Example – RAAF Base Amberley

NOTICE OF COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION

Facilities to Support Advanced Growler Phase 6, RAAF Base Amberley, Queensland

The Department of Defence will be conducting a community information session to outline the proposed construction works at RAAF Base Amberley, associated with the Facilities to Support Advanced Growler Phase 6 Project. These works are subject to Parliamentary Approval.

Information about the proposed works and facilities will be available at this information session, with representatives from the Department of Defence available to answer any questions.

Community Information Session Details

Date: Thursday, 14 March 2024

Time: 4:30 – 7:30PM

Venue: Ipswich PCYC, 1C Griffith Rd, Eastern Heights QLD 4305

If you are unable to attend this information session or if you would like further information on this session, please contact the Defence Project Team, via email at advanced.growler@jacobs.com.

Information on this project is available on the Public Works Committee web page at www.aph.gov.au/parliamentary_business/committees/joint/public_works, where public submissions can also be made.

EXAMPLE OF NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertisement Example – Delamere Air Weapons Range

NOTICE OF COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION

Facilities to Support Advanced Growler Phase 6, Delamere Air Weapons Range, Northern Territory

The Department of Defence will be conducting a community information session to outline the proposed construction works at Delamere Air Weapons Range, associated with the Facilities to Support Advanced Growler Phase 6 Project. These works are subject to Parliamentary Approval.

Information about the proposed works and facilities will be available at this information session, with representatives from the Department of Defence available to answer any questions.

Community Information Session Details

Date: Tuesday, 5 March 2024

Time: 5:00PM – 7:30PM

Venue: Knotts Crossing Resort Function Room, 10 Cameron Street, Katherine NT 0850

If you are unable to attend this information session or if you would like further information on this session, please contact the Defence Project Team, via email at advanced.growler@jacobs.com.

Information on this project is available on the Public Works Committee web page at [www.aph.gov.au/parliamentary business/committees/joint/public works](http://www.aph.gov.au/parliamentary_business/committees/joint/public_works), where public submissions can also be made.

Advertisement Example – Delamere Air Weapons Range (Online)

NOTICE OF COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION

Facilities to Support Advanced Growler Phase 6, Delamere Air Weapons Range, Northern Territory

The Department of Defence will be conducting a community information session to outline the proposed construction works at Delamere Air Weapons Range, associated with the Facilities to Support Advanced Growler Phase 6 Project. These works are subject to Parliamentary Approval.

Information about the proposed works and facilities will be available at this information session, with representatives from the Department of Defence available to answer any questions.

Community Information Session Details

Date: Monday, 18 March 2024

Time: 4:30 – 5:30 PM (ACST)

Venue: Microsoft Teams (details below)

If you are unable to attend this information session or if you would like further information on this session, please contact the Defence Project Team, via email at advanced.growler@jacobs.com.

Information on this project is available on the Public Works Committee web page at www.aph.gov.au/parliamentary_business/committees/joint/public_works, where public submissions can also be made.

Microsoft Teams Meeting Details

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

To attend online, join the [Microsoft Teams meeting](#), with:

- Meeting ID - 234 387 730 43
- Passcode - wkLMzS

Video conferencing device

- 493366865@t.plcm.vc | [Alternate video conference instructions](#)
- Video conference ID: 117 694 466 2

Dial in via phone

- **Dial-in numbers**
 - Brisbane: [+61 7 2102 4595](tel:+61721024595)
 - Melbourne: [+61 3 7019 2160](tel:+61370192160)
 - Sydney: [+61 2 8318 0118](tel:+61283180118)
 - Phone Conference ID: 906 366 823#

EXAMPLES OF COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION RESOURCES (INFORMATION BOARDS)

Facilities to Support Advanced Growler Phase 6

RAAF Base Amberley, Queensland and Delamere, Northern Territory

Project Overview

Defence is planning a new project that will provide fit-for-purpose facilities and infrastructure to enable integration and interoperability of EA-18G Advanced Growler upgrades with the maintenance, storage, logistics and training operations at RAAF Base Amberley and Delamere Air Weapons Range.

Subject to Parliamentary approval, construction is expected to commence in early 2025, with the project expected to be completed by late 2026.

The project will provide the necessary facilities works at RAAF Base Amberley and Delamere to support integration of the Growler upgrades into Air Force's existing infrastructure. The works include:

- a. maintenance, logistics and storage upgrades at both Bases to enable effective servicing of the new capability; and
- b. training facilities to support enhanced operation of EA-18G Growler capability, including the ability to conduct joint training exercises and integrated training with other capabilities

These works will be delivered across eleven project elements:

1. Upgrades to Existing Next Generation Jammer Maintenance Facility.
2. New Next Generation Jammer Secure Ready Storage Facility
3. New Next Generation Jammer Container and Ground Support Equipment Storage
4. New Mission Control Centre
5. New Mobile Threat Training Emitter Systems Maintenance Facility
6. Modifications to Existing Air Defence Radar System Storage Shelter
7. New Vehicle Wash Point
8. Upgrades to Existing Maintenance Facility Road Network
9. New Overflow Storage
10. Upgrades to Existing Range Operations Centre Communications Building
11. Upgrades to Existing Infrastructure



Figure 1 – Upgrades to Existing Next Generation Jammer Maintenance Facility, New Next Generation Jammer Secure Ready Storage Facility and New Next Generation Jammer Container and Ground Support Equipment Storage, RAAF Base Amberley, Queensland.

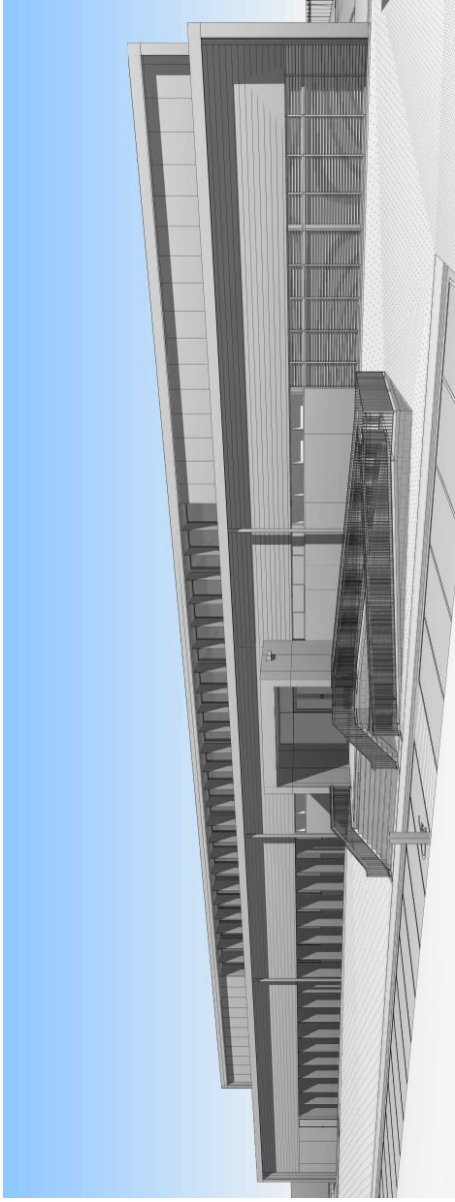


Figure 2 – Mission Control Centre, RAAF Base Amberley, Queensland.

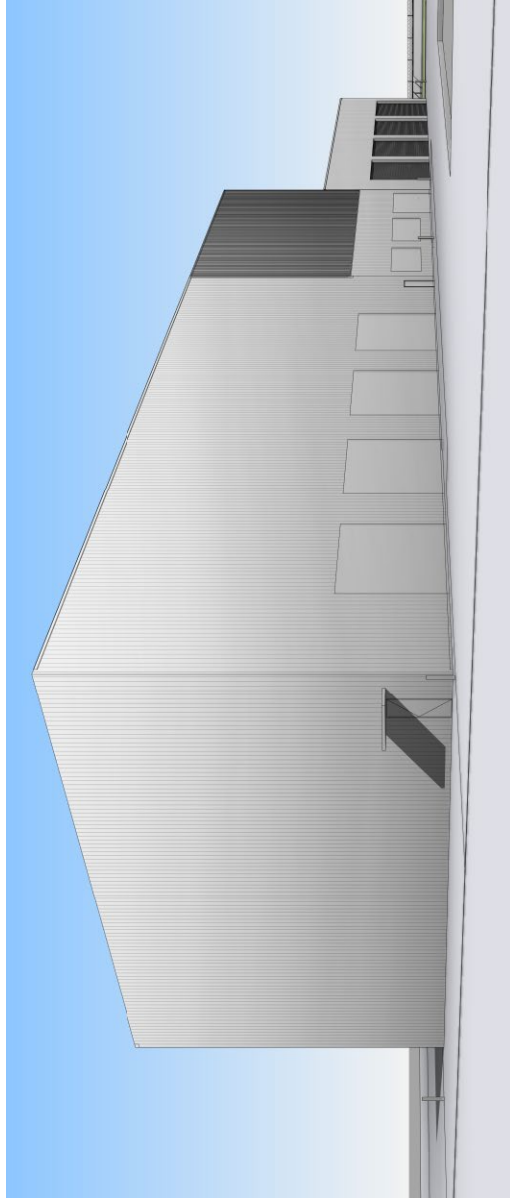


Figure 3 – New Mobile Threat Training Emitter Systems Maintenance Facility and Modifications to Existing Air Defence Radar System Storage Shelter, Delamere Air Weapons Range, Northern Territory.

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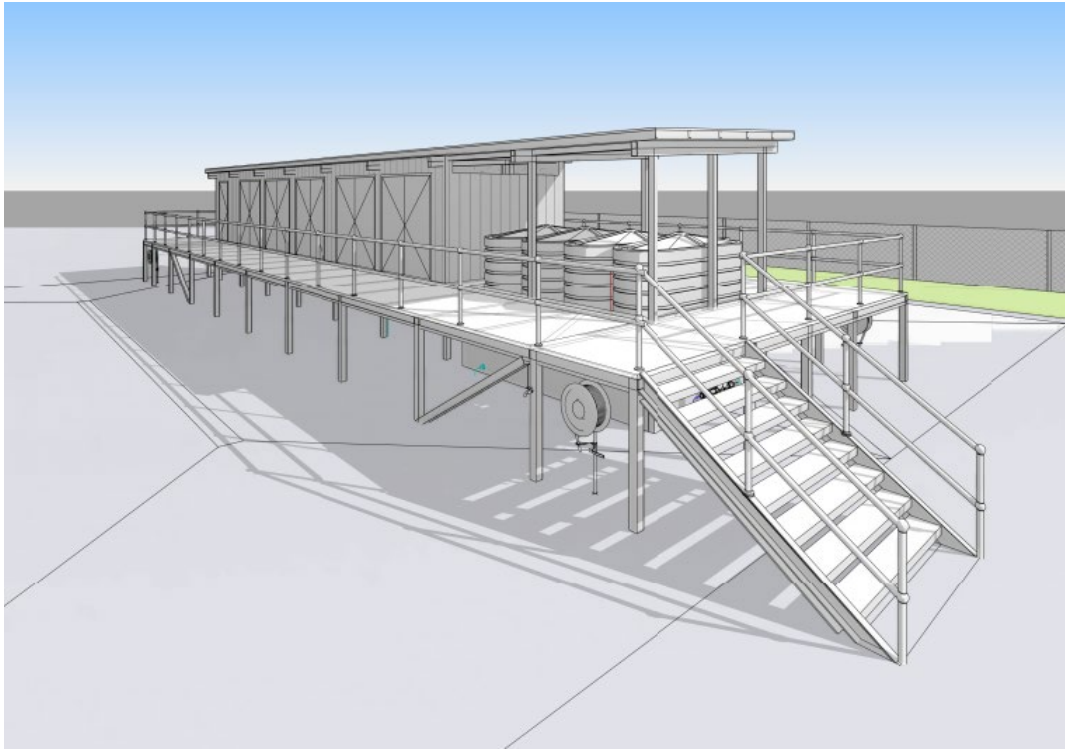


Figure 4 - New Vehicle Wash Point, Delamere Air Weapons Range, Northern Territory.

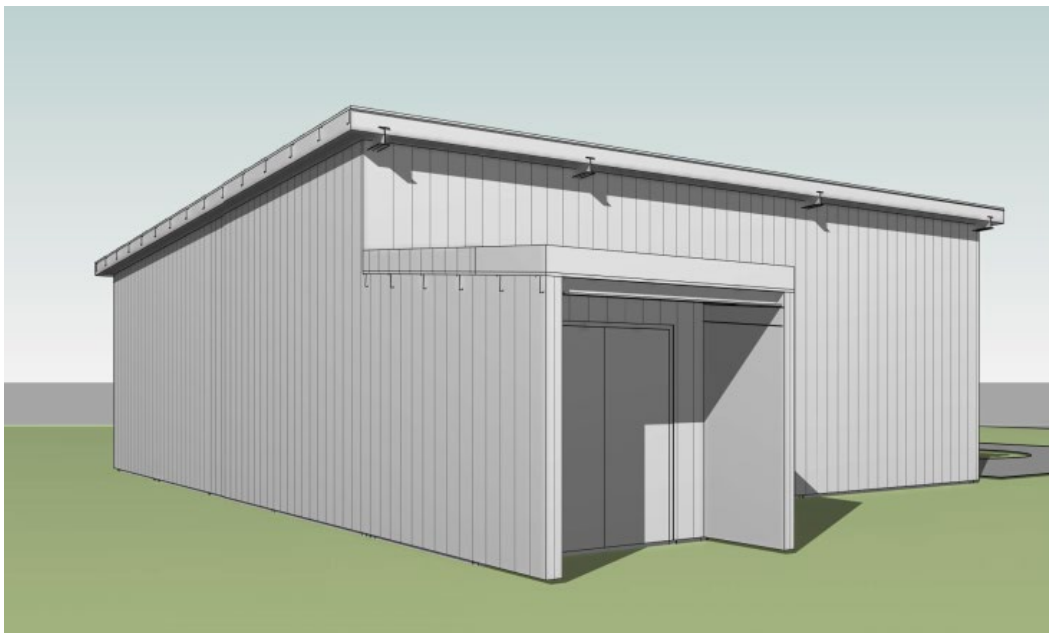


Figure 5 - Upgrades to Existing Range Operations Centre Communications Building, Delamere Air Weapons Range, Northern Territory.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION ATTENDANCE AND SUMMARY

Details

Public Information Sessions

- Katherine (Knotts Crossing Resort Function Room, 10 Cameron Street, Katherine, NT)
5 March 2024, 5:00pm to 7:30pm ACST
- Ipswich (Ipswich PCYC, 1C Griffith Rd, Eastern Heights, QLD)
14 March 2024, 4:30pm to 7:30pm AEST
- Virtual Information Session (via MS Teams – targeting neighbour properties in Victoria Daly region)
18 March 2024, 4:30pm to 5:30pm ACST

Resources

- Materials on display included the information boards shown at **Annex B**.
- The Defence consultation team in attendance included members from:
 - Defence's Project Delivery Team
 - Consultant Project Management Team
 - Consultant Design Management Team
 - Base Management

Attendance

| Number of attendees | Interest Group |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Katherine, NT | |
| 1 | Local Contractor |
| Ipswich, QLD | |
| 3 | Local Residents (Ipswich) |
| Online Virtual Session | |
| 2 | Local Residents (Mathison Station) |
| Total: | 6 |

Key points raised – further details are included at **Annex F**:

Katherine – Drop in Session:

- Noted that there is very limited availability of accommodation for non-resident construction personnel in the Katherine and Victoria Daly regions. Enquired if there was any assessment undertaken on the availability of accommodation, housing and support services in these regions.
- Enquired about the opportunity for local industry participation for proposed works at Delamere, noting the current construction industry trade and personnel capacity constraints in the Katherine and Victoria Daly regions.

Ipswich – Drop in Session:

- Enquired about potential noise and/or traffic impacts on local neighbouring residents, particularly on the Cunningham Highway during peak Base entry and exit periods and during proposed works.
- Enquired if there was going to be any change and/or impact to the existing RAAF Base Amberley fence line, as a result of the proposed works.

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- Neighbouring property owners noted that the frequency of engagement from RAAF Base had decreased from quarterly to bi-annually.
- Noted that the Public Works Committee details, posted online, are not accessible to local residents who do not use the internet. Queried if this information can be published in local newspapers.

Victoria Daly Region – Virtual Drop in Session:

- Expressed concern about risk of construction traffic causing further impacts on the already damaged access road from Victoria Highway turn-off (owned by the NT Government) into the Delamere Air Weapons Range.
- Enquired if there would be any change or impact to the current Delamere Air Weapons Range fence line.
- Noted the environmental impact to land surrounding Victoria Daly region neighbouring properties from ongoing use of the Delamere Air Weapons Range.
- Enquired if there would be any increase or change to Communication Tower capacity at the Delamere Air Weapons Range.
- Enquired about how Defence designs wash bays, noting design should take into account maintenance difficulties faced in the Northern Territory.

EXAMPLE OF LETTER OF INVITATION TO KEY STAKEHOLDERS



Australian Government

Defence

Charles Mangion
Acting Director, Industry Partner
Directorate
Infrastructure Division
Security and Estate Group

The Hon Shayne Neumann MP
Federal Member for Blair
Level 1 The Tarpaulin Building,
2 The Terrace Riverlink Shopping Centre
North Ipswich, QLD, 4305

Dear Mr Neumann,

FACILITIES TO SUPPORT ADVANCED GROWLER PHASE 6 PROJECT

I would like to inform you of works proposed at RAAF Base Amberley, under the Facilities to Support Advanced Growler Phase 6 Project, and offer you a personal briefing in your capacity as the Federal Member for Blair.

The project aims to provide new and upgraded facilities at RAAF Base Amberley, Queensland and Delamere, Northern Territory, to enable integration and interoperability of EA-18G Advanced Growler upgrades with the maintenance, storage, logistics and training operations at RAAF Base Amberley and Delamere.

The project was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC) for consideration on 7 February 2024. The full Statement of Evidence is available on the PWC's website: https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Public_Works/DoDGrowlerPhase6.

The proposed works will take place on Defence managed land at RAAF Base Amberley and the project will create local employment opportunities in the construction and support services sector.

If you or your staff would like a personal briefing on the project works that are proposed for RAAF Base Amberley, please contact me via email at advanced.growler@jacobs.com.

Alternatively, if you or your staff would like to attend the Community Consultation Session for the works, details are as follows:

Date : Thursday, 14 March 2024

Time : 4:30 – 7:30PM

Venue : Ipswich PCYC, 1C Griffith Road, Eastern Heights QLD 4305

Defence has been advised that the PWC Public Hearing will likely be held in March or April 2024. Details will be provided, once a date for the Public Hearing has been confirmed.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Charles Mangion
Acting Director, Industry Partner Directorate
Security and Estate Group
22 February 2024

STATUS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS

| ORGANISATION AND MEMBER | NOTES |
|--|--|
| FEDERAL GOVERNMENT | |
| Hon Shayne Neumann MP, Federal Member for Blair and Mr Chris Condon, Policy and Media Advisor for the Federal Member for Blair | <p>22 February 2024. Defence emailed a letter to Hon. Neumann and Mr Condon providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>14 March 2024. Defence briefed Hon. Neumann and Mr Condon at their electoral office in Ipswich. Mr Neumann was very supportive of the project, noting the local community is very involved in RAAF Base Amberley.</p> <p>Hon. Neumann asked about details of the capability upgrades. However, he was advised that the project was only supporting the facilities scope and that Defence was unable to discuss any further details on capability specifics.</p> <p>Hon. Neumann sought assurance that Defence would adhere to policy requirement regarding local industry participation and expressed his satisfaction with engagement undertaken to date by Defence.</p> |
| Ms Marion Scrymgour MP, Federal Member for Lingari | <p>22 February 2024. Defence emailed a letter to Ms Scrymgour providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>No response has been received to date.</p> |
| STATE/TERRITORY GOVERNMENT | |
| Hon Dheran Young, NT Member for Daly | <p>22 February 2024. Defence emailed a letter to Hon. Young providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>No response has been received to date.</p> |
| Ipswich West Electorate Office | <p>22 February 2024. Defence emailed a letter to the Ipswich West Electorate Office providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>No response has been received to date.</p> |
| LOCAL GOVERNMENT | |
| Mayor of Katherine, Ms Elisabeth Clark, and CEO Katherine Council, Ms Ingrid Stonhill | <p>22 February 2024. Defence emailed a letter to Ms Clark and Ms Stonhill providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>5 March 2024. Defence briefed Ms Clark and Ms Stonhill at Katherine Civic Centre in Katherine.</p> <p>Ms Stonhill queried the proximity of the Delamere works to the township of Katherine, and expressed concern if the construction workforce was based in Katherine.</p> <p>Ms Stonhill also expressed concern that the Defence demand for local construction trades and resources in the Region left insufficient</p> |

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| ORGANISATION AND MEMBER | NOTES |
|---|--|
| | <p>remaining capacity to satisfy non-Defence local requirements.</p> <p>Ms Clark expressed disappointment about the lack of Federal Government support provided to the township of Katherine, noting no additional funding has been provided to support the town during this period of extensive works at RAAF Base Tindal.</p> <p>Both Ms Clark and Ms Stonhill expressed their satisfaction with engagement undertaken to date by Defence and the opportunity for the individual briefing.</p> |
| <p>Mayor of Victoria Daly, Mr Brian Pedwell, Victoria Daly Regional Council</p> | <p>22 February 2024. Defence emailed a letter to Mr Pedwell providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>No response has been received to date.</p> |
| <p>Mayor of Ipswich, Ms Teresa Harding</p> | <p>22 February 2024. Defence emailed a letter to Ms Harding providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>No response has been received to date.</p> |

SUMMARY OF TOPICS AND KEY ISSUES RAISED DURING CONSULTATION

| KATHERINE | | |
|--|---|--|
| TOPIC | RAISED BY | DEFENCE RESPONSE |
| Notification of work to local contractors | Local Contractor | The project will be released to market, via AusTender, when/if PWC expediency is achieved. The project will be seeking a Head Contractor to complete the works between early 2025 and late 2026. |
| Accommodation for contractors working at Delamare Air Weapons Range | Mayor and CEO of Katherine Town Council | The project team has included scope in the Head Contractor procurement documentation for the contractor to make provisions for their own accommodation facility on site at Delamere Air Weapons Range. Defence foresees very little to no impact to accommodation in the township of Katherine. |
| IPSWICH | | |
| TOPIC | RAISED BY | DEFENCE RESPONSE |
| Potential fence boundary impacts | Three local residents of neighbouring properties close to the fence | The project will not make any change/s to the existing Base boundary. There will be no change/s to the existing fence line. |
| PWC hearing date should be advertised in local newspaper/s or radio, as website/internet is not accessible to everyone | Local resident of neighbouring property | The project team acknowledged this feedback and advised that it will be shared with the PWC team. The Defence team confirmed the hearing date. However, advised that the venue is yet to be confirmed. |
| Cunningham Highway intersection congested at peak times | Local resident of neighbouring property | Traffic management plan will be implemented by the Head Contractor, in consultation with the Base. There is a slight increase in personnel numbers, due to these new facilities. Therefore minimal increase to Base traffic. |
| Night works and noise from RAAF Base Amberley as a result of these works | Local resident of neighbouring property | There are currently no planned night works for the project. There are also no known impacts to Base operations, which would change flying patterns or current noise impacts. |
| RAAF Base Amberley Engagement with Local Residents | Local resident of neighbouring property | The local resident noted that the Base was meeting with neighboring property representatives every quarter. However, this had reduced to only twice a year. The resident was not pleased with this reduction and sought more frequent engagement with Base Management and the SADFO. It was noted that this feedback was separate to the project community engagement. |

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| VICTORIA DALY REGION | | |
|--|--|--|
| TOPIC | RAISED BY | DEFENCE RESPONSE |
| Potential fence boundary impacts | Two local residents of neighbouring property (cattle station) | The project will not make any change/s to the existing Base boundary. There will be no change/s to the existing fence line. |
| Impact to already damaged access road from Victoria Highway turn-off (owned by NT Government) into Delamere Air Weapons Range | Two local residents of neighbouring property (cattle station). | The project will not be upgrading the NT Government owned Roads. Traffic in and out of the Range will be managed by the Head Contractor through the approved Traffic Management Plan. |
| Environmental impact to land surrounding Victoria Daly region neighboring properties from ongoing use of the Delamere Air Weapons Range | Two Local Residents of neighbouring property (cattle station). | Residents noted ongoing erosion issues and environmental impacts caused by operations at Delamere Air Weapons Range. It was noted that this is an ongoing issue, rather than an issue directly relating to the delivery of this project. The project team advised that investigations and studies undertaken during development phase did not identify any environmental impacts that could be directly linked to the delivery of the new and upgraded facilities. |
| Any increase or change to Communication Tower capacity at Delamere Air Weapons Range | Two local residents of neighbouring property (cattle station). | The project team advised that there would be no increase to the capacity or capability of the existing communications tower at Delamere Air Weapons Range. |
| Interest into how Defence designs wash bays in the Northern Territory, noting maintenance difficulties experienced in the Northern Territory | Two Local Residents of neighbouring property (cattle station). | The project team advised that they would seek design team's advice on whether or not this information could be shared with local residents. A preliminary response provided was that Defence could potentially experience similar maintenance issues to those experienced by other facilities built in the Northern Territory but will seek to avoid them. |