



**Australian Government**

**Australian Government response to the Senate  
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References  
Committee**

**Impact of Defence training activities and facilities  
on rural and regional communities – Second interim  
report**

**May 2024**

### **Recommendation 1**

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The committee recommends that, in consultation with the local councils, Defence review its mechanisms for communication and coordination in the Fitzroy and Townsville regions to ensure the most effective flow of information including plans which may generate potential business opportunities.

**Response:**

The Government notes the recommendations. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

### **Recommendation 2**

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The committee recommends that Defence make information available to local communities about Defence expenditure in the area.

**Response:**

The Government notes the recommendations. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

### **Recommendation 3**

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The committee recommends that Defence commission an independent economic impact assessment of the loss of rateable land which would result from the proposed expansions in these areas.

**Response:**

The Government notes the recommendations. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

### **Recommendation 4**

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The committee recommends that Defence review its formal mechanisms for communication and coordination in the areas around the Shoalwater Bay Training Area to ensure that:

- as much information about upcoming training exercises is being disseminated to the local community with as much advance notice as possible; and
- that a contact point regarding local exercises is available on an ongoing basis and this information is disseminated regularly.

**Response:**

The Government notes the recommendations. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.