



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
RAAF BASE WAGGA REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

1. The RAAF Base Wagga Redevelopment Project was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on 27 March 2024. The project proposes to deliver facilities and infrastructure at RAAF Base Wagga, New South Wales. The project will be delivered together with the Albury Wodonga Military Area Redevelopment Project and the Blamey Barracks, Kapooka, Redevelopment Project, under a combined program to maximise construction and cost efficiencies.

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 local newspapers and on social media in Wagga Wagga. The project also established a webpage, email address and phone number to receive questions about the project. These details are included in the example advertisements in **Annex A**.
- b. Letter box drops were conducted between 22 and 26 November 2023 and between 26 and 28 April 2024. Details of the letter box drops are in **Annex B**.
- c. Four community information sessions have been held in Wagga Wagga; two sessions on 5 December 2023 and two sessions on 16 May 2024. The information Defence presented to the public is in **Annex C**, and the level of attendance is in **Annex D**.

4. Key stakeholders, including Federal, State and Local Members of Government, and local community members were offered a personal briefing on the project. An example of the invitation that was sent is in **Annex E**. A list of all stakeholders engaged by the project, including the status of each engagement, is provided in **Annex F**.
5. Information about the proposed works was generally well received at the community information sessions and feedback to date has been on a whole supportive. Defence has not been made aware of any objections to the proposed works.
6. Comments raised by members of the community focused on:
 - a. opportunities for local industry participation in the proposed work;
 - b. opportunities for training; and
 - c. concerns around the local market's capacity to support the proposed works.
7. A summary of topics and key issues raised during community information sessions is provided in **Annex G**.
8. 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

24 May 2024

Annexes:

- A. Advertising
- B. Letter Box Drops Materials And Distribution Areas
- C. Examples of Community Information Session Resources
- D. Community Information Session Attendance and Summary
- E. Example of Letter of Invitation to Key Stakeholders
- F. Status of Key Stakeholder Communications
- G. Summary of Topics and Key Issues Raised during Community Information Session

NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS

Location	Publication	Dates Published
Wagga Wagga	The Daily Advertiser (print ad)	29 November 2023 2 December 2023
Wagga Wagga	The Daily Advertiser (digital ad)	23 November to 3 December 2023
Wagga Wagga	The Daily Advertiser (print ad)	4 May 2024 8 May 2024
Wagga Wagga	The Daily Advertiser (digital ad)	3 May 2024

EXAMPLES OF NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT



Australian Government
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NOTICE OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT
Riverina Redevelopment Program – Albury, Wodonga and Wagga Wagga
Community Consultation

The Department of Defence is proposing a program of works across three sites in the Riverina Region – Albury Wodonga Military Area (Wodonga), Blamey Barracks, Kapooka (Wagga Wagga), and RAAF Base Wagga (Wagga Wagga).
Members of the public are invited to attend community consultation sessions as follows:

Albury Wodonga Military Area

- **Monday 4 December 2023**
Times: 1.00pm – 2.00pm or 5.00pm – 7.00pm
Location: The Cube Wodonga, 118 Hovell Street, Wodonga

RAAF Base Wagga and Blamey Barracks, Kapooka

- **Tuesday 5 December 2023**
Times:
RAAF Base Wagga and Kapooka Community Session 2.00pm – 3.00pm
Kapooka Stormwater Sessions (30 mins) (**registration essential**) 3.00pm – 5.00pm
RAAF Base Wagga and Kapooka Community Session 5.00pm – 7.00pm
Location: Mercure Hotel Wagga, 1 Morgan Street, Wagga Wagga

In Wagga Wagga, there are options to attend smaller group consultation sessions (30 minutes) relating to stormwater modelling in the area (**registration essential**) and to attend an open community session on the Program.

The Riverina Redevelopment Program will provide fit-for-purpose facilities for Australian Defence Force personnel to live, work and train.

The Riverina Redevelopment Program is still subject to Government Approvals.

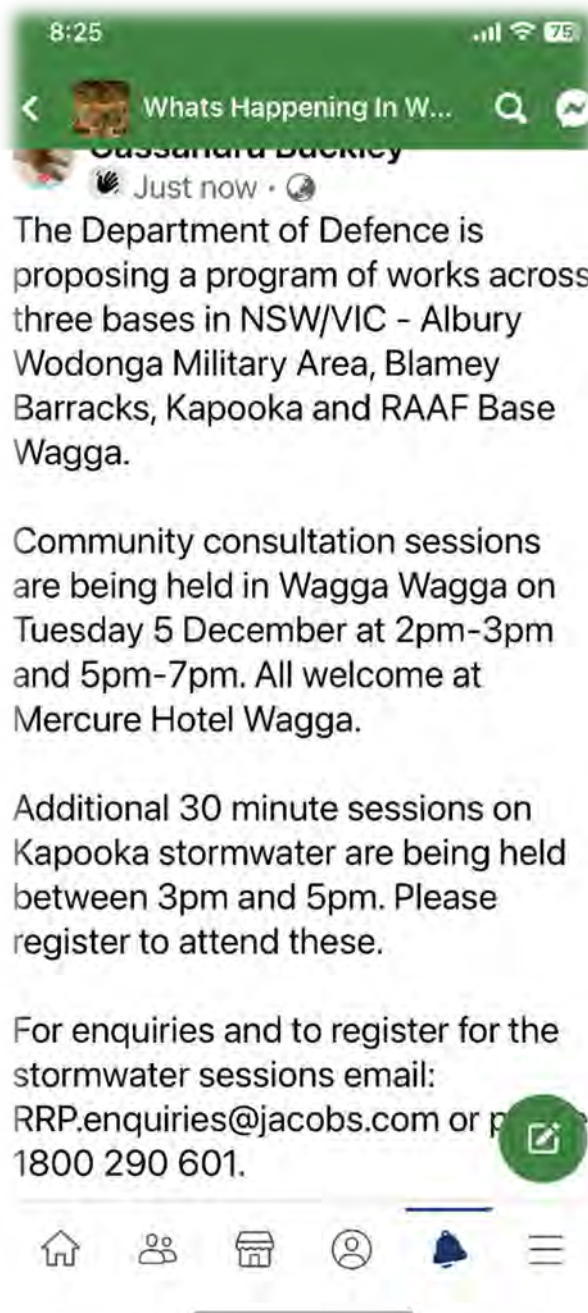
It is likely to be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC) in late-2023, with expediency expected by mid-2024. If approved, construction is expected to commence in mid-to late-2024.

To register for the Wagga Wagga stormwater sessions, please contact the project team by 3.00pm, Thursday 30 November 2023: email: RRP.enquiries@jacobs.com or telephone 1800 290 601. For all other sessions, you are welcome to attend within the timeframe advertised. All other project or consultation enquiries can be directed to the team.

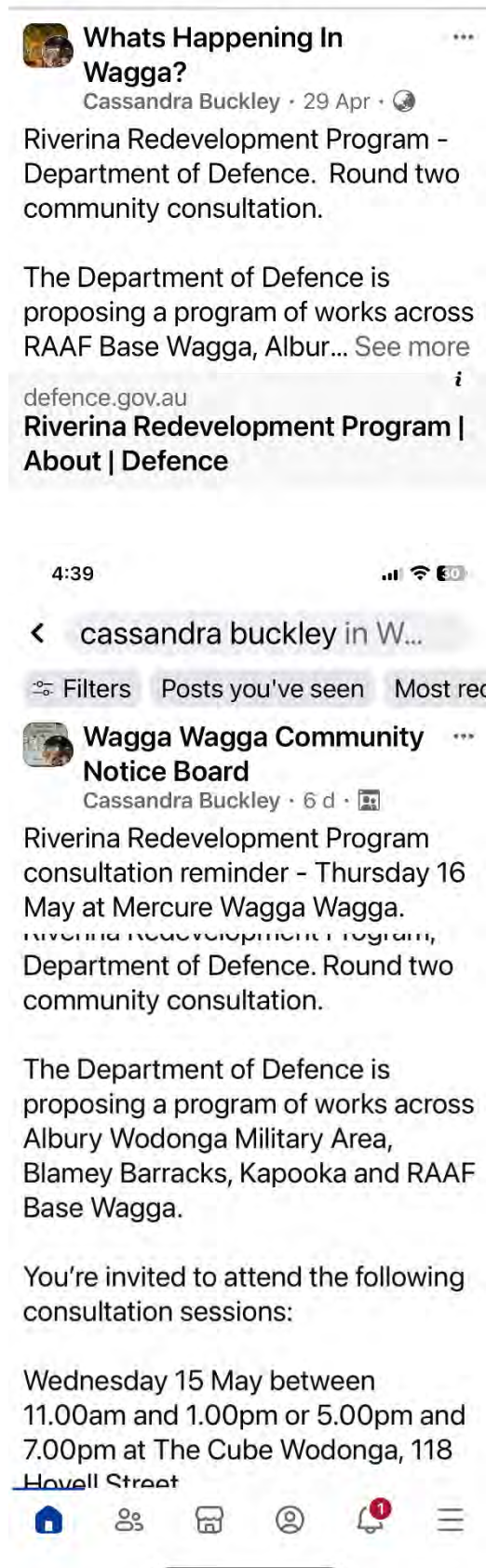
SOCIAL MEDIA ADVERTISING

Notices were placed on local Facebook community pages to raise awareness of the project's Community Information Sessions. Engagement was low with two interactions and one comment on the Wagga page.

EXAMPLE OF FACEBOOK POST (23 Nov 2023)



EXAMPLE OF FACEBOOK POST (29 Apr 24 and reminder on 14 May 2024)



PROGRAM WEBSITE

A webpage for the Riverina Redevelopment Program was established on the Department of Defence website. The webpage is available at <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/infrastructure-projects/riverina-redevelopment-program>. The webpage presents an overview of the Program, a Program timeline, information regarding local industry engagement and the details for the community information sessions in Wagga Wagga. This webpage will be updated progressively to keep community members informed.

EXAMPLE OF PROGRAM WEBSITE

The screenshot shows the top portion of a website page. At the top left is the Australian Government logo with the text 'Australian Government' and 'Defence' below it. At the top right is the word 'Defence'. Below this is a dark navigation bar with links: 'Home', 'Defence Activities', 'ADF Members & Families', 'Business & Industry', 'Jobs & Careers', 'News & Events', and 'About'. Below the navigation bar is a breadcrumb trail: 'Home / About / Locations and property / Infrastructure projects / Riverina Redevelopment Program'. The main heading is 'Riverina Redevelopment Program'. The page is divided into two columns. The left column has a section titled 'Overview' with three paragraphs of text. The right column has a section titled 'Contacts' with an email address and a phone number. Below the 'Contacts' section is a section titled 'Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works' with two bullet points listing projects.

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

← Home / About / Locations and property / Infrastructure projects / Riverina Redevelopment Program

Riverina Redevelopment Program

Overview

The proposed Riverina Redevelopment Program will improve and expand the facilities and infrastructure at the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Base Wagga, Blamey Barracks (Kapooka) and the Albury Wodonga Military Area.

The proposed program is part of the broader efforts to recruit, train and retain Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel to meet future defence needs.

The facilities and infrastructure at the bases are aging and unable to meet the needs of an expanding ADF. The program will provide the facilities and infrastructure needed for the increase in personnel numbers.

The Riverina Redevelopment Program received 2 Minister approvals on 7 December 2023.

Community information

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

The Albury Wodonga Military Area Redevelopment Project and RAAF Base Wagga Redevelopment Project were referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC) on 27 March 2024.

Contacts

rrp.enquiries@jacobs.com

[1800 290 601](tel:1800290601)

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

- [The Albury Wodonga Military Area Redevelopment Project](#)
- [RAAF Base Wagga Redevelopment Project](#)

MEDIA RESPONSE

The Daily Advertiser (Wagga Wagga) published an article on 17 May 2024 ‘Wagga's 'largest ever' \$800 million defence upgrades up to a year behind’ and on 19 May 2024 ‘Defence personnel to get better living experience in Wagga.’ These articles were published in response to the community information session on 16 May 24. WIN News Wagga Wagga and Riverina ran a news reel during the evening news on 16 May 24 in response to the community information session.

EXAMPLES OF OF WAGGA WAGGA MEDIA RESPONSE



The screenshot shows a Facebook post from the page 'WIN News Riverina', which is 16 hours old. The post text reads: 'Locals have had their say on the billion dollar upgrades proposed for the Wagga RAAF Base and Blamey Barracks. #WINNews | Channel 8 & 80 (HD) Weeknights from 5:30pm'. The video content shows a woman with dark hair and glasses speaking, with the subtitle 'way so no I think it's great. We've only got to go into the'. The video player interface includes a progress bar at 0:17 / 1:46, a 'WINNEWS' logo, and standard video controls. Below the video, there are 2 likes, and buttons for 'Like', 'Comment', and 'Share'. A comment input field is visible at the bottom with the placeholder text 'Write a comment...'.



view [The Daily Advertiser's complete view of property.](#)

[Home](#) / [Newsletters](#) / [Editors Pick List](#)

Defence personnel to get better living experience in Wagga



By [Taylor Dodge](#)

Updated May 19 2024 - 3:02pm, first published 11:55am




Capital facilities director LT Col Dan Palmer and Jacobs Engineering's Luke Hardford, the project manager for RAAF, Barracks Wagga. Picture by Bernard Humphreys

Wagga's biggest ever infrastructure investment will ensure the future of the Forest Hill Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) base for

LETTER BOX DROP MATERIALS AND DISTRIBUTION AREAS

The local communities and stakeholders were notified of the community consultation sessions for the project via a letter box drop conducted in Wagga Wagga.

EXAMPLES OF NOTIFICATIONS



Community Consultation Sessions

Notice of Proposed Development

Riverina Redevelopment Program

The Department of Defence is proposing a program of works across Blamey Barracks (Kapooka), RAAF Base Wagga (Wagga Wagga) and Albury Wodonga Military Area (Albury), through the the delivery of the Riverina Redevelopment Program.

At RAAF Base Wagga and Blamey Barracks, Kapooka, the Riverina Redevelopment Program will see new, upgraded and/or the replacement of ageing facilities and infrastructure. The Department of Defence is holding community consultation sessions in Wagga Wagga to provide further information about the proposed works. The sessions are an opportunity for members of the community to ask questions and provide feedback. Additionally, there will be a discussion on the management of stormwater - registration is essential.

Stormwater Sessions

Registration is essential.

Date: Tuesday 5 December 2023

Venue: Mercure Wagga, 1 Morgan Street, Wagga Wagga

Time: 3.00pm - 5.00pm (4 sessions for 30 minutes each).

RSVP: To register your attendance please use the contact details below or follow this link <https://forms.office.com/r/HMJJaYa5fhD>.

Phone: 1800 290 601

Email: RRP.enquiries@jacobs.com

Light refreshments to be provided.

Community Walk-In Sessions

You are welcome to attend within the times listed below:

Date: Tuesday 5 December 2023

Venue: Mercure Wagga, 1 Morgan Street, Wagga Wagga

Time: 2.00pm - 3.00pm and 5.00pm - 7.00pm

RSVP: To register your attendance please use the contact details below or follow this link <https://forms.office.com/r/S717krE1GM>.


Phone: 1800 290 601

Email: RRP.enquiries@jacobs.com

Light refreshments to be provided.

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





Community Consultation Sessions

Notice of Proposed Development

Riverina Redevelopment Program

About the Riverina Redevelopment Program:

The Department of Defence is investing in the growth, retention and training of Australian Defence Force personnel. The construction, upgrade and replacement of facilities and infrastructure at the three bases will better meet the needs of Defence. At RAAF Base Wagga and Blamey Barracks, Kapooka, the Riverina Redevelopment Program will provide fit-for-purpose facilities for Australian Defence Force personnel to live, work and train.

Timeline:

The Riverina Redevelopment Program is still subject to Government approvals. It will likely be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC) in late-2023. If approved, construction is expected to commence in mid-to-late 2024.

Benefits:

The Riverina Redevelopment Program will:

- Create fit-for-purpose facilities to live, work and train for the Australian Defence Force
- Enable local employment and training opportunities and opportunities for local delivery of supplies and services
- Support long term growth in the Hume, Riverina and Murray Valley regions.

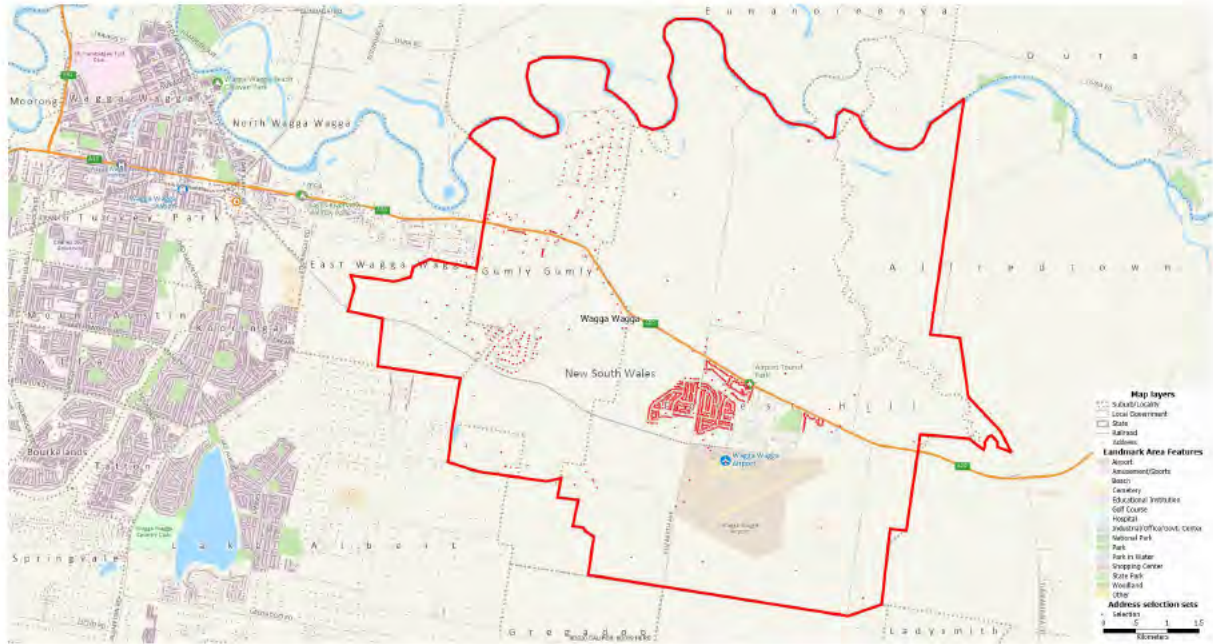
Defence is committed to providing the community with accessible and transparent information about the Riverina Redevelopment Program and will provide opportunities for the community to give feedback. For further information on the community consultation sessions, refer to our website: <https://www.defence.gov.au/riverina-redevelopment-program>.

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www.defence.gov.au



LETTERBOX DROP DISTRIBUTION AREA

The notifications of the community information sessions were distributed in a 5-10 kilometre radius of RAAF Base Wagga, as shown in red below.



The number of notifications distributed are provided below.

Location	Number of notifications distributed
Wagga Wagga – November 2023	1891
Wagga Wagga – April 2024	1891

EXAMPLES OF COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION RESOURCES

POSTERS

Posters were displayed on the walls at all community information sessions for information. The following posters were displayed:

- Riverina Redevelopment Program Overview
- Riverina Redevelopment Program map
- Artists Impressions and proposed designs:
 - Riverina Redevelopment Program Overview
 - RAAF Base Wagga Redevelopment Project

EXAMPLES OF POSTERS

THE RIVERINA REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

About the Riverina Redevelopment Program

The Department of Defence (Defence) is investing in the growth, retention and training of Australian Defence Force personnel.

To support this growth, Defence is proposing a program of works across three sites in the regional areas of Hume, Riverina and Murray, through the delivery of the Riverina Redevelopment Program. The program will be delivered at:

- Albury Wodonga Military Area
- RAAF Base Wagga
- Blamey Barracks, Kapooka

The Program will create larger, safer and fit-for-purpose facilities across the three bases by improving current facilities and constructing new buildings and infrastructure. The proposed works will also create safer access for vehicles and pedestrians around the three bases.

Benefits of the Riverina Redevelopment Program

The Program will:

- Provide modern facilities for the Australian Defence Force personnel to live, work and train.
- Enable local employment and training opportunities
- Support long term growth for communities in the Riverina, Murray, and Hume regions.
- Enable supply and delivery of construction services from the local and regional market.

The proposed scope of works

Overall, the Riverina Redevelopment Program will include:

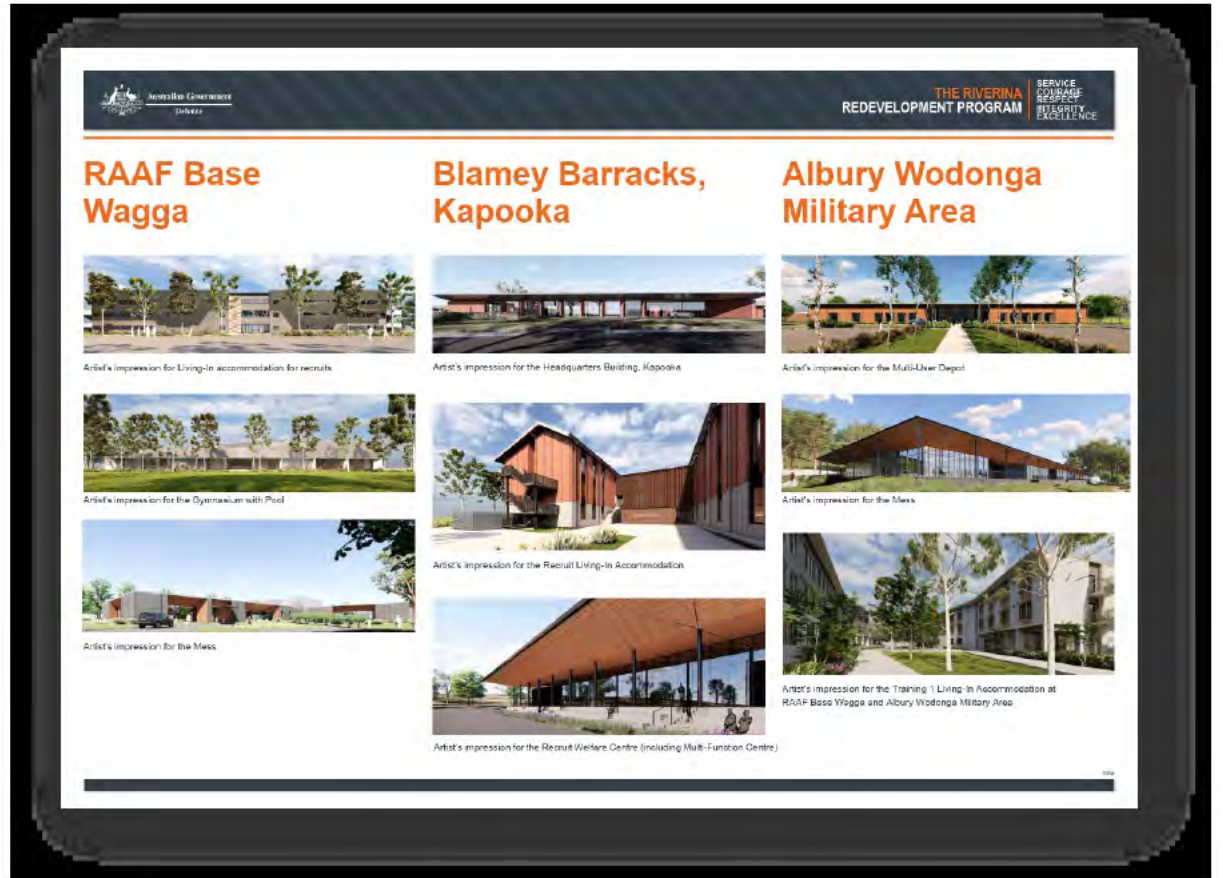
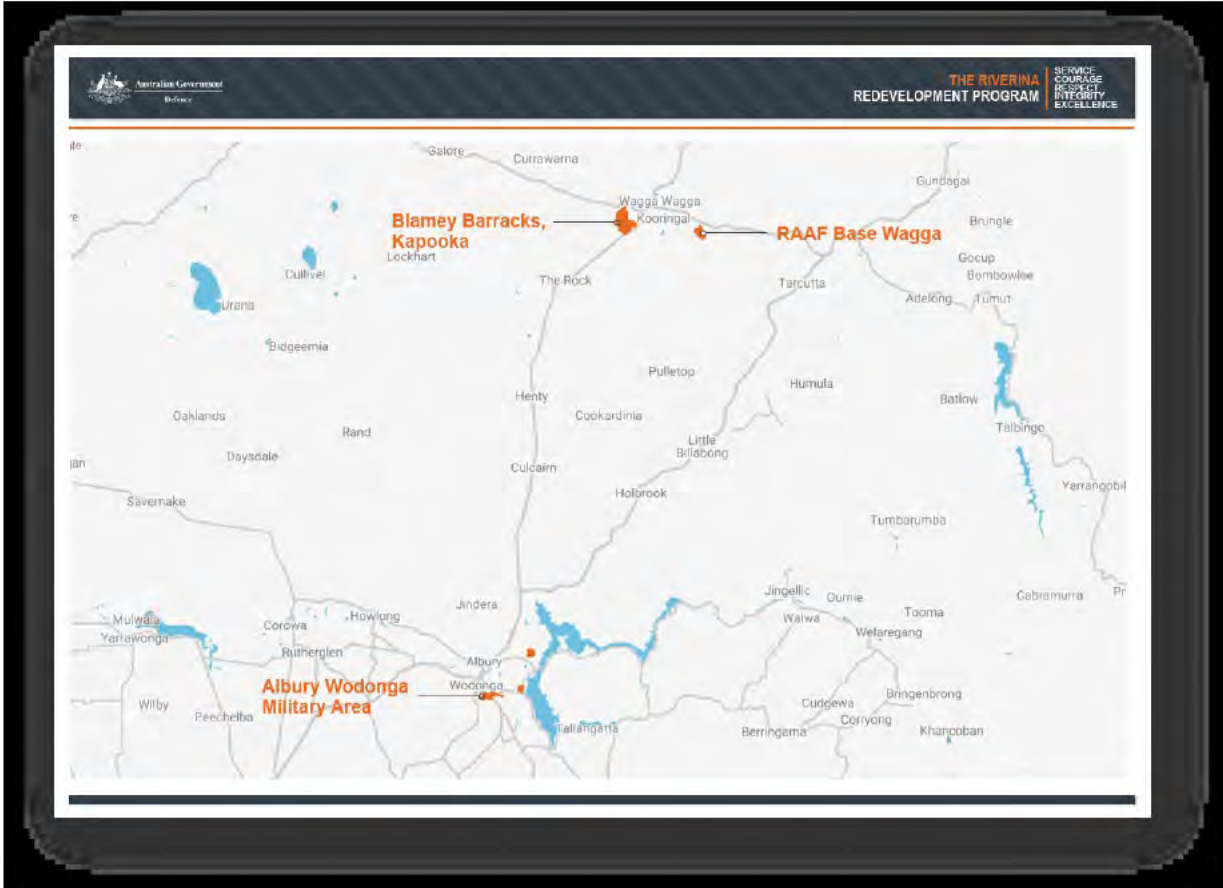
- New working, training, well-being and support facilities
- New Living-In Accommodation for Defence personnel
- New Messes
- New Gymnasium, Pool and Physical Training Facilities
- New Clothing Stores
- Demolition of aged buildings
- New retail facilities
- New, upgraded and/or replacement of site-wide engineering services
- Upgraded and/or new infrastructure such as roads, carparks, entrances and pedestrian footpaths.
- New and/or refurbished Weapons Training Simulation System.
- New Weapons Range.
- New Explosive Ordnance Storage and Distribution Facility.
- New Cadet and Army Reserve Multi-User Depot.

Timeframes

The proposed Riverina Redevelopment Program is in the design phase and currently going through the approval process. The Program is likely to be referred to the Parliamentary Standing on Public Works in early 2024 as part of this process. If approved, construction is expected to commence in 2024.

Timeline:

- Current**: Design phase & Approval process
- Early 2024**: Referred to the Parliamentary Standing on Public Works
- 2024**: Construction commences





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THE RIVERINA
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RAAF Base Wagga



Artist's impression for the Living-In Accommodation for Recruits



Artist's impression for the Gymnasium with Pool



Artist's impression for the Mess



VIEW 1 - EASTERN VIEW



VIEW 2 - SOUTH-EASTERN VIEW - CORNER OF NEWTON ROAD AND GARLAND STREET



VIEW 3 - SOUTHERN VIEW



VIEW 4 - WESTERN VIEW

WE 5.1: NEW COMBINED MESS

Need: The existing messes are reaching the end of their lives, have multiple compliance issues, are ill-equipped to run and will not support the future operational growth of the Base as determined by the Force Structure Plan 2023.

Outcome: The new Combined Mess will consolidate the Officers', Sergeants' and A4 Bunkers' Messes into a single facility. The building has been sized to enable easy access to the working and training precincts and proposed Training Level 1 Living-in Accommodation Precinct.

Scope: The new Mess will include:

- Separate messes for Officers, Senior Non-Commissioned Officers and other ranks, including Recruits and Trainees.
- Separate staff messes.
- A single central kitchen.
- Plant and Communication rooms.
- Car parking in the area of the facility.
- Consolidated Bar of Messes Functions.
- Staff Areas.



FLOOR PLAN



INTERIOR PERSPECTIVES



LOCALITY PLAN - CONTEXT

NEW COMBINED MESS

RIVERINA REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAM - RAAF BASE WAGGA





VIEW 1 - WESTERN VIEW



VIEW 2 - EASTERN VIEW



VIEW 3 - SOUTH-EASTERN VIEW



VIEW 4 - SOUTHERN VIEW

WE 6.4: NEW CLOTHING STORE

Need: The existing Clothing Store is separated from its main base of No. 1 Recruit Training Unit. It is old, in poor condition, has an inefficient layout and does not meet current Defence standards.

Outcome: The new Clothing Store will accommodate 60 people, suit for its purpose and will support the anticipated future growth at the Base as determined by the Force Structure Plan 2023.

Scope: The new Clothing Store will include:

- Changing and locker area.
- Wash house.
- Workshop.
- Armories.
- Administration area / office.
- Tailors area / office.
- Plans room.
- Communications room.
- Cleaners room.
- Entry area.



FLOOR PLAN



INTERIOR PERSPECTIVES



LOCALITY PLAN - CONTEXT

NEW CLOTHING STORE

RIVERINA REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAM - RAAF BASE WAGGA



INFORMATION FLYERS AND CONTACT CARDS

Information flyers were printed and handed out to community members at all community information sessions. These flyers provided useful information for the attendees to ‘take home’ and provided webpage links and contact details. The following flyers were produced:

- Program Overview
- RAAF Base Wagga project overview.

Contact cards for the Riverina Redevelopment Program, presented in business card style, were handed to attendees to offer them the opportunity to contact the project team.

EXAMPLE OF CONTACT CARD



EXAMPLES OF INFORMATION FLYER

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**THE RIVERINA
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RESPECT
INTEGRITY
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The Riverina Redevelopment Program at RAAF Base Wagga

December 2023



Figure 1: Artist's impression for Living-In Accommodation for Recruits at RAAF Base Wagga

RAAF Base Wagga is located around 14 kilometres east of the city of Wagga Wagga. It is a key base used by the Department of Defence (Defence) to recruit and train Australian Defence Force personnel for the Air Force, Army, and for some specialisations within the Navy. Defence is investing in the growth, retention and training of Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel. The Riverina Redevelopment Program will improve and expand the facilities and infrastructure at RAAF Base Wagga to support the ADF personnel.

The Riverina Redevelopment Program is currently in the design phase. In early-2024, the Program will likely be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works as part of the approval process. If approved, construction at RAAF Base Wagga is expected to commence in 2024.

What works are proposed to occur at RAAF Base Wagga?


At RAAF Base Wagga, the Riverina Redevelopment Program will see new, upgraded and/or the replacement of aging facilities and infrastructure. No residential properties will be affected as the works are proposed to occur on land owned or managed by Defence and state government agencies.

The Program is proposing to deliver the following works at RAAF Base Wagga:

- A combined Mess
- Living-In Accommodation
- Working, training, and support facilities
- Clothing Store
- Weapons Training Simulation System
- Gymnasium with Pool
- The expansion, upgrade and/or replacement of site wide engineering services.

The benefits of the Riverina Redevelopment Program:

- The proposed works will enable investment and jobs in the region and help to create training opportunities and long-term growth in the Riverina, Hume and Murray Valley regions.
- The Riverina Redevelopment Program will deliver new, improved and safer facilities for Defence personnel who live, work and train at RAAF Base Wagga.
- Defence's design process has taken a Designing with Country approach to ensure the inclusion and integration of First Nation voices. An Indigenous yarning circle will be created through the Riverina Redevelopment Program.

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Figure 2: Artist's impression for the Gymnasium with Pool at RAAF Base Wagga

Managing potential impacts

As part of the design process, the team is considering any potential environmental, cultural or social impacts of the Program and will work to minimise these.

Stormwater Management

The team at the Riverina Redevelopment Program has taken a considered design approach to better manage stormwater where possible through the proposed scope of works.

The team is proposing to construct a detention basin, which is an excavated area of land used to temporarily capture and hold water during a flood or a period of increased rainfall. The water is then passed through a smaller outlet to slow and control the flow of water downstream. Ultimately it means the stormwater can be released in a controlled manner to help reduce the volume of water moving downstream.

The Riverina Redevelopment Program team is also working closely with Defence's per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) Investigation and Management Branch to support efforts to monitor and mitigate PFAS contamination at RAAF Base Wagga.

In the planning stages of the Program, Defence will work with the Council on stormwater management from the Base.

RAAF Base Wagga and PFAS



For further information regarding PFAS contamination at RAAF Base Wagga see Defence's website: <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/pfas/pfas-management-sites/raaf-base-wagga>


You can also call 1800 333 362 or email pfas.enquiry@defence.gov.au


Community consultation and further information


Defence is committed to providing the community with accessible and transparent information about the Riverina Redevelopment Program and will provide opportunities for the community to ask questions and give feedback.

Further information about the Riverina Redevelopment Program is available on Defence's website included below.

If you have any questions or feedback about the Riverina Redevelopment Program you can speak to the team:

 Phone: 1800 290 601

 Email: rrp.enquiries@jacobs.com

 Website: <https://www.defence.gov.au/riverina-redevelopment-program>



COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION ATTENDANCE AND SUMMARY

Details

Two community information sessions were held on Tuesday 5 December 2023 at the Mercure, 1 Morgan Street, Wagga Wagga, New South Wales. The sessions ran from 2.00pm to 3.00pm and 5.00pm to 7.00pm. The sessions were scheduled both during and after business hours to allow community members with competing time commitments, the opportunity to attend.

A second round of community information sessions were held on Thursday, 16 May 2024 at the Mercure Wagga, 1 Morgan Street, Wagga Wagga, New South Wales. The sessions were conducted between 11.00am to 1.00pm and from 5.00pm to 7.00pm.

Resources

There were seven posters on display in combination with four fact sheets and contact cards (see **Annex C**). The consultation team included the following members/groups:

- Defence’s project Delivery Team
- Consultant project Management Team
- Consultant Communication Team
- Consultant Engineering Team
- Managing Contractor Design Team
- Managing Contractor Regional Development Team
- Defence’s Base Management Team
- Representatives from the Australian Defence Force (Ground Academy and 1 Recruit Training Unit)
- Defence’s Service Delivery Team for New South Wales Riverina and Northern Victoria.

Attendance

Number of attendees	Interest Group
Wagga Wagga, NSW – 05 December 2023	
7	Local residents
11	Local businesses
Wagga Wagga, NSW – 16 May 2024	
4	Local residents
5	Local businesses
Total:	27

Key points raised during the community information sessions:


- Opportunities for supply and shipping lines of materials through key ports
- Opportunities to use local products during construction
- Questions around accessing and registering on the Industry Capability Network
- General enquiries about the Program and the management of stormwater
- Opportunities for local industry and business participation in the proposed works

D-2

- Opportunities for local business to support the Program through the supply of accommodation services
- Interested in the solar and electrical vehicle potential as part of the Program.
- Availability of accommodation and housing in Wagga Wagga
- Interest in trade packages
- Concern about construction noise and dust, especially dust that is contaminated by Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)
- Impacts on workforce availability for local businesses.
- Questions regarding the provision of wellbeing services for veterans and ex-serving personnel
- Some residents raised concerns about PFAS, specifically the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements and human health concerns for workers managing soil in the area
- Questions about what was going to be demolished at RAAF Base Wagga and what would be improved as a result
- Noted the importance of a library on Base
- Concerns around the workforce employed by the Program and the diversion away from local contracts due to wage differences.

EXAMPLES OF LETTER OF INVITATION TO KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Examples of invitations for personal briefings to key stakeholders are provided below. Invitations were sent to the Mayor, State Members and Federal Members in Wagga Wagga. A summary of Key Stakeholder briefings is in **Annex F**.



Australian Government
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Capital Facilities and Infrastructure
Brindabella Business Park (BP26-1-B029)
Department of Defence
CANBERRA BC ACT 2610
☎ (02) 5109 8862
✉ RRP.enquiries@jacobs.com

Hon Michael McCormack MP
Federal Member for Riverina
Suite 2 11-15 Fitzmaurice St
Wagga Wagga, NSW, 2650

michael.mccormack.mp@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr McCormack

PROPOSED RIVERINA REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAM-WAGGA WAGGA, NSW

On behalf of the Department of Defence, I would like to offer you a personal briefing on proposed works at RAAF Base Wagga, Blamey Barracks, Kapooka and the Albury Wodonga Military Area. The Riverina Redevelopment Program will provide fit-for-purpose facilities for Australian Defence Force personnel to live, work and train. The scope of works across the three Bases are similar in structure and scope, making them highly suitable for delivery under a single coordinated Program.

At RAAF Base Wagga and Blamey Barracks, Kapooka, the Riverina Redevelopment Program will see new, upgraded and/or the replacement of aging facilities and infrastructure. The scope of works includes the construction of new working, instructional and physical training facilities, living-in accommodation, a Mess (RAAF Wagga), recruit welfare facilities (Kapooka), and new, upgraded and/or replacement of services infrastructure. At Blamey Barracks, Kapooka, a new ring road will improve pedestrian safety by diverting traffic around the Recruit training and working precinct, while a new weapons range will increase the efficiency of the recruit training program.

Key representatives from the Program will be in Wagga Wagga on Tuesday 05 December through to Wednesday 06 December (noon). If you or your staff would like to accept or decline this invitation for a personal briefing on the proposed works, please contact the project management team via email at RRP.enquiries@jacobs.com.

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

Community walk-in session

When: 05 December 2023
Time: 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Where: Mercure Hotel, 1 Morgan Street, Wagga Wagga.

Stormwater Runoff – Small Group Discussions

When: 05 December 2023
Time: 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm (registration required)
Where: Mercure Hotel, 1 Morgan Street, Wagga Wagga.

Further detail on the proposed works, as well as the upcoming community information session, is available at <https://www.defence.gov.au/riverina-redevelopment-program>.

Yours sincerely,

22 November 2023

STATUS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS

ORGANISATION AND MEMBER	NOTES
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	
<p>Hon Michael McCormack MP Member for Riverina</p>	<p>23 November 2023. Defence emailed a letter to Hon Michael McCormack providing Program information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>6 December 2023. Defence briefed the Hon Michael McCormack’s advisor Paul Pfitzner in his electoral office in Wagga Wagga. Mr Pfitzner queried why the Program of works were elongated and staggered. Mr Pfitzner asked if the labor resources will be local and if there will be minimum local requirements in the contracts. Mr Pfitzner enquired if there are heritage buildings at RAAF Base Wagga.</p> <p>30 April 2024. Defence emailed Mr McCormack to inform him of the community information sessions on 16 May 2024 and the opportunity to receive an online briefing. There was no response.</p> <p>Mr McCormack shared details of the community drop in sessions through his own social media platforms.</p>
<p>Hon Kristy McBain MP Member for Eden-Monaro</p>	<p>23 November 2023. Defence emailed a letter to Hon Kristy McBain providing Program information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>31 January 2024. Defence had not received a response so a follow up invitation was sent, offering a briefing in early March 2024. There was no reponse.</p>
STATE/TERRITORY GOVERNMENT	
<p>Dr Joe McGirr MP State Member for Wagga Wagga</p>	<p>23 November 2023. Defence emailed a letter to Dr Joe McGirr providing Program information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>6 December 2023. Defence briefed Dr McGirr in his office in Wagga Wagga. He had previously been briefed by the Riverina Redevelopment Joint Venture and was interested in the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understanding the different organisations involved in the Program • the Program’s scope of work • the driver for the longer schedule • the long schedule’s positive impact on the region

ORGANISATION AND MEMBER	NOTES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the importance of welcoming families to the Base for parades • parade access to the public • the number of Recruits that RAAF Base Wagga will accommodate • the Recruits’ access to physical fitness facilities • the Living-in Accommodation designs • issues with market capacity in Wagga Wagga • opportunities for local tier two companies • locals’ familiarity with Defence requirements • opportunities to increase Indigenous participation • the current 2% vacancy rate for accommodation in Wagga Wagga • the additional stress the Program will have on accommodation availability • the Programs’ peak workforce numbers. <p>12 February 2024. Defence briefed Dr McGirr in a follow up meeting that occurred in his office in Wagga Wagga. He was interested in short term accommodation supply and local market risks. He was also interested in the flooding issues in San Isidore. When the Project team briefed on the stormwater strategy and catchment area, Dr McGirr understood that Kapooka is not the sole contributor to flooding within San Isidore and the Project is meeting Defence and Council stormwater management requirements.</p> <p>30 April 2024. Defence emailed Dr McGirr to inform him of the community information sessions on 16 May 2024 and the opportunity to receive an online briefing. He was in Sydney for Parliament and was unable to attend.</p>
LOCAL GOVERNMENT	
<p>Councillor Dallas Tout Mayor Wagga City Council</p>	<p>23 November 2023. Defence emailed a letter to Mr Dallas Tout providing Program information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>6 December 2023. Defence provided a briefing to Mr Dallas Tout and the Chief Operating Officer, Scott Gray at Council offices in Wagga Wagga. Mr Tout enquired whether funding had increased. Defence outlined the feedback, especially the issues of flooding in San Isidore, that had been discussed during the community information sessions on 5 December 2023. Mr Gray enquired whether PFAS contamination was raised at the community information sessions. Mr Gray asked about the Program’s engagement with local Indigenous elders.</p>

ORGANISATION AND MEMBER	NOTES
	<p>Mr Tout enquired about what load sizes will be involved during construction and whether there will be road closures. Mr Gray indicated the Council would provide assistance where possible in regards to accommodation, indicating one of the challenges facing Council is the approval through State Government. Mr Tout asked if Defence could share their information to help inform State Government's decisions regarding Council planning proposals. Mr Tout noted that the New South Wales Department of Planning and Environment population expert is using different data that is not current about future growth in the area,. The Department is open to receiving more data from the Council. Mr Tout encouraged the Program team to keep sharing information with the Department of Planning and the Environment. Mr Gray noted the positive economic benefits for the region coming from the Program. Mr Tout noted there is potential for land releases in the future and asked whether training such as trades and certificate courses will be delivered in-house.</p> <p>30 April 2024. Defence emailed Mr Tout to inform him of the community information sessions on 16 May 2024 and the opportunity to receive an online briefing. He was unable to attend and did not require an additional briefing.</p>

SUMMARY OF TOPICS AND KEY ISSUES RAISED DURING COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS

TOPIC	RAISED BY	DEFENCE RESPONSE
Elongation and staggering of Program's scope of works	Representative for the Hon Michael McCormack MP Dr Joe McGirr, State Member for Wagga	Defence has intentionally proposed an elongated and staggered Program of works to reduce the impacts on the market and its capacity.
Workforce numbers required and competition with other major projects	Dr Joe McGirr, State Member for Wagga Local businesses	It is expected that the proposed works at RAAF Base Wagga are likely to need around 200 people at peak of construction. The Riverina Redevelopment Team's Regional Development Team has engaged with other projects to inform workforce planning.
Concerns about market capacity and use of local labour by the Program	Representative for the Hon Michael McCormack MP Dr Joe McGirr, State Member for Wagga Local businesses	Defence will use local labour and has local employment targets of 80-90% across two defined local regions to maximise local participation. Defence has received substantial interest from local businesses and is undertaking measures to identify supply and capacity levels in the local market. The packages of works will be designed to reflect the supply and capacity levels identified. Defence recognises the need to ensure the proposed scope of work does not impact the local availability of trades. Defence is undertaking monthly meetings with other major projects in the regions to manage the demands on resources across Victoria and New South Wales.
The use of tier two companies by the Program	Dr Joe McGirr, State Member for Wagga	Defence is expecting to work with tier two and tier three companies, and are designing various packages for different tiers of businesses to reduce the impact on local businesses and their cashflow but provide maximum opportunity for their participation in the Program.
Concerns around local businesses and communities' lack of	Dr Joe McGirr, State Member for Wagga	Albury Wodonga Military Area, RAAF Base Wagga and Blamey Barracks, Kapooka are well established in their respective communities. Defence has long relied on local businesses and services to repair and develop

G-2

TOPIC	RAISED BY	DEFENCE RESPONSE
understanding of Defence's requirements		the Bases. There is a strong awareness among local businesses and community members of the requirement to be involved in construction and work programs on Defence sites.
Procurement and the engagement of multiple contractors	Representative for the Hon Michael McCormack MP	<p>Defence is intending to use sub-contractors staffed by locals.</p> <p>Defence's approach is not to overburden the market, local businesses and contractors. The work packages will be smaller to suit different size businesses and the procurement design will reflect the supply chain.</p> <p>The Program has Indigenous procurement targets in place and there is strong interest in the regions from Indigenous businesses.</p>
Interest in increasing Indigenous procurement	Dr Joe McGirr, State Member for Wagga	Defence has been engaging with local Indigenous businesses to understand their interest in the Program and to date, there is strong interest.
Indigenous engagement	Chief Operating Officer, Wagga Wagga City Council	Defence's Regional Development Team has been engaging with elders throughout the regions to inform the design, and workforce opportunities. This includes through an advisory group that has been established to guide the planning.
Heritage buildings and recording their value	Representative for the Hon Michael McCormack MP	There are heritage buildings at Blamey Barracks, Kapooka and Albury Wodonga Military Area. Defence has a Heritage Management Plan which will be updated through engaging with local contacts and Defence's Environment team that will provide advice. Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water are dealing with heritage through the EPBC Act referral process for Blamey Barracks Kapooka due to the demolition of 34 buildings with medium heritage value. Defence is proposing to establish a Heritage Trail at Blamey Barracks, Kapooka.
Parade grounds open to the public	Dr Joe McGirr, State Member for Wagga	The parade grounds on all three sites will be open to the public during parades.

TOPIC	RAISED BY	DEFENCE RESPONSE
Impacts to current buildings at RAAF Base Wagga	Dr Joe McGirr, State Member for Wagga	The existing facilities at RAAF Base Wagga will be demolished as they are ageing, and do not meet the safety, training and accommodation needs of the Australian Defence Force.
Concern regarding impacts to local short term accommodation.	Representative for the Hon Michael McCormack MP Dr Joe McGirr, State Member for Wagga Local residents	Defence recognises the current pressures on the rental market and short term accommodation in locations such as Albury and Wagga Wagga. Defence is packaging the works to minimise the impacts on local communities. Defence is also exploring opportunities to minimise the need for the workforce to live in the community. Defence has designed an accommodation strategy, and will work with developers to identify opportunities to upscale for accommodation needs in advance of construction. Some offsite manufacturing will occur outside of the towns to minimise local impacts. It is expected that the Program is likely to generate investment opportunities and once the PWC approval is finalised, interested parties are more likely to have the certainty they need to invest.
The number of Defence personnel to be housed by the proposed works at RAAF Base Wagga and Blamey Barracks Kapooka.	Dr Joe McGirr, State Member for Wagga	The living-in accommodation at RAAF Base Wagga will house 192 recruits and 1800 recruits at Blamey Barracks Kapooka
Organisations involved in the Riverina Redevelopment Program	Dr Joe McGirr, State Member for Wagga	Defence is supported by Jacobs who is delivering Program Management and Communication services. RRJV is made up of CPB Contractors and Downer, supporting the delivery of the planning phase of the Program.
Load size and road closures during construction	Mayor, Wagga Wagga City Council	The Project will aim to minimise any road closures during construction. There may be some impact during the construction of the temporary construction access at RAAF Base Wagga.

G-4

TOPIC	RAISED BY	DEFENCE RESPONSE
Delivery of training such as trades and certificate	Mayor, Wagga Wagga City Council	Defence has a Memorandum of Understanding with TAFE Wodonga and they are able to deliver training in New South Wales. Contractors are not obliged to use them. Defence has agreements in place with Regional Training Organisations. There is sufficient capacity to provide the required training.
Opportunities for supply and shipping lines of materials through key ports	Local businesses	Some supplies may pass through major ports. The Riverina Redevelopment Joint Venture's Regional Development Team will make contact in the future regarding shipping and ports.
Opportunities to use local products during construction	Local businesses	Defence has planned to ensure that during construction, the Program prioritises the use of local businesses, local workforce and products whilst minimising impacts on the use of these markets locally (residential needs).
Questions around accessing and registering on the Industry Capability Network	Local businesses	The Joint Venture's Regional Development team will assist all interested local businesses with support with the Industry Capability Network.
Opportunities for local industry and business participation in the proposed works	Local businesses	The proposed Program of works will prioritise the use of local industry and businesses. Defence has targets to use local businesses and services.
Questions regarding the provision of wellbeing services for veterans and ex-serving personnel.	Local residents	This is outside the scope of works. However, the Department of Veterans Affairs provides support for ex-serving personnel.
Concern about a new weapon range being constructed at RAAF Base Wagga.	Local residents	The weapons range is being constructed as part of the proposed works at Blamey Barracks Kapooka, not at RAAF Base Wagga.
Concern about construction noise and dust, especially dust that is contaminated by PFAS.	Local residents	All works will occur during normal construction working hours during the day. Only some out of hours works will occur such as services (power, water etc.) switches. PFAS will be managed in accordance with Defence policy.