



**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**  
**ARMY AVIATION OMNIBUS PROGRAM OF WORKS**

1. The Army Aviation Omnibus Program of Works was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on 20 August 2024. The project proposes to deliver facilities and infrastructure at RAAF Base Townsville and the Townsville Field Training Area, Queensland.
2. This report is to inform the Committee of the nature and extent of community consultation that has been undertaken by the Department of Defence for the proposed works. The aim of the consultation is to ensure local communities and other stakeholders:
  - a. are well informed about project details through effective and proven communication channels; and
  - b. are provided the opportunity to raise any concerns or issues, or to seek further information regarding the project so that, wherever feasible, Defence can address these in its proposed works.
3. The following stakeholder and community consultation activities were undertaken in accordance with the project's community engagement strategy:
  - a. Community information sessions were advertised in the Townsville Bulletin on 6 and 10 August 2024 and were held in Garbutt, Townsville on 20 and 21 August 2024. Details are included in the example advertisement at **Annex A**.
  - b. A project webpage and email address have been set up to receive submissions and questions about the project. A view of this webpage is at **Annex B**.
  - c. The type of information Defence presented to the public is shown at **Annex C**, and the level of attendance is provided at **Annex D**.

- d. Letter box drops occurred between 5 and 9 August 2024 to approximately 12,500 residents and businesses in suburbs within close proximity to RAAF Base Townsville, including Garbutt, Mount Louisa, Belgian Gardens, West End and Pallarenda. Details of the letter box drops are in **Annex E**.
  - e. Key stakeholders, including Federal, State and Local Members of Government, and local community, Local Indigenous Communities, and business groups were invited to receive a personal briefing about the proposed works. An example of the invitation that was sent out is at **Annex F**, and a list of all stakeholders engaged by Defence, including the status of each engagement, is at **Annex G**.
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. During the information sessions, there were concerns raised regarding some current operations at the RAAF Base Townsville, including noise, which are not expected to be impacted by the delivery of the proposed works. These concerns, and the contact details of the residents, have been forwarded to the Base Management team. A summary of topics and key issues raised during community information sessions is at **Annex H**.
5. Comments raised by members of the community focused on:
- a. general interest in the proposed works and benefits to the Townsville region;
  - b. concerns regarding aircraft noise and flight paths in the local area;
  - c. opportunities for local industry participation in the proposed works;
  - d. population increases associated with the relocation of Defence personnel and the associated housing strategy;
  - e. security at RAAF Base Townsville;
  - f. the strategic plan for Defence and RAAF Base Townsville; and
  - g. feedback on operational matters at RAAF Base Townsville, including safety, security and environmental impacts.
6. Consultation activities have concluded. Defence will provide briefings 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

17 September 2024

**Annexes:**

- A. Newspaper Advertisements
- B. Project Webpage and Email Address
- C. Examples of Community Information Session Resources (Information Boards and Project Brochure)
- D. Community Information Session Attendance and Summary
- E. Letter Box Drop Materials and Distribution Area
- F. Example of Letter of Invitation to Key Stakeholders
- G. Status of Key Stakeholder Communications
- H. Summary of Topics and Key Issues Raised during Community Information Sessions

## NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS

Location	Publication	Dates Published
Townsville	Townsville Bulletin	6 August 2024 10 August 2024

## EXAMPLE OF NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS



Australian Government  
Defence

## Notice of Community Information Sessions

### Army Aviation Program of Works, Townsville

The Department of Defence is holding community information sessions to outline the proposed works at RAAF Base Townsville and Townsville Field Training Area (TFTA) associated with the Army Aviation Program of Works.

These works involve construction of new facilities and upgrades to existing infrastructure to:

- support the introduction of 29 Apache helicopters at RAAF Base Townsville;
- support the relocation of the 1st Aviation Regiment from Darwin and the relocation of the 16th Aviation Brigade headquarters from Brisbane; and
- provide new facilities at the TFTA in Hervey Range to support Army Aviation training activities.

### Community Information Sessions

You are invited to attend the following community information sessions:

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, 20 August 2024	4.00pm-7.00pm (AEST)	QCWA Garbutt Hall, 42 Lancaster Street, Garbutt
Wednesday, 21 August 2024	9.00am-12.00pm (AEST)	Garbutt

Representatives from the Department of Defence will be available at the sessions to answer your questions. Drop-in at any time during the session.

If you would like more information on the Army Aviation Program of Works, please visit:


<https://www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/infrastructure-projects/army-aviation-program-works>

Alternatively, you can contact the Project Team via email at:

[aapow.community@rpsconsulting.com](mailto:aapow.community@rpsconsulting.com).



## PROJECT WEBPAGE AND EMAIL ADDRESS




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Home Defence Activities ▾ ADF Members & Families ▾ Business & Industry ▾ Jobs & Careers ▾ News & Events ▾ About ▾

← Home / About / Locations and property / Infrastructure projects / Army Aviation Program of Works

# Army Aviation Program of Works



## Contacts

[aapow.community@  
rpsconsulting.com](mailto:aapow.community@rpsconsulting.com)

📍 Proposed new works to accommodate the new helicopters integrated within the existing aviation precinct.

## Overview

The Army Aviation Program of Works (Townsville) will provide essential upgrades to facilities and infrastructure at RAAF Base Townsville (Garbutt) and Townsville Field Training Area (Hervey Range).

The proposed infrastructure is to support the introduction of 29 Apache helicopters, the relocation of the 1st Aviation Regiment from Darwin and the relocation of the 16th Aviation Brigade Headquarters from Brisbane.

These works are one of the steps being undertaken by the Australian Government to improve the Australian Defence Force's ability to operate from Australia's northern bases.

## Community information

Defence is committed to providing the community with accessible and transparent information about the project and will provide opportunities to offer feedback.

Defence recognises the importance of consulting with local residents, statutory authorities and other interested stakeholders on the project.

## Information sessions

This drop-in session will provide an opportunity for the local community and industry to meet with the project team to learn more about the project and provide feedback.

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There are 2 upcoming community information drop-in sessions:

Tuesday 20 August 2024

4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

QCWA Garbutt Hall, 42 Lancaster Street  
Garbutt, QLD, 4814.

Wednesday 21 August 2024

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

QCWA Garbutt Hall, 42 Lancaster Street  
Garbutt, QLD, 4814.

For anyone unable to attend, please send enquiries/questions via email to  
[aapow.community@rpsconsulting.com](mailto:aapow.community@rpsconsulting.com).

Consultation will close at 5:00 pm Friday 23 August 2024.

## Project details

The project scope includes construction of new facilities and upgrades to existing infrastructure, including:

- Command Management facilities: construction of a new multistorey combined headquarters facility, a new logistics management facility and refurbishment of multiple headquarters facilities to enable the effective management of aviation, logistics and maintenance operations.
- Training facilities: refurbishment of existing simulator halls and construction of new classroom facilities to enable effective training of aviation staff and supporting personnel.
- Maintenance facilities: construction of new, and upgrade to, existing facilities to allow routine maintenance activities, specialist repair of aircraft components and compliance management.
- Logistics facilities: construction of a bulk fuel tanker parking area and warehousing for parts and equipment storage.
- Airfield infrastructure: enhancement of existing ordnance loading aprons at RAAF Base Townsville. Additionally, constructing ordnance loading aprons and enhancing existing airfield infrastructure to support the increased activity at the Townsville Field Training Area.
- Services upgrades: enhancement of existing electrical, ICT, fire and potable water infrastructure.

The project is anticipated to be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC) in August 2024.

Subject to approval, the project is expected to commence construction in early 2025 and conclude in late 2028.

**EXAMPLES OF COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION RESOURCES  
INFORMATION BOARDS**

C-2





C-3



C-4



C-5



## INFORMATION BOARD 1



Australian Government  
Defence

# Army Aviation Program of Works

This Project will provide new and upgraded facilities and infrastructure at RAAF Base Townsville and Townsville Field Training Area to support the introduction of 29 Apache helicopters at RAAF Base Townsville, the relocation of the 1st Aviation Regiment from Darwin and the relocation of the 16th Aviation Brigade headquarters from Brisbane.

This investment directly supports implementation of the National Defence Strategy 2024 priority of positioning the majority of Defence's battlefield aviation in Townsville to enable a robust air-mobile capability.

The proposed works will also enhance the levels of interoperability between the Australian Defence Force and our allies, including with the US military forces through expanded cooperation.

## Scope of works

The proposed project scope includes:

**Command and management facilities:** working accommodation to allow the effective planning and management of aviation operations, in addition to personnel management.

**Training facilities:** simulator facilities and classrooms to enable effective training of both aviation staff and supporting personnel.

**Airfield infrastructure:** infrastructure to enable the safe conduct of aviation activities, including arming and refuelling of in-service aircraft.

**Maintenance facilities:** facilities to allow routine maintenance activities, specialist repair of aircraft components and compliance management.

**Logistics facilities:** facilities to enable supporting functions of aviation activities, including equipment storage, warehousing, transport and refuelling.

**Services upgrades:** enhancement of existing services infrastructure to support ongoing operations.

## Sites

The proposed project locations include:

- RAAF Base Townsville.
- Townsville Field Training Area, located approximately 60 kilometres south-west of Townsville.



Project site locations

## Program

2025

2026

2027

2028

Subject to Parliamentary approval, works are proposed to commence in early 2025 at RAAF Base Townsville. Works at Townsville Field Training Area are proposed to commence in late 2025. All works are forecast to be complete by mid-2028.



RAAF Base Townsville



Townsville Field Training Area





## INFORMATION BOARD 2



Australian Government  
Defence

# RAAF Base Townsville

Proposed works at RAAF Base Townsville include construction of command and management facilities, training facilities, maintenance facilities, logistics facilities, airfield infrastructure and services upgrades.

### Command and management facilities

Proposed works include:

- Construction of a new multistorey combined headquarters facility to enable effective planning and management of aviation operations.
- Construction of a new logistics management facility to enable effective planning and management of ground crew activities.
- Refurbishment of multiple headquarters facilities to enable the effective management of aviation, logistics and maintenance operations.

### Training facilities

Proposed works include:

- Construction of new, and refurbishment of existing classroom facilities to enable effective training of aviation staff and supporting personnel.
- Refurbishment of existing simulator hall to enable the installation of new flying simulator systems.

### Airfield infrastructure

Proposed works include:

- Enhancement of existing ordnance loading aprons.

### Maintenance facilities

Proposed works include:

- Construction of new, and refurbishment of existing hangars for the storage and routine maintenance of aircraft.
- Construction of new, and refurbishment of existing hangars for the conduct of deep maintenance of aircraft.
- Construction of new, and refurbishment of existing specialist workshops to enable the inspection and repair of aircraft components.

### Logistics facilities

Proposed works include:

- Construction of a bulk fuel tanker parking area.
- Construction of warehousing for parts and equipment storage.

### Services upgrades

Proposed works include:

- Enhancement of existing electrical infrastructure.
- Enhancement of existing fire and potable water infrastructure.
- Enhancement of existing communications infrastructure.



Layout of the facilities at RAAF Base Townsville



## INFORMATION BOARD 3



Australian Government  
Defence

# RAAF Base Townsville



*Concept image of the headquarters facility at RAAF Base Townsville*



*Concept image of the hangar at RAAF Base Townsville*





## INFORMATION BOARD 4



Australian Government  
Defence

# RAAF Base Townsville



*Concept image of hangar at RAAF Base Townsville*



*Concept image of carpark facility at RAAF Base Townsville*



*Concept image of bulk fuel tanker parking at RAAF Base Townsville*



## INFORMATION BOARD 5



Australian Government  
Defence

# Townsville Field Training Area

Proposed works at Townsville Field Training Area will facilitate increased training activities at this location, reducing the reliance on returning to RAAF Base Townsville.

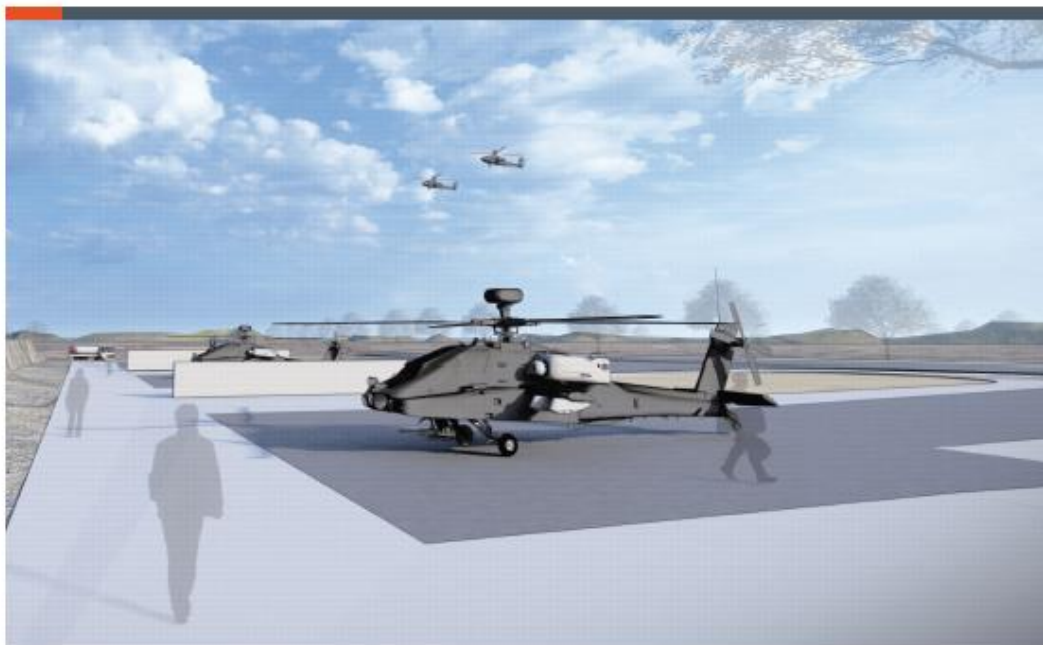
### Airfield infrastructure

Proposed works include:

- Constructing ordnance loading aprons, to enable explosive ordnance and refuelling operations.
- Enhancing existing airfield infrastructure to support the increased activity.



*Project site locations*



*Concept image of helicopter landing pads at Townsville Field Training Area*





## INFORMATION BOARD 6



Australian Government  
Defence

# Project Overview



29 Apache helicopters  
at RAAF Base Townsville



Relocation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Aviation  
Regiment from Darwin



Relocation of the 16<sup>th</sup> Aviation  
Brigade headquarters from Brisbane



Supports the National Defence  
Strategy 2024

## Scope of works



### Command and management facilities

Planning and management  
of aviation operations and  
personnel, including working  
accommodation.



### Training facilities

Simulations and classrooms  
to enable effective training  
of both aviation staff and  
supporting personnel.



### Airfield infrastructure

Upgrades to enable the safe  
conduct of aviation activities,  
including arming and refuelling  
of in-service aircraft.



### Maintenance facilities

Routine maintenance activities,  
specialist repair of aircraft  
components, fuel tanker parking,  
wash bays and warehousing.



### Logistics facilities

Support functions of aviation  
activities, including equipment  
storage, warehousing,  
transport and refuelling.



### Services upgrades

Upgrades to support  
ongoing operations.

## Local employment and benefits



\$400  
million project



Local employment and  
up-skilling opportunities



Enhanced local economic  
benefits through increased  
base personnel



Indigenous participation:  
Target 4% of project value and  
7% total indigenous workforce



Targeting 94% local industry  
engagement, with 50% small  
to medium enterprises



## PROJECT BROCHURE – PAGE 1



Australian Government  
Defence

### Army Aviation Program of Works, Townsville

The Army Aviation Program of Works, Townsville (the proposed project) will provide new infrastructure and upgrades to RAAF Base Townsville and Townsville Field Training Area (TFTA).

The proposed project is to support the introduction of 29 Apache helicopters, including the relocation of the 1st Aviation Regiment from Darwin and the relocation of the 16th Aviation Brigade headquarters from Brisbane.

These works are one of the steps being taken by the Australian Government to improve the Australian Defence Force's ability to operate from Australia's northern bases. It is one of the six priority areas identified by the government in response to the National Defence Strategy 2024.

#### Scope of works

The proposed project scope includes new construction and upgrades to:

**Command and management facilities:** for the planning and management of aviation operations and personnel, including working accommodation.

**Training facilities:** simulations and classrooms to enable effective training of both aviation staff and supporting personnel.

**Logistics facilities:** for support functions of aviation activities, including equipment storage, warehousing, transport, and refuelling.

**Maintenance facilities:** for routine maintenance activities, specialist repair of aircraft components, fuel tanker parking, wash bays and warehousing.

**Airfield infrastructure:** to enable the safe conduct of aviation activities, including arming and refuelling of in-service aircraft.

**Services:** to support ongoing operations.

\*More information on these works can be found over the page.

#### Sites

The proposed project locations are:

- RAAF Base Townsville located in the suburb of Garbutt, Townsville.
- TFTA located approximately 60 kilometres south-west of Townsville at Hervey Range.



Project site locations

#### Proposed timeline of works

Subject to Parliamentary approval, works are proposed to commence in early 2025 at RAAF Base Townsville. Works at TFTA are proposed to commence in late 2025. All works are expected to be complete by mid-2028.

2025      2026      2027      2028



RAAF Base Townsville



Townsville Field Training Area

Defending Australia and its national interests in order to  
advance Australia's security and prosperity  
[www.defence.gov.au](http://www.defence.gov.au)



## PROJECT BROCHURE – PAGE 2



Concept image of the hangar at RAAF Base Townsville

### More information about the proposed project scope:

#### Command and management facilities

Proposed works include construction of a new multistorey combined headquarters facility, a new logistics management facility and refurbishment of multiple headquarters facilities to enable the effective management of aviation, logistics and maintenance operations.

#### Training facilities

Proposed works include refurbishment of existing simulator hall and construction of new classroom facilities to enable effective training of aviation staff and supporting personnel.

#### Logistics facilities

Proposed works include construction of a bulk fuel tanker parking area and construction of warehousing for parts and equipment storage.

#### Maintenance facilities

Proposed works include construction of new and upgrade to existing hangars for the storage, routine and deep maintenance of aircraft and the construction and refurbishment of specialist workshops to enable the inspection and repair of aircraft componentry.

#### Airfield infrastructure

Proposed works include enhancement of existing ordnance loading aprons at RAAF Base Townsville. Additionally, construction of ordnance loading aprons and enhancement of existing airfield infrastructure to support the increased activity at the TFTA.

#### Services upgrades

Proposed works include enhancement of existing electrical, communications, fire and potable water infrastructure.



Concept image of the headquarters facility at RAAF Base Townsville

### Find out more

If you would like more information or would like to make a submission about the proposed project to the Public Works Committee, please visit:

<https://www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/infrastructure-projects/army-aviation-program-works>

Alternatively, you can contact the Project Team via email at: [aapow.community@rpsconsulting.com](mailto:aapow.community@rpsconsulting.com).





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

### **Details**

Two Community information sessions were held in Townsville at the Queensland Country Women’s Association (QCWA) Garbutt Hall, 42 Lancaster Street, Garbutt, Townsville. The session dates and times were:

- 20 August 2024, 4.00pm to 7.00pm
- 21 August 2024, 9.00am to 12.00pm.

### **Resources**

- Materials on display included six information boards and a fact sheet shown at Annex C
- Defence consultation team in attendance included members from:
  - Defence’s Project Delivery Team.
  - Representatives from Aviation Command and Headquarters 16th Aviation Brigade.
  - Consultant Project Management Team.
  - Managing Contractor.

### **Attendance**

<b>Number of attendees</b>	<b>Interest Group</b>
<b>Session 1 - 20 August 2024</b>	
18	Local Residents
2	Local Business
<b>Session total - 20</b>	
<b>Session 2 - 21 August 2024</b>	
11	Local Residents
2	Local Business
1	State Government
1	Local Government
2	Australian Defence Force representatives
<b>Session total - 17</b>	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>37</b>

Key points raised during the community information sessions included:

- proposed works, timing and aircraft capabilities;
- impacts of aircraft noise and flight paths in the local area, including the management of potential safety risks;

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- procurement opportunities for industry, including the tender process and works packaging information such as the scope and timing of activities;
- the expected population growth of Townsville associated with the proposed works and how housing would be supplied for Defence personnel without impacting the current market and supply;
- the strategic plan for Defence, including Townsville's role in this, i.e. the location of the RAAF Base and the capability and aircraft types in the region;
- the security of RAAF Base Townsville;
- queries regarding whether upgrades would be required to Townsville Airport to accommodate the proposed works;
- general environmental matters associated with the RAAF Base, such as fumes from aviation fuel, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and flood mitigation; and
- general questions around Australia's security.

## LETTER BOX DROP MATERIALS AND DISTRIBUTION AREAS

The local communities and stakeholders were notified of the community consultation sessions for the proposed works via a letter box drop.

### EXAMPLE OF NOTIFICATIONS - PAGE 1



Australian Government  
Defence

## Notice of Community Information Sessions

### Army Aviation Program of Works, Townsville

The Department of Defence is holding community information sessions to outline the proposed works at RAAF Base Townsville and Townsville Field Training Area (TFTA) associated with the Army Aviation Program of Works.

These works involve construction of new facilities and upgrades to existing infrastructure to:

- support the introduction of 29 Apache helicopters at RAAF Base Townsville;
- support the relocation of the 1st Aviation Regiment from Darwin and the relocation of the 16th Aviation Brigade headquarters from Brisbane; and
- provide new facilities at the TFTA in Hervey Range to support Army Aviation training activities.

To find out more, you are invited to attend the following community information sessions:

	Date	Time	Venue
Session 1	Tuesday, 20 August 2024	4.00pm–7.00pm (AEST)	QCWA Garbutt Hall, 42 Lancaster Street, Garbutt
Session 2	Wednesday, 21 August 2024	9.00am–12.00pm (AEST)	QCWA Garbutt Hall, 42 Lancaster Street, Garbutt

Representatives from the Department of Defence will be available at the community sessions to answer your questions. If you are unable to attend one of the sessions, you can contact the Project Team via email at [aapow.community@rpsconsulting.com](mailto:aapow.community@rpsconsulting.com).

**Consultation will close at 5.00pm, Friday 23 August 2024.**

For more information on the Program of Works, please visit [www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/infrastructure-projects/army-aviation-program-works](http://www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/infrastructure-projects/army-aviation-program-works).



Concept image of the hangar at RAAF Base Townsville



## EXAMPLE OF NOTIFICATIONS - PAGE 2

### Army Aviation Program of Works, Townsville

The Army Aviation Program of Works, Townsville (the proposed project) will provide new infrastructure and facility upgrades to RAAF Base Townsville and TFTA.

The proposed project is to support the introduction of 29 Apache helicopters, including the relocation of the 1st Aviation Regiment from Darwin and the relocation of the 16th Aviation Brigade headquarters from Brisbane.

These works are one of the steps being undertaken by the Australian Government to improve the Australian Defence Force's ability to operate from Australia's northern bases. It is one of six priority areas identified by the Government in response to the 2023 Defence Strategic Review.



Concept image of the headquarters facility at RAAF Base Townsville

#### Scope of works

The proposed project scope includes new construction and upgrades to:

**Command and Management facilities:** for the planning and management of aviation operations and personnel, including working accommodation.

**Training facilities:** simulations and classrooms to enable effective training of both aviation staff and supporting personnel.

**Maintenance facilities:** for routine maintenance activities, specialist repair of aircraft components, fuel tanker parking, wash bays and warehousing.

**Logistics facilities:** for support functions of aviation activities, including equipment storage, warehousing, transport and refueling.

**Airfield infrastructure:** to enable the safe conduct of aviation activities, including arming and refueling of in-service aircraft.

**Services:** to support ongoing operations.

#### Sites

The proposed project locations are:

- RAAF Base Townsville located in the suburb of Garbutt, Townsville
- TFTA located approximately 65 kilometres south-west of Townsville at Hervey Range.

#### Proposed timeline of works

Subject to Parliamentary approval, works are proposed to commence in early 2025 at RAAF Base Townsville and late 2025 at TFTA. All works are expected to be complete by mid-2028.



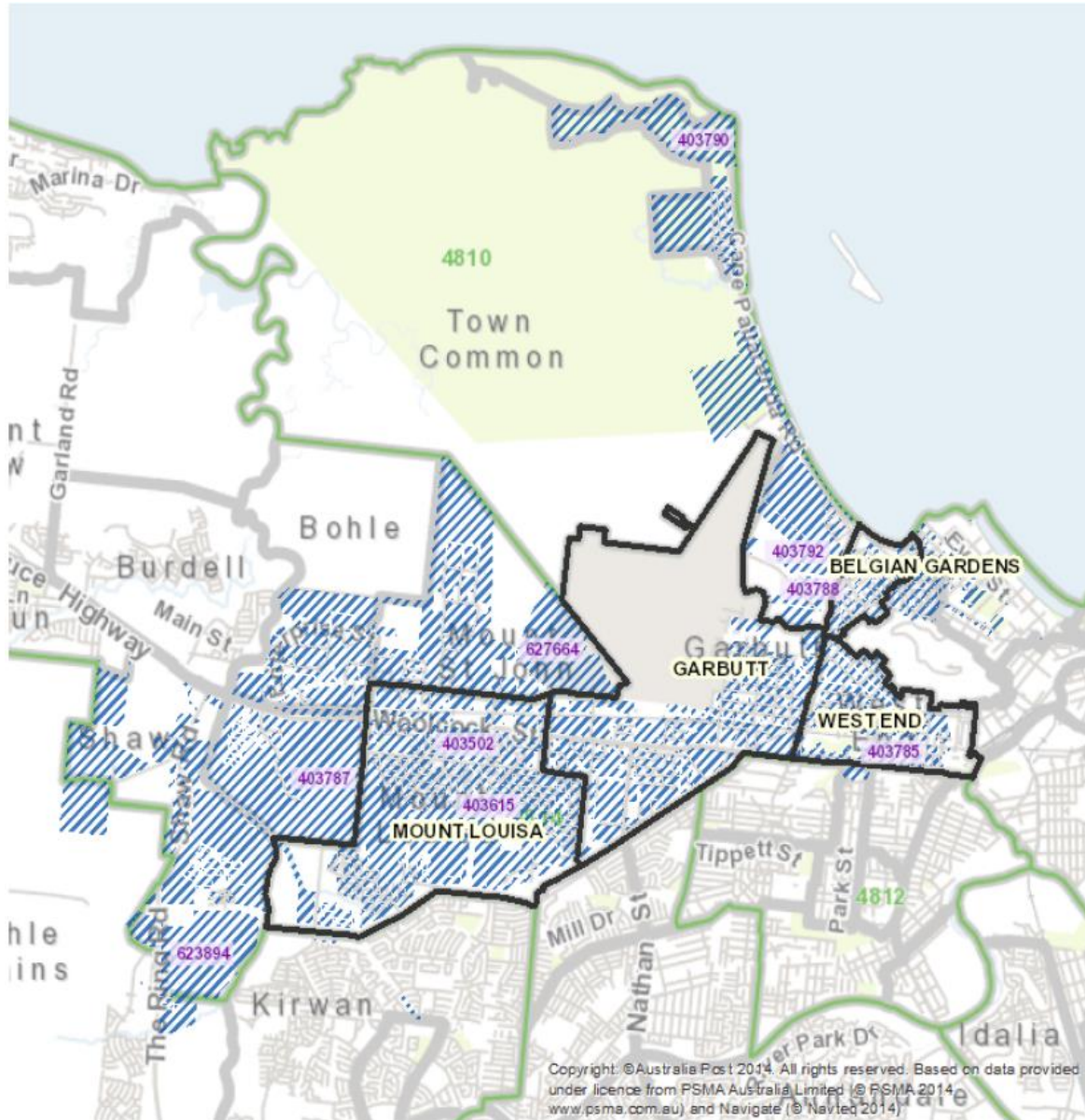
Project site locations





### LETTER BOX DROP DISTRIBUTION AREA

The notification of the community information sessions was distributed to suburbs in closest proximity to RAAF Base Townsville, as shown in blue below.





## EXAMPLE OF LETTER OF INVITATION TO KEY STAKEHOLDERS



**Australian Government**

**Department of Defence**

Security and Estate Group

Gary Chalker  
Project Director  
Capital Facilities and Infrastructure  
Brindabella Business Park [REDACTED]

CANBERRA BC ACT 2610  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Mr Phillip Thompson, OAM, MP**  
Australian Government  
PO Box 226, Aitkenvale BC, QLD, 4814

Dear Mr Thompson

### **ARMY AVIATION PROGRAM OF WORKS UPGRADES AT RAAF BASE TOWNSVILLE AND TOWNSVILLE FIELD TRAINING AREA**

On behalf of the Department of Defence, I would like to inform you of works proposed at RAAF Base Townsville (TVL) and Townsville Field Training Area (TFTA) under the Army Aviation Program of Works (AAPoW).

I am writing to you in your capacity as the Federal Member for Herbert to offer you a personal briefing on the proposed works near your Electorate.

On 31 May 2023, the Government provided approval of the capital funding for the works however the AAPoW is yet to be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC) for its consideration. The full Statement of Evidence will be uploaded to the PWC's website once referral has occurred and will be available at the following URL:

[https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Joint/Public\\_Works](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Public_Works)

The aim of the project is to support the acquisition of 29 Boeing Apache AH-64E (Apache) helicopters as replacement for Army's 22 Tiger ARH helicopters. AAPoW is to provide the facilities and infrastructure required to support the introduction into service and operation of the new Apache capability. Additionally, the project supports the relocation of the 1st Aviation Regiment from Darwin and the relocation of the 16th Aviation Brigade Headquarters from Brisbane.

The proposed works will be wholly situated on Commonwealth land.

Similar to other major Defence infrastructure projects, the project will generate employment opportunities in the construction sector and related support sectors in the local area.

If you or your staff would like to accept this invitation for a personal briefing on the proposed works, please contact me by 09 August 2024 via email at [aapow.community@rpsconsulting.com](mailto:aapow.community@rpsconsulting.com)

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The Department of Defence will be holding a community information forum on the works proposed. The forum will be held as follows:

- QCWA Garbutt Hall, 42 Lancaster St, Garbutt, QLD, 4814 on Tuesday, 20 August 2024 from 4:00pm to 7:00pm
- QCWA Garbutt Hall, 42 Lancaster St, Garbutt, QLD, 4814 on Wednesday, 21 August 2024 from 9:00am to 12:00pm

The Department of Defence has been advised that the PWC Public Hearing will most likely be held in September or October 2024. The PWC Secretariat is yet to confirm the date, time and location of the Public Hearing.

Yours sincerely,



**Gary Chalker**  
Project Director - Land and Maritime  
Security and Estate Group

31 July 2024

## STATUS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS

ORGANISATION AND MEMBER	NOTES
<b>FEDERAL GOVERNMENT</b>	
Mr Phillip Thompson MP, Federal Member for Herbert	<p><b>1 August 2024.</b> Defence emailed a letter to Mr Phillip Thompson, providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p><b>8 August 2024.</b> Defence held an in-person briefing with Mr Thompson in Townsville. Mr Thompson requested information about Army Aviation operations and on the procurement of subcontractors, including how they will be tailored to the Townsville market.</p>
Senator Susan MacDonald, Senator for Queensland	<p><b>1 August 2024.</b> Defence emailed a letter to Senator Susan MacDonald, providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing</p> <p><b>15 August 2024.</b> Defence had not received a response so a follow up email was sent.</p> <p><b>4 September 2024.</b> Senator MacDonald confirmed that a briefing is not required.</p>
Hon Bob Katter MP, Federal Member for Kennedy	<p><b>1 August 2024.</b> Defence emailed a letter to Mr Bob Katter, providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing</p> <p><b>15 August 2024.</b> Defence had not received a response so a follow up email was sent. There has been no response to date.</p>
Ms Casey Greentree, A/g First Assistant Secretary, Partnerships and Projects Division, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities & Regional Development	<p><b>1 August 2024.</b> Defence emailed a letter to Mr Jim Betts (Secretary), providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p><b>15 August 2024.</b> Defence held an online briefing with Ms Greentree. During the briefing there were discussions around community consultation, procurement, industry engagement, ongoing collaboration opportunities and housing.</p>
<b>STATE GOVERNMENT</b>	
Mr Scott Stewart MP, State Member for Townsville	<p><b>1 August 2024.</b> Defence emailed a letter to Mr Scott Stewart MP, providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p><b>15 August 2024.</b> Defence had not received a response so a follow up email was sent. There has been no response to date.</p>

ORGANISATION AND MEMBER	NOTES
Mr Robbie Katter MP, State Member for Traeger	<p><b>1 August 2024.</b> Defence emailed a letter to Mr Robbie Katter MP, providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p><b>29 August 2024.</b> Defence held an in-person briefing with Mr Katter in Charters Towers. Mr Katter requested information about Army Aviation operations and how this would impact noise and airspace usage. There were also queries around airfield works, which are not within the scope of this project.</p>
Ms Kylee Petersen, District Director (Northern District), Infrastructure Management and Delivery, Department of Transport and Main Roads	<p><b>1 August 2024.</b> Defence emailed a letter to Ms Sally Stannard (Director General), providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p><b>15 August 2024.</b> Defence held an online briefing with Ms Petersen. During the briefing there were discussions around community consultation, procurement, industry engagement and ongoing collaboration opportunities.</p>
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services	<p><b>8 April 2024.</b> As a part of the 30% Concept Design Review process, Defence held an online briefing with the Building Approval Officer – Northern Region, regarding the project scope.</p> <p><b>8 August 2024.</b> As a part of the 50% Schematic Design Review process, Defence held an online briefing with the Building Approval Officer – Northern Region, regarding the project scope.</p>
<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT</b>	
Mr Troy Thompson, Mayor of Townsville	<p><b>1 August 2024.</b> Defence emailed a letter to Mr Troy Thompson providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p><b>15 August 2024.</b> Defence issued a follow up email as no response had been received.</p> <p><b>28 August 2024.</b> Defence held an in-person briefing with Mr Thompson and a Townsville City Council staff member in Townsville. Information was requested with respect to Army Aviation operations, timeline for aircraft arrival and associated noise impacts. Discussion around community engagement, local industry engagement, Indigenous enterprise engagement, the planned supply chain during construction and housing within the region were also held.</p>
Cr Liz Schmidt, Mayor, Charters Towers Regional Council	<p><b>1 August 2024.</b> Defence emailed a letter to Cr Liz Schmidt, providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p><b>19 August 2024.</b> Defence had scheduled a briefing with the Mayor, Councillors, the Charters Towers Regional Council CEO and Senior Management; however, this was cancelled due to personal circumstances of key members within the Charters Towers Regional Council. A new briefing will be rescheduled at the stakeholders' earliest convenience.</p>



ORGANISATION AND MEMBER	NOTES
<b>COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS GROUP</b>	
Airservices Australia	<p><b>16 February 2024.</b> Defence contacted Airservices Australia – Airspace Development and Protection via email, to provide an overview of the proposed scope and the considerations regarding airfield planning constraints</p> <p><b>5 April 2024.</b> Defence conducted an online brief to Airservices Australia – Aviation Rescue Fire Fighting Service, to provide an overview of the proposed scope and to how Aviation Rescue Fire Fighting Service coordinate with local Queensland Fire and Emergency Services in the event of a fire within the Project location. During the briefing there was discussion around building access routes, clearances and pavement design to suit firefighting vehicles, hydrant access, fire alarm systems and eyewash stations.</p> <p><b>10 April 2024.</b> Airservices Australia provided a response acknowledging the proposed scope and the considerations regarding airfield planning constraints.</p> <p><b>15 July 2024.</b> Defence contacted Airservices Australia – Airspace Development and Protection via email, to provide an update regarding the proposed scope and the considerations regarding airfield planning constraints.</p> <p><b>26 July 2024.</b> Airservices Australia provided a response advising they were undertaking an assessment of the impact of the works.</p> <p><b>2 August 2024.</b> Airservices Australia requested additional information to support their assessment.</p> <p><b>5 August 2024.</b> Defence conducted an online brief to Airservices Australia – Aviation Rescue Fire Fighting Service, to provide an updated regarding the scope of works.</p> <p><b>8 August 2024.</b> Defence provided the requested information.</p> <p><b>5 September 2024.</b> Airservices Australia – Airspace Development and Protection confirmed that the proposed works do not impact Airservices operations or facilities at Townsville airport.</p>
Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA)	<p><b>1 August 2024.</b> Defence emailed a letter to Ms Pip Spence providing project information, contact details, a site link and local information session details.</p> <p><b>15 August 2024.</b> Defence had not received a response so a follow up email was sent. There has been no response to date.</p>
North Queensland Conservation Council	<p><b>1 August 2024.</b> Defence emailed a letter to Ms Chris Pam providing project information, contact details, a site link and local information session details.</p> <p><b>15 August 2024.</b> Defence had not received a response so a follow up email was sent. There has been no response to date.</p>

ORGANISATION AND MEMBER	NOTES
Queensland Airports Limited	<p><b>1 August 2024.</b> Defence emailed a letter to Ms Amelia Evans providing project information, contact details, a site link and local information session details.</p> <p><b>15 August 2024.</b> Defence had not received a response so a follow up email was sent. There has been no response to date.</p>
Townsville Airport Pty Ltd	<p><b>13 June 2024.</b> The Project team briefed Mr Brenden Cook regarding the proposed scope and communication strategy with Townsville Airport Pty Ltd during the construction process. No concerns were identified during this briefing</p> <p><b>1 August 2024.</b> Defence emailed a letter to Mr Brenden Cook providing project information, contact details, a site link and local information session details.</p> <p><b>15 August 2024.</b> Defence had not received a response so a follow up email was sent.</p> <p><b>3 September 2024.</b> Mr Cook confirmed that another briefing is not required.</p>
Townsville Chamber of Commerce	<p><b>1 August 2024.</b> Defence emailed a letter to Ms Heidi Turner providing project information, contact details, a site link and local information session details.</p> <p><b>15 August 2024.</b> Defence had not received a response so a follow up email was sent.</p> <p><b>28 August 2024.</b> Defence held an in-person briefing with Ms Turner in Townsville. During the briefing there was discussion around the construction timeline, the packaging of works, local industry engagement and indigenous enterprise engagement.</p>
Master Builders Queensland	<p><b>1 August 2024.</b> Defence emailed a letter to Ms Alana Hopkins providing project information, contact details, a site link and local information session details.</p> <p><b>15 August 2024.</b> Defence had not received a response so a follow up email was sent. There has been no response to date.</p>
Townsville Enterprise	<p><b>1 August 2024.</b> Defence emailed a letter to Ms Claudia Brumme-Smith providing project information, contact details, a site link and local information session details.</p> <p><b>15 August 2024.</b> Defence had not received a response so a follow up email was sent.</p> <p><b>15 August 2024.</b> Townsville Enterprise has requested a briefing for their Defence NQ Working Group and a date is being coordinated.</p>
Energy Queensland	<p><b>1 August 2024.</b> Defence emailed a letter to Mr Peter Scott providing project information, contact details, a site link and local information session details.</p> <p><b>15 August 2024.</b> Defence had not received a response so a follow up email was sent. There has been no response to date.</p>

ORGANISATION AND MEMBER	NOTES
Origin Energy	<p><b>1 August 2024.</b> Defence emailed a letter to Mr Frank Calabria providing project information, contact details, a site link and local information session details.</p> <p><b>12 August 2024.</b> Origin Energy contacted the project team to request a briefing.</p> <p><b>20 August 2024.</b> Defence have issued a further email to Origin Energy with additional project information. Origin Energy subsequently confirmed no briefing is required.</p>
Local industry	<p><b>16 May 2024.</b> The Managing Contractor, CPB presented at an industry event coordinated by the Queensland Department of State Development – North Queensland Office, to promote opportunities to local business and industry associated with the Project. The presentation included proposed scope, timeline and potential procurement pathways.</p> <p><b>7 August 2024.</b> CPB presented at the Townsville Defence Forum coordinated by the Australian Defence Magazine. The managing contractor did not speak to Project-specific information, but how small-business can become involved with projects being managed by large builders.</p> <p><b>8 August 2024.</b> CPB attended the ‘Meet North Queensland's Major Defence Contractors’ Townsville event coordinated by the Queensland State Government. CPB held one-on-one chats with small businesses regarding the processes required to become involved in Defence projects. CPB also provided information regarding the proposed scope, timeline and potential procurement pathways.</p>
<b>TRADITIONAL OWNER GROUPS</b>	
Wulgurukaba People	<p><b>25 July 2024.</b> Defence emailed a letter to representatives of the Wulgurukaba People to request a meeting to discuss the proposed works at the Townsville Field Training Area. Following advice from local Indigenous liaison officers, no further consultation is required for works at RAAF Base Townsville.</p> <p><b>2 August 2024.</b> Defence conducted a meeting with Wulgurukaba People’s Technical Advisor to coordinate engagement and cultural heritage survey with Wulgurukaba People to identify any new Aboriginal sites and values within the Project area.</p> <p><b>26 August 2024.</b> Traditional Owner group’s Technical Advisor was engaged under the Project, who will coordinate the site survey for the Project.</p>

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ORGANISATION AND MEMBER	NOTES
Bindal People	<p><b>25 July 2024.</b> Defence emailed a letter to representatives of the Bindal People to request a meeting to discuss the proposed works at the Townsville Field Training Area.</p> <p><b>2 August 2024.</b> Defence conducted a meeting with Bindal People's Technical Advisor to coordinate engagement and cultural heritage survey with Bindal People to identify any new Aboriginal sites and values within the Project area.</p> <p><b>26 August 2024.</b> Traditional Owner group's Technical Advisor was engaged under the Project, who will coordinate the site survey for the Project.</p>
Gudjula People	<p><b>25 July 2024.</b> Defence emailed a letter to representatives of the Bindal People to request a meeting to discuss the proposed works at the Townsville Field Training Area. Defence received an initial response advising that a formal response would be provided following the next Gudjala Board Meeting. Defence is currently awaiting a response to coordinate a meeting.</p>



## SUMMARY OF TOPICS AND KEY ISSUES RAISED DURING CONSULTATION

TOPIC	RAISED BY	DEFENCE RESPONSE
Procurement opportunities for local industry including procurement packages.	Local businesses  Mr Phillip Thompson MP, State Member for Townsville  Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities & Regional Development  Department of Transport and Main Roads	Subject to Parliamentary Approval, procurement activities are forecast to commence in late 2024.  The Project team intends to conduct additional information sessions with industry regarding the procurement processes.
Timing of the program of works.	Local residents  Local businesses	Subject to Parliamentary Approval, Defence anticipates that construction will start in 2025 and is expected to be completed in 2028.
Aircraft noise and flight paths in the local area.	Local residents	Flight paths will not change as a result of the proposed works and these are dictated by Airservices Australia.  The new Apache helicopters are quieter than the current in-service helicopters and the noise is expected to be largely consistent with that of the military helicopters that have previously operated at RAAF Base Townsville.
Management of safety risks associated with aircraft flying over properties.	Local residents	Defence has a very comprehensive maintenance regime for the fleet of aircraft to being introduced. The Apache helicopter is a proven, mature, off-the-shelf helicopter that has displayed over 30 years of safe and reliable aviation capability. Accompanied with second-to-none aircrew training, an in-flight aircraft fault impacting the community is extremely unlikely.
Security of RAAF Base Townsville.	Local residents	There are extensive security measures in place at RAAF Base Townsville, employing Defence's security-in-depth principles. The proposed works will not impact current security arrangements.

H-2

TOPIC	RAISED BY	DEFENCE RESPONSE
Strategy to house Defence personnel relocating to Townsville to ensure it does not impact rental supply and market.	Local residents  Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities & Regional Development	Defence Housing Australia has a strategy to supply housing for Defence personnel to minimise any impact on local housing supply. This utilises a variety of methods to reduce the impact on particular suburbs.
What is the strategic plan for Defence and how is this relevant to Townsville?	Local residents	The 2023 Defence Strategic Review set the agenda for force posture and structural reform to meet Defence's strategic objectives. It endorsed the priority acquisition of the AH-64E Apache helicopter to enhance Army Aviation's helicopter capability.  The 2024 National Defence Strategy reaffirmed the priority for acquisition of the Apache helicopter as part of the continued investment in the combined-arms land system.
Is RAAF Base Townsville the most suitable location for the works and is there going to be a new base as a part of these works?	Local residents	RAAF Base Townsville has been assessed and approved by the Federal Government as the most appropriate location for the proposed works required to introduce the Apache helicopter. Multiple locations were investigated for the proposed works, and Government chose to progress the works at RAAF Base Townsville.  The proposed works will remain within the existing boundaries of the base. The works will predominantly be located in the southern area of RAAF Base Townsville, adjacent to Ingham Road.  Additionally, there will be an element of works at the Townsville Field Training Area, which will be within the existing boundaries of the training area.  The proposed works are one of the steps being undertaken by the Australian Government to improve the Australian Defence Force's ability to operate from Australia's northern bases.
Upgrades required at Townsville Airport to support the project.	Local residents	No upgrades are required at Townsville Airport to support the project.
Flood impacts in the local area due to the	Local residents	The delivery of the proposed works is not anticipated to worsen flood impacts

H-3

TOPIC	RAISED BY	DEFENCE RESPONSE
project.		in the local area.
Impacts of construction on the local area.	Local residents	The proposed works will be undertaken within the boundaries of the existing RAAF base and impacts are expected to be minimal. Measures will be put in place to reduce traffic impacts on Ingham Road.
Concerns around the presence of aviation fuels, fumes and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and impacts to human health.	Local residents	<p>The fuel used in the Apache helicopters is required to meet the standards prescribed by civilian authorities. Additionally, the quantity of aviation fuel consumed by the helicopters in the Townsville region will be largely consistent with the quantity of fuel consumed by the MRH-90 Taipan helicopters that were based at RAAF Base Townsville for a number of years.</p> <p>Defence undertakes a number of assessments through the introduction and operation of its equipment. A key assessment prior to the introduction into service is the completion of a Potential Environmental Risk Matrix (PERM), which provides confidence that the equipment conforms to the <i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999</i>, and that systems will not cause significant environmental impact, regulated under the Act. Key elements assessed under this process include; biodiversity loss, air pollution, land/water pollution, noise pollution, socio-economic impacts, hazardous chemicals and ozone depleting substances amongst others. This review process has been completed for the project and endorsed by the relevant authorities.</p>
Concerns around Australia's security risk and vulnerability of the region.	Local residents	The 2024 National Defence Strategy addresses Australia's broad security environment and the vulnerability of the region. The proposed works are consistent with the priorities set out in the 2024 National Defence Strategy.

H-4

TOPIC	RAISED BY	DEFENCE RESPONSE
Corrosion prevention of the aircraft.	Mr Phillip Thompson MP, State Member for Townsville	The maintenance plan for the helicopters includes installation of aircraft dehumidification within hangars and a routine for washing aircraft.
Creating Opportunities for Tier 2 and Tier 3 contractors.	Mr Phillip Thompson MP, State Member for Townsville	The Managing Contractor is required to develop a works packaging plan. The plan will attempt to package the works to suit the businesses within the Townsville market, including making it more attractive for smaller contractors. The works packaging plan and procurement documents are subject to approval before being released to market.
Will the new facilities be hardened against penetration?	Local resident	All Defence facilities, including the hangars, are designed in accordance with Defence specifications and the National Construction Code.
Consider an alternate access route at the back of Pallarenda for access when the coastal road is inaccessible due to the project.	Local resident	Access for Pallarenda is not anticipated to be impacted during the construction of the proposed works. The works will predominantly be located in the southern area of RAAF Base Townsville, adjacent to Ingham Road. During construction, it is expected vehicles will use the access on Ingham Road to enter and exit the construction site.