



**Australian Government**  

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**Department of Defence**

**AIR555 Phase 1**  
**Airborne Intelligence Surveillance**  
**Reconnaissance Electronic Warfare**  
**Capability Facilities Works**

**RAAF Base Edinburgh, Adelaide (SA)**

**RAAF Base Darwin (NT)**

**RAAF Base Townsville, Townsville (QLD)**

**Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands**

**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE**  
**TO THE**  
**PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**ON PUBLIC WORKS**

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# **AIR555 Phase 1 Airborne Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance Electronic Warfare Capability Facilities Works**

1. The purpose of this Statement of Evidence is to provide information to the Australian public to comment on, and the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works to enquire into, the proposed AIR555 Phase 1 Airborne Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance Electronic Warfare (ISREW) Capability Sustainment Facilities Works (the Project).

## **Purpose of the Works**

### Aim of the Project

2. The Project aims to provide fit for purpose facilities and infrastructure at four locations to support the introduction into service of the MC-55A Peregrine Airborne Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance Electronic Warfare capability (Peregrine), acquired under the AIR 555 Phase 1 project.

### Location of the Project

3. The Project proposes to deliver works at the following four locations, consisting of one Main Operating Base and three Forward Operating Bases. The Main Operating Base is the primary operational and maintenance location for the Peregrine capability. The Forward Operating Bases enable the deployment and projection of Peregrine into the more likely areas of operation. The four locations proposed under the Project are:

- a. **RAAF Base Edinburgh (Main Operating Base)**, located 25 kilometers north of Adelaide's Central Business District in South Australia.
- b. **RAAF Base Darwin (Forward Operating Base)**, located 10 kilometers north-east of the Darwin Central Business District.
- c. **RAAF Base Townsville (Forward Operating Base)**, located six kilometers west of Townsville's Central Business District in Queensland.

- d. **The Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands (Forward Operating Base)** is an Australian external territory located 2,750 kilometers north-west of Perth, Western Australia.

4. Attachment 1 illustrates the four proposed locations to deliver the Project.

## Need for the Project

5. The 2016 Defence White Paper highlighted the need for enhanced situational awareness through a strengthened intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and space capability, and the need to strengthen electronic warfare and cyber capabilities.

6. The key drivers for the Project are:

- a. the number and timing of the delivery of Peregrine capability including aircraft and ground systems;
- b. the need to deliver key initial facilities to enable Defence to complete ICT integration activities prior to the first Peregrine aircraft arriving; and
- c. the need to support the Peregrine achieving Full Operating Capability once all aircraft have been delivered and all associated operating personnel are deployed in their roles.

7. The MC-55A Peregrine will provide a highly effective airborne ISREW capability in support of ADF and coalition operations. It will specialise in operating in complex electromagnetic environments and communicating collected information to supported commanders and other ADF platforms in real time. The MC-55A capability comprises integrated ISREW systems, RADAR and electro-optic sensors with a sophisticated communications suite and tactical datalinks, supported by ground based analysis systems.

8. The incoming Peregrine capability will enable Defence to actively strengthen electronic warfare support to naval, air and land forces for operations in complex electromagnetic environments. Together with other 5<sup>th</sup> generation capabilities, including those at RAAF Base Edinburgh such as the P-8A Poseidon, the Peregrine capability will contribute towards collective capability outcomes that address the needs highlighted in the 2016 Defence White Paper.

9. The early integration of ground systems and Initial Test and Evaluation of Peregrine, with flying operations mainly centered on RAAF Base Edinburgh (SA), has driven a need to stage the works in order to achieve Initial Operating Capability on time. A purpose designed and constructed Initial Operating Facility to accommodate integrated mission, ground and communications systems is required to be completed by mid to late 2021. The Main Works will need to be completed by mid-2024.

10. Facilities elements under the Project can be categorised into the following functional groups:

- a. **Working Facilities.** These are associated with operational, planning, crew and administrative activities that will support the Peregrine Squadron at the four sites proposed above.
- b. **Operational Support Facilities** - These will enable aircraft pre and post flight activities, operational maintenance, planned deeper maintenance in purpose-built hangars and logistics warehousing at RAAF Base Edinburgh (SA).
- c. **Airfield Works.** The Project proposes to add to, and enhance, existing airfield infrastructure, pavements and airfield ground lighting at RAAF Base Edinburgh.
- d. **Communications Facilities.** Peregrine requires new purpose-built communications facilities and supporting infrastructure at all four sites.
- e. **Engineering Services.** Engineering services infrastructure needs to be upgraded on the existing Defence establishments (Main Operating Base RAAF Base Edinburgh), and installed at the new development sites (Forward Operating Bases of RAAF Base Darwin and RAAF Base Townsville, and Cocos (Keeling) Islands).

## **Proposed Facilities Solution**

### Scope of Project Works

11. Defence has undertaken comprehensive master planning, site investigations, stakeholder consultation, whole-of-life cost analysis, and design activities during the development phase of the Project. This identified the capital facilities and infrastructure works required to support and sustain these capabilities.

## Program Approach

12. Defence's Estate Base Plan (July 2018) for the Edinburgh Defence Precinct, that includes RAAF Base Edinburgh, identified the benefits of developing the Base with a consolidated Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Precinct. The Project proposes to integrate a facilities, services and infrastructure solution with the works delivered for the P-8A Poseidon under project AIR7000 Phase 2B. Early in the Project's planning process, Defence recognised the potential to achieve improved infrastructure solutions by continuing with an integrated approach. The driver to continue this approach has been to maximise shared or common solutions and minimise costs where practical.

13. Key benefits achieved by utilising an integrated program approach include:
- a. a coordinated planning and design effort that enables the Peregrine facilities to be designed and sited to optimise the use of the available land, integrate services at Main Operating Base RAAF Base Edinburgh and continue to develop the Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance Precinct theme;
  - b. improved effectiveness of the Commonwealth resources required to manage the proposed works program;
  - c. a single environmental strategy for Main Operating Base RAAF Base Edinburgh (SA).
  - d. Shared in ground services and infrastructure within the Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance Precinct such as power, water, communications and sewerage; and
  - e. An ICT data hub networking and storage facility.

14. Defence has developed the following three options:
- a. **Option 1 - Do nothing** – Defence considered the option of not investing in facilities to support the incoming Peregrine capability. However, the state of the current facilities and infrastructure would not enable an initial level of capability. The Peregrine capability requires installation of ground systems to perform even basic operations and the nature of existing facilities would

not meet this requirement and impact areas well outside the scope of this project, noting the interdependencies with other Defence elements requiring intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, and electronic warfare capabilities. Option 1 is not recommended.

- b. **Option 2 – modify existing facilities and infrastructure.** This option assessed how to modify existing facilities and infrastructure. These were assessed during the early development stages of the Project, and it was identified there were minimal to no available existing facilities suitable for permanent reuse to support the incoming capabilities. The level of building security for the ground systems would require significant and costly upgrade to any existing facilities. The utilisation of existing hangars for the platform would require considerable upgrade to meet the platform specific requirements. In addition, the use of existing buildings for headquarter and flight planning are not available at an appropriate level of security within existing facilities at RAAF Base Edinburgh. Upgrading existing facilities is not cost effective due to the security, compliance and fitness for purpose issues identified during the assessment. Option 2 is not recommended.
- c. **Option 3 - New Facilities –** This option includes new purpose designed facilities and infrastructure. Purpose built facilities and infrastructure would enable maximum development and operation of the capability. This would also assist in enabling an ongoing integrated program approach to efficiently support any future capability needs of the Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance Precinct at RAAF Base Edinburgh.

15. Defence recommends delivering Option 3. It represents value for money to the Commonwealth over the life of the capability, allows Peregrine to deliver maximum capability for Defence and supports an integrated approach to facilities design and delivery.

16. The Project comprises four elements outlined below by location:

**Project Element 1- RAAF Base Edinburgh (South Australia)**

17. RAAF Base Edinburgh (Main Operating Base) has undergone substantial investment in recent years to become the centre of Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance capability.



18. Attachment 2 illustrates the proposed master planned Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance Precinct at the Base.

19. Specific facilities requirements to support the Peregrine capability at Main Operating Base RAAF Base Edinburgh include:

- a. a maintenance hangar;
- b. squadron headquarters facility;
- c. logistics and warehousing;
- d. initial operating facility;
- e. ground support equipment shelter;
- f. shared car parking area, general footpaths and landscaping;
- g. airfield pavements;
- h. local building services plant;
- i. site wide engineering services (reticulated services including high and low voltage power distribution, communications cabling, water and sewer connections); and
- j. an explosive ordnance storehouse to offset storage capacity losses arising from siting considerations.

20. Facilities for Peregrine proposed for RAAF Base Edinburgh are depicted in Attachments 3 and 4.

### **Project Element 2 - RAAF Base Townsville (Queensland)**

21. RAAF Base Townsville (Forward Operating Base) currently lacks suitable facilities to support Peregrine. A small-scale facility to support Peregrine operations is required, which the Project proposes to integrate with existing base facilities and infrastructure. Specific requirements include:

- a. an operations facility;
- b. car parking area, pavement works and landscaping;
- c. local building services plant; and

- d. site wide engineering services (reticulated services including high and low voltage power distribution, ICT, water and sewer connections).

22. The Peregrine facilities proposed for RAAF Base Townsville are depicted in Attachment 5.

### **Project Element 3 - RAAF Base Darwin (Northern Territory)**

23. The AIR7000 Phase 2B Facilities Project, approved by Parliament in 2015, is delivering an air operations facility, a hangar and infrastructure at RAAF Base Darwin (Forward Operating Base).

24. The Project will share the air operations facility and minor explosive ordnance storage facilities being delivered under AIR7000 Phase 2B, and proposes to purchase and install a Local Emergency Generator System to improve the reliability of power at the site to meet the Peregrine's requirements.

### **Project Element 4- Cocos (Keeling) Islands**

25. Cocos (Keeling) Islands (Forward Operating Base) currently lacks suitable facilities to support Peregrine. The Project proposes to construct a small-scale facility to support air operations. Specific requirements include:

- a. operations facility;
- b. explosive ordnance locker;
- c. general pavement and landscaping;
- d. local building services plant; and
- e. site wide engineering services (reticulated services including high and low voltage power distribution, ICT, water and sewer connections).

26. The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications is responsible for administration of the islands. This includes its airfield which is used periodically by Defence. Integrating the proposed facilities with normal airfield operations is reliant upon the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications approving Defence's development proposal.

27. The Peregrine facilities proposed for Cocos (Keeling) Islands are depicted in Attachment 6.

## **Planning and Design Concepts**

28. The general philosophy for the design of the proposed works is based on:
- a. providing effective, functional, low maintenance, energy efficient design options compatible with existing aesthetics;
  - b. gaining efficiencies by planning for shared uses where possible, particularly at Main Operating Base RAAF Base Edinburgh;
  - c. where possible, adopting conventional construction techniques and materials commonly used by the construction industry that are consistent with those already in use at the proposed locations;
  - d. using readily available durable materials and applying appropriate durability measures to reduce maintenance and achieve proposed design life;
  - e. working with site constraints, security requirements and approved Estate Base Plans for each location;
  - f. considering the functional relationships of the proposed facilities to existing facilities; and
  - g. providing flexible services and infrastructure that can accommodate future growth and capability evolution.

## **Relevant Legislation, Codes and Standards**

29. The following legislation, standards, codes and guidelines are applicable:
- a. *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)*;
  - b. *Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth)*;
  - c. *Fair Work (Building Industry) Act 2012 (Cth)*;
  - d. *Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (Cth)*;
  - e. *Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)*;
  - f. *Building and Construction Industry Improvement Amendment (Transition to Fair Work Act) Act 2012 (Cth)*;
  - g. *Public Works Committee Act 1969 (Cth)*
  - h. National Construction Code - Building Code of Australia;
  - i. Defence's Manual of Infrastructure Engineering - Electrical;

- j. Defence's Smart Infrastructure Manual;
  - k. Defence's Manual of Fire Protection Engineering;
  - l. Defence Estate Quality Management System;
  - m. Defence Security Principles Framework;
  - n. Defence's Pollution Prevention Management Manual; and
  - o. Manual of Operating Standards 139 (for Airfields).
30. Accredited Building Certifiers will certify the compliance of each design and the compliance of the completed works.

### Land and Zoning

31. The works proposed are consistent with uses prescribed in relevant Defence zoning instruments, including the Edinburgh Defence Precinct Estate Base Plan; RAAF Townsville Flight Line Master Plan, Local Planning Scheme of the Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands; and the Defence Estate Principles of Development.

32. Site Selection Board Reports have been completed for each of the proposed new buildings to ensure the proposed developments are consistent with the approved Estate Base Plans for each of the Defence bases or establishments and the Defence Estate "Principles of Development". Site Selection Board Assessments considered the suitability of sites for proposed functions; the locations of related functions; access to services and infrastructure; and clearance of obstacle limitation surfaces for airfield operations; and radio frequency and line of sight considerations. Movement by vehicles and pedestrians to and from each site, and heritage and environmental management factors were also considered.

33. Negotiations regarding the proposed facility on Cocos (Keeling) Islands have commenced with the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications.

### Leased Properties

34. Depending on final facility and siting requirements, there is a possibility that property lease impacts may arise in respect of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands site. This may include Defence renewing and/or extending at either one of two existing Defence leased

areas. Defence is assessing both options with the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications, the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Administrator and the Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands Council. Paragraph 26 above also refers.

## Structure

35. Facility substructures have been designed in accordance with the local geotechnical profile using a conventional raft slab and slab-on-ground design in conjunction with bored piles for the hangars. The superstructures will consist of braced steel framing and conventional suspended concrete floor slabs. The proposed roofing will consist of a mono-slope roof with steel rafters and lightweight roof sheeting on purlins.

36. External facades will consist of a mix of reinforced concrete panels, insulated panels, lightweight cladding and curtain wall glazing that align with the architectural theme of existing buildings. Internal walls will be non-load bearing lightweight frames, lined with plasterboard to provide maximum flexibility for future layout. Internal zones will be fitted with wall framing, linings, and doors and door hardware to meet relevant security standards.

## Mechanical Services

37. Mechanical services have been designed according to the function and needs of each building. The proposed mechanical services will meet specific user needs and the mandatory requirements of the Building Code of Australia when installing relevant ventilation, thermal comfort and air quality requirements.

## Hydraulic Services

38. Existing natural gas, sewerage and storm water services will be extended to each new facility to suit design requirements.

39. Where new stormwater systems are proposed for facilities and civil works infrastructure such as roads and car parks, these services will be constructed using reinforced concrete pipes where necessary to support significant external loads. New stormwater pits, and modifications to existing pits, will be constructed using steel reinforced concrete to relevant standards to meet a 100-year design life.

40. Potable water will be connected to existing supplies via sub-metering in each new building.

41. Works will be constructed to allow for future growth.

### Electrical Services

42. Lighting, lightning protection and power will be installed in accordance with Australian Standards and Defence engineering requirements. Electrical infrastructure and switchboards will have spare capacity that can allow for future growth. Sub-metering will be included to each facility. The meters will be monitored through a new building management system that will support active energy management programs on sites.

43. Local emergency generators will provide backup power to all critical facilities.

### Fire Protection

44. Fire protection has been addressed to comply with the Manual of Fire Protection Engineering, and the Building Code of Australia. Defence has assessed asset classification and criticality to determine which fire protection systems to implement in each facility.

45. A low-level foam protection system in aircraft hangars will use a fluorine free aqueous film foaming foam. In accordance with Defence and Government policy, the aqueous film forming foam will be free from Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (commonly known as PFAS).

### Security Measures

46. There is no public access to the proposed sites. Entry to the proposed facilities at RAAF Bases Edinburgh, Townsville and Darwin will be through controlled access points at entry gates. The facility at Cocos (Keeling) Islands will have appropriate security fencing and access control consistent with existing facilities in that location. All proposed facilities have been designed to appropriate security classification as stipulated by Defence requirements.

47. The security design of all sites will ensure that new facilities conform to the existing security system employed by each base or location. The physical security zones throughout the facilities have been designed in accordance with the relevant Australian Security and Intelligence Organisation Technical Notes.

## Acoustics

48. The new facilities are being designed to meet user requirements, and will comply with the National Construction Code, Australian Standards and relevant security policies for noise and acoustics.

## Work Health and Safety

49. The Project will comply with the *Work Health and Safety (WHS) Act 2011 (Cth)*, Work Health and Safety (Commonwealth Employment – National Standards) Regulations, and relevant Defence policies. In accordance with Section 35 (4) of the *Building and Construction Industry Improvement Act 2005 (Cth)*, project contractors will be required to hold work health and safety accreditation from the Office of the Federal Safety Commissioner under the Australian Government Building and Construction Work Health and Safety Accreditation Scheme.

50. Safety aspects of the Project were addressed during the design development process and are documented in Safety in Design Reports. A Work Health Safety Plan will be developed for each site before construction commences. It will include the requirement to appropriately secure all construction sites to prevent public access, or access by unauthorised Defence personnel, during the construction period.

51. For works on the airside of a Base, a specific Airfield Safe Work Plan will be developed by the appointed construction contractor to ensure the safety of personnel and aircraft.

## Materials and Furnishings

52. Materials and furnishings will be sought from what is readily available locally, and selected against functionality, durability, low maintenance and ecologically sustainable design properties.

53. External walls for new buildings will be a mixture of concrete panels and metal cladding. Structural framing will be steel and where exposed will be coated in a low maintenance finish. Internal walls will consist of concrete and plasterboard with steel studs. Floors will be low maintenance, and mainly consist of sealed concrete in hangars and workshops. Floors in other areas will be a combination of vinyl, ceramic tiles or carpet tiles.

## Landscaping

54. The proposed new landscape works will complement existing site conditions. Design will focus on a functional, low maintenance, water sensitive approach and consist of indigenous plants. To support aircraft safety, plants that do not attract birds will be selected.

55. Precautions will be taken to avoid compromising environmental sensitivities by adopting landscaping practices in accordance with local environmental conditions and the Construction Environmental Management Plan.

## Childcare Provisions

56. Although the Peregrine capability may result in a modest increase in personnel numbers at RAAF Base Edinburgh, there is no requirement to provide additional childcare facilities under the Project.

## Provisions for People with Disabilities

57. Access for people with disabilities will be provided in accordance with the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*, the Building Code of Australia, Australian Standard AS 1428 – 2010: Design for Access and Mobility, and the Defence Policy ‘Disabled Access and other Facilities for Disabled Persons’. These standards lay out the design and construction requirements to comply with the *Disability and Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)*.

## Environmental Sustainability

58. Defence is committed to ecologically sustainable development and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Project has adopted cost effective ecologically sustainable development measures as a key objective in the design and development of the proposed works. These measures include:

- a. **Meeting Applicable Energy Targets.** The requirements of Defence’s Smart Infrastructure Manual: Design and Construction Version 2.0 (June 2019) and Building Energy Performance Manual Version 4 (December 2012) have been adopted for the Project. Energy targets include:

- (1) tenant light and power: to be less than 7,500 mega joules per person per annum;



- (2) central services: to be less than 400 mega joules per person per annum; and
  - (3) operational equipment load general power intensity average (computers and other equipment): no more than nine watts per square metre.
- b. **Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy Use.** Measures proposed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy use include:
- (1) passive building design principles for new facilities;
  - (2) energy efficient heating ventilation and air conditioning systems, lighting and intelligent control systems;
  - (3) waste storage, disposal and potential for recycling;
  - (4) maximising natural ventilation and installing energy management systems; and
  - (5) selecting sustainable materials considering procurement, production and environmental performance.
- c. **Reducing Water Use.** Measures proposed to reduce water use include:
- (1) specifying water efficient fixtures and fittings;
  - (2) rainwater harvesting;
  - (3) where landscaping works are proposed, adopting water sensitive urban design principles; and
  - (4) selecting native, low-water usage plant species requiring irrigation only for establishment.
- d. **Improving Indoor Environments.** Measures proposed to improve the indoor environments of new facilities include:
- (1) improving daylight in occupied spaces;
  - (2) shading for privacy and glare control;
  - (3) optimising building orientation; and
  - (4) using low volatile organic compound paints, carpets and adhesives, as well as low emission wood products.

- e. **Metering.** Electrical services metering will be installed in accordance with the requirements of the Defence National Sub-meter Program, and will be suitable for connection to Defence National Resource Data Management System. Hydraulic services metering will be installed and connected directly to a building management system.
- f. **Renewable Energy Sources.** Installing photovoltaic systems at each Defence location to supplement mains power supply at some facilities was assessed against the Smart Infrastructure Handbook and deemed not to be cost efficient. Facility proposed for Cocos Island is yet to be assessed dependant on final location and size.

## Potential Impacts

59. Defence conducted rigorous assessments to identify potential environmental and local community impacts and proposes suitable mitigation measures. For RAAF Bases Edinburgh and Townsville the buildings are well within Base boundaries and will be sympathetic to the surrounding facilities. Work at RAAF base Darwin is installation of an emergency generator and as such, would be difficult to discern even from adjacent areas within the Base perimeter. Defence has agreed to the review of the facility design on CKI by both the Shire Council and Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications to ensure compatibility with location and surrounds. These include:

- a. **Visual Impacts:** The facilities proposed under the Project do not pose any visual impacts to the local community due to RAAF Bases Edinburgh, Darwin and Townsville all being physically removed from any local residential or commercial areas. While the Cocos (Keeling) Islands site is located close to the residential housing, any visual impact from the works proposed will be minimised by applying facility designs sympathetic to adjacent facilities.
- b. **Noise Impacts:** There are no potential noise impacts to local communities as a result of any operational use of the proposed facilities. Facilities will be co-located with existing aviation capabilities centrally located on each of the Defence Bases, and adjacent to the airfield on Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

- c. **Heritage Impacts:** Defence's initial assessment of potential environmental impacts to indigenous heritage concluded that each of the site locations proposed would not have significant impact on known areas of cultural significance. The local indigenous groups, the Kurna People (Edinburgh), and the Gurambilbarra Wulgurukaba People (Townsville) will continue to be consulted throughout the development of the Project.
- d. **Traffic, Transportation and Road Impacts:** The public Adelaide Metro Bus Service stops at the main gate of RAAF Base Edinburgh, approximately 1.4 kilometres from the proposed building site. The Base is accessed from West Avenue which runs in a south-west/north-east direction through the Edinburgh Defence Precinct; West Avenue primarily services the Edinburgh Defence Precinct and the Edinburgh South and Edinburgh North industrial areas but is not considered a busy road. Accordingly, Defence anticipates there will be no traffic concerns created by this proposal.
- e. Multiple bus routes provide access to the RAAF Base Townsville (QLD) and the closest bus stop is approximately two kilometres from the proposed construction site. The Base is accessed via Ingham Road which is a major thoroughfare. Because the proposal creates minimal additional vehicle traffic, Defence anticipates minimal to no traffic concerns will be created by the Project.
- f. The proposal will not bring additional vehicles to Cocos (Keeling) Islands. Accordingly, no traffic concerns are anticipated by the Project.
- g. **Existing Local Facilities:** It is anticipated that, due to the operational use and location of the proposed facilities within the respective RAAF Bases which are removed from any local residential or commercial areas, there will be no potential impacts to local facilities.
- h. Any impact on existing local facilities is anticipated to be minimal to nil at the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, as the location of the minor works are in an existing Defence leased area.

60. Defence has determined that the Project will not have a significant impact on existing environmental and heritage values, and is not required to be referred to the Minister of Environment and Energy under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)*.

## **Consultation with Key Stakeholders**

61. Defence has developed a community consultation and communications strategy that recognises the importance of providing local residents and other interested stakeholders an opportunity to provide input into, or raise concerns relating to, the proposed works at each site

62. Defence has engaged with a variety of internal and external stakeholders such as the Office of the Administrator for Australian Indian Ocean Territories and the Chief Operating Office for the Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Island Council during project development to date. In addition to conducting public information sessions, consultation is ongoing and will include:

63. For Main Operating Base RAAF Edinburgh (SA):

- a. Martin Haese, Chief Executive Office, Business SA, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, South Australia
- b. Nick Champion, Federal Member for Spence
- c. Tony Zappia, Federal Member for Makin
- d. Jon Gee, South Australian Member for Taylor
- e. Gillian Aldridge, Mayor of the City of Salisbury
- f. Glenn Docherty, Mayor of the City of Playford
- g. Steven Marshall, Premier of South Australia
- h. The Kaurna People.

64. For Forward Operating Base RAAF Townsville (QLD):

- a. Marie-Claude Brown, Chief Executive Office, Townsville Chamber of Commerce
- b. Cathy O'Toole, Federal Member for Herbert
- c. Scott Stewart, Queensland Member for Townsville
- d. Jenny Hill, Mayor of Townsville
- e. Anastacia Palaszczuk, Premier of Queensland
- f. Gurambilbarra Wulgurukaba People

65. For Forward Operating Base Cocos (Keeling) Islands:
- a. Warren Snowdon, Federal Member for Lingiari
  - b. Natasha Griggs, Administrator of the Australian Indian Ocean Territories
  - c. Seri Wati Iku, Mayor of Shire of Cocos
  - d. Mark McGowan, Premier of Western Australia
66. The works to be delivered under the Project at Forward Operating Base RAAF Base Darwin (NT) consists of purchasing and installing a generator into existing facilities. As such no community consultation for this element is proposed.

### Related Projects

67. Subject to Government approval of the following capabilities, additional facilities and/or infrastructure are expected to be required at RAAF Base Edinburgh:
- a. The approved AIR7000 Phase 1 Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (High Altitude Long Endurance MQ-4C Triton) project.
  - b. The proposed AIR555 Phase 1 Initial Operating Facility is expected to transition to a Data Hub under a proposed Joint Communications Project.
  - c. The proposed RAAF Base Edinburgh Mid Term Refresh and Elizabeth North Relocation Projects. The Mid Term Refresh Project will rectify some known in ground services problems that are Base wide.
  - d. The proposed AIR7003 Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (Medium Altitude Long Endurance MQ-9B Sky Guardian) project that may be delivered in close vicinity to the Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance Precinct.
  - e. The proposed AIR3503 – Distributed Ground Station Australia project that may be delivered as a component of the Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Precinct
68. These proposals have been considered against the Base’s master planning and services infrastructure solutions to enable future shared uses, and to be integrated for efficient operations.

## **Cost Effectiveness and Public Value**

### **Project Costs**

69. The estimated total capital out-turned cost of the Project is \$293.65 million (excluding Goods and Services Tax). This encompasses project management, contract management and design fees; other professional services fees related to the design or construction activities; construction costs; active information and communications technology; furniture, fittings and equipment costs; and provisions for risk and escalation.

70. An increase in annual future sustainment costs by \$8.45 million is expected because of the proposed works. This is due to the additional maintenance, cleaning and utilities expenses that will be required to operate the additional facilities and infrastructure.

### **Project Delivery System**

71. A Project Manager and Contract Administrator will be appointed to manage the delivery phase of the Project.

72. Subject to Parliamentary approval, a Managing Contractor form of contract is planned to deliver the works at Main Operating Base RAAF Base Edinburgh. The Managing Contractor will complete design development, procure trade contractors and manage the construction of the works.

73. The Managing Contractor form of delivery provides the Commonwealth with buildability input into the design and ensures commonality across the various sites. This form of contract is more suitable for the larger complex design projects and was chosen early in the design phase with the Managing Contractor responsible for design development from 5% to 100%. This is expected to promote opportunities for small to medium enterprises by sub-contracting design and construction trade packages.

74. A Head Contractor form of contract is planned to deliver (construct) the works at both Forward Operating Bases (RAAF Base Townsville and Cocos (Keeling) Islands). A Managing Contractor will be appointed to complete design development in parallel with the RAAF Base Edinburgh works. At the completion of the design development, the design shall be novated back to Defence and be managed by appointed Project Manager/Contract Administrators on behalf of Defence through construction delivery.

75. The Head Contractor form of delivery is generally is an appropriate method for dealing with smaller less complicated sites and allows more opportunity for small and medium contractors from local communities to bid on the works packages.

### Construction Program

76. Design activities are expected to be completed under a staged program from mid 2020 to late 2020. Subject to Parliamentary approval, construction is expected to commence from mid 2020 and be completed by mid 2024.

### Public Value

77. Defence has comprehensively assessed public value, opportunities and benefit to the community because of the proposed works to:

- a. **Meet capability needs:** The AIR555 Phase 1 Capability Project aims to address requirements highlighted in the 2016 Defence White Paper by introducing the Peregrine capability into the Royal Australian Air Force. The Project proposes to provide the facilities and infrastructure to support this capability.
- b. **Employment opportunities:** The Project anticipates employing up to 550 personnel through the life of the project over various sites. This includes an average construction workforce of approximately 200 personnel.
- c. **Economic impacts:** The Project will employ a diverse range of consultants, contractors and construction workers, and is expected to generate opportunities for up-skilling and job training to improve individual skills and employability on future projects.
- d. **Local industry and Indigenous business involvement opportunities:** The Project anticipates providing local businesses with opportunities, including indigenous businesses, to supply construction materials and labour. This is expected to boost local economies. Defence, the Managing Contractor and Head Contractors will actively promote opportunities for small to medium local enterprises through construction trade packages, and there may be opportunities for indigenous business involvements in accordance with the Indigenous Procurement Policy. Works to be undertaken must comply with the Government Policy for Local Industry Participation which requires successful tenderers to

provide detailed commitments on how they will utilise and develop Australian industry. These commitments will become contract deliverables and successful tenderers will be required to report on their performance against them. While the policy does not mandate or preference local suppliers, there are expected to be opportunities to engage local industry associated with the Project sites.

- e. **Existing infrastructure services:** Due to the nature of the Project, this is not applicable as the works will connect into existing on-site infrastructure services.

### Below the Line Items

78. The facilities and infrastructure elements listed below have not been included in the Project scope being proposed in this Statement of Evidence. These have been identified and approved for delivery but are unable to be funded within the project's \$293.65 million budget. However, should funds become available within the budget, for example through competitive tendering or retired risk provisions, savings may be able to be allocated to these unfunded elements and enable them to be delivered.

#### **Below the Line Items**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Project Element</b>	<b>Description</b>
RAAF Base Edinburgh (SA)	Peregrine Flight Simulator Building	The requirement for a simulator facility is being investigated by Air Force
RAAF Base Edinburgh (SA)	Second Peregrine Hangar	Dependent upon efficiencies being found provide a second Peregrine operational maintenance hangar on the apron adjacent to the First Peregrine hangar
RAAF Base Edinburgh (SA)	Peregrine Aircraft Shelter	Dependant on efficiencies being found provide a Peregrine aircraft shelter on the apron adjacent to the First Peregrine hangar (in lieu of a Second hangar)

### Revenue

79. No revenue is expected to be derived from the Project.



## Attachments

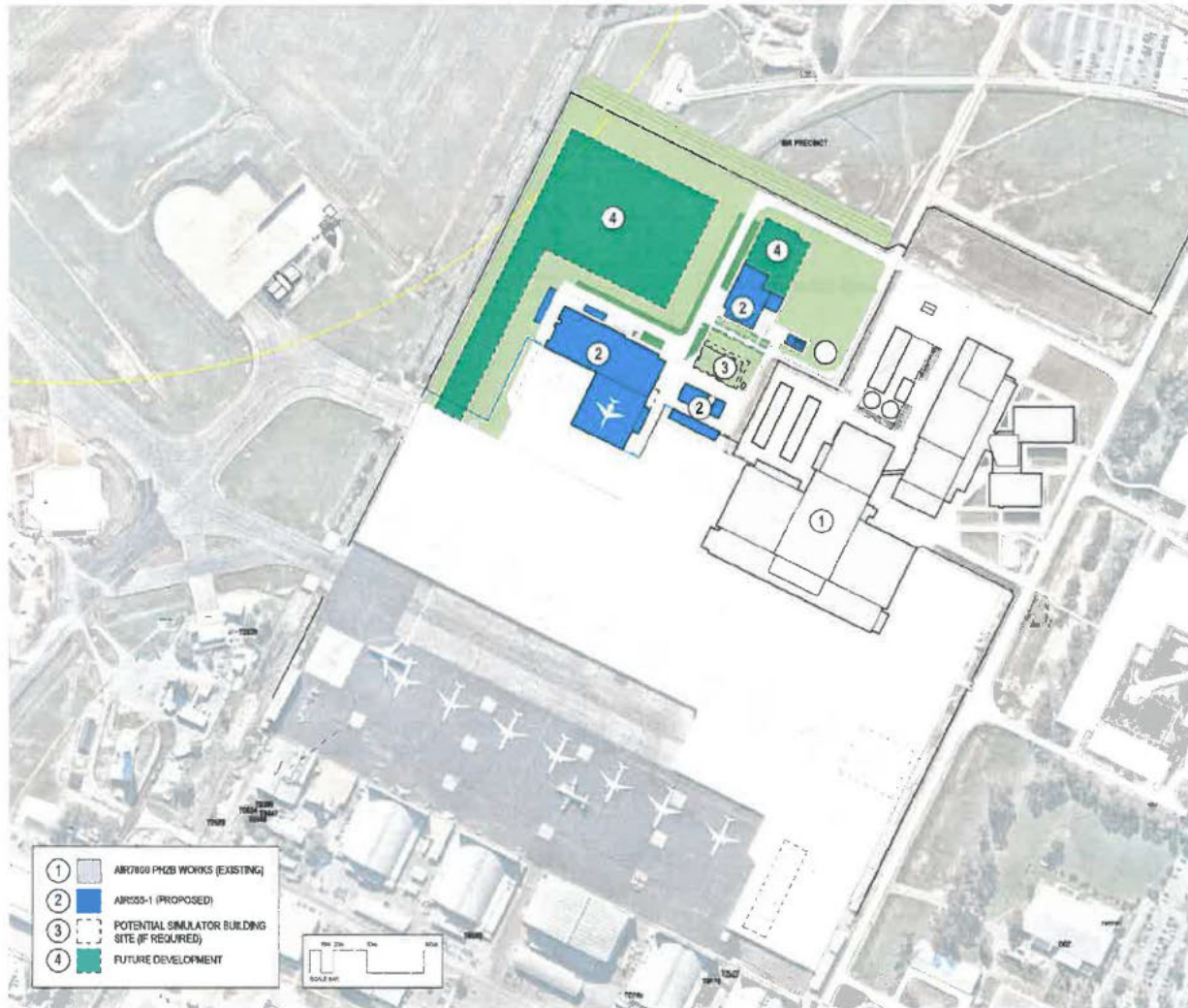
1. Location of Project Works – Distribution across Australia and Indo Pacific Region
2. Existing & Proposed Extension of ISR Precinct Plan, RAAF Base Edinburgh, SA
3. MC-55A Peregrine Proposed Facilities – Site Plan – RAAF Base Edinburgh, SA
4. MC-55A Peregrine Proposed Facilities –3D render – RAAF Base Edinburgh, SA
5. MC-55A Peregrine Proposed Facilities – Site Plan – RAAF Base Townsville, QLD
6. MC-55A Peregrine Proposed Facilities – Site Plan – Cocos (Keeling) Islands



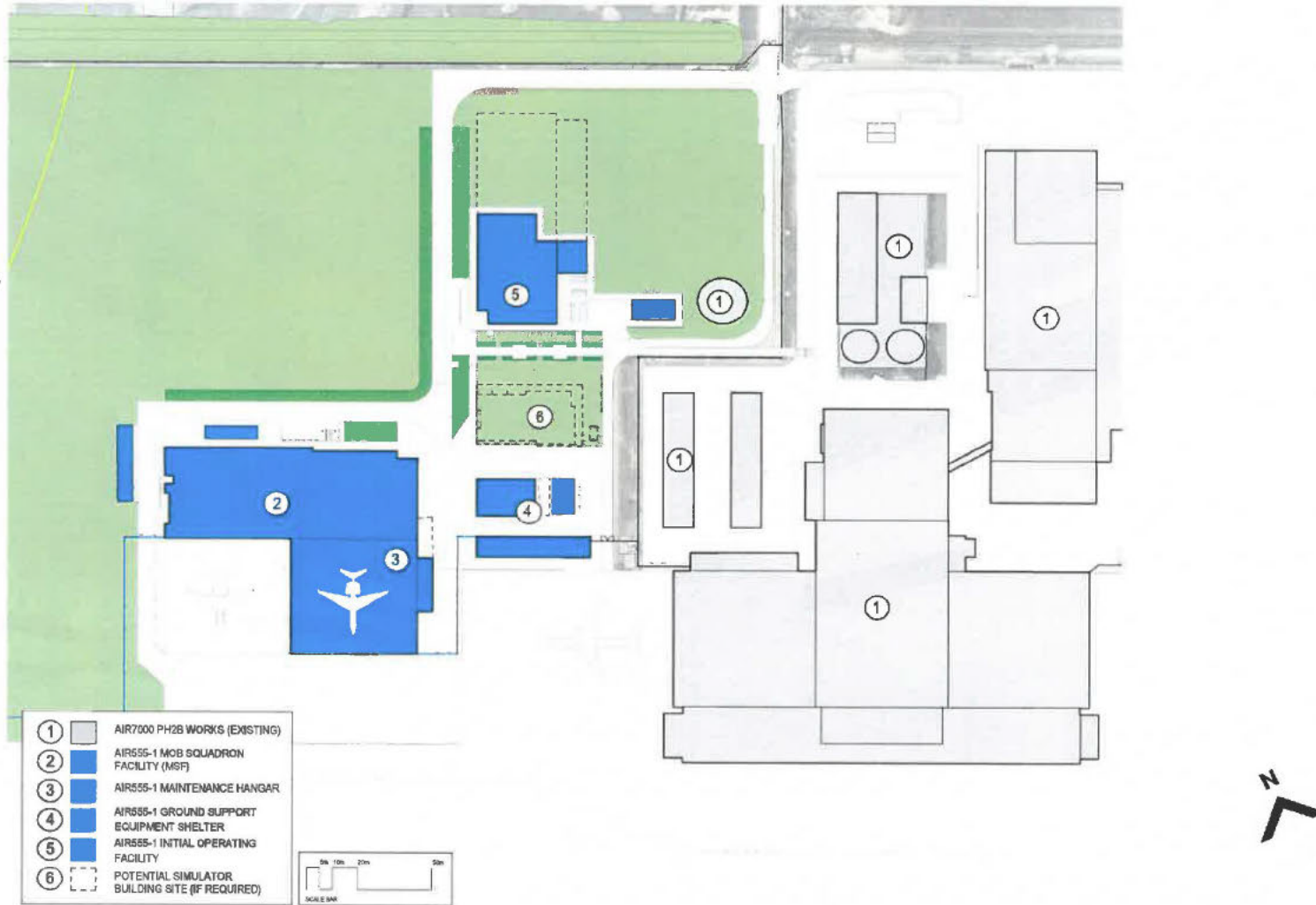
**Attachment 1** Location of Project Works – Distribution across Australia and Indo Pacific Region



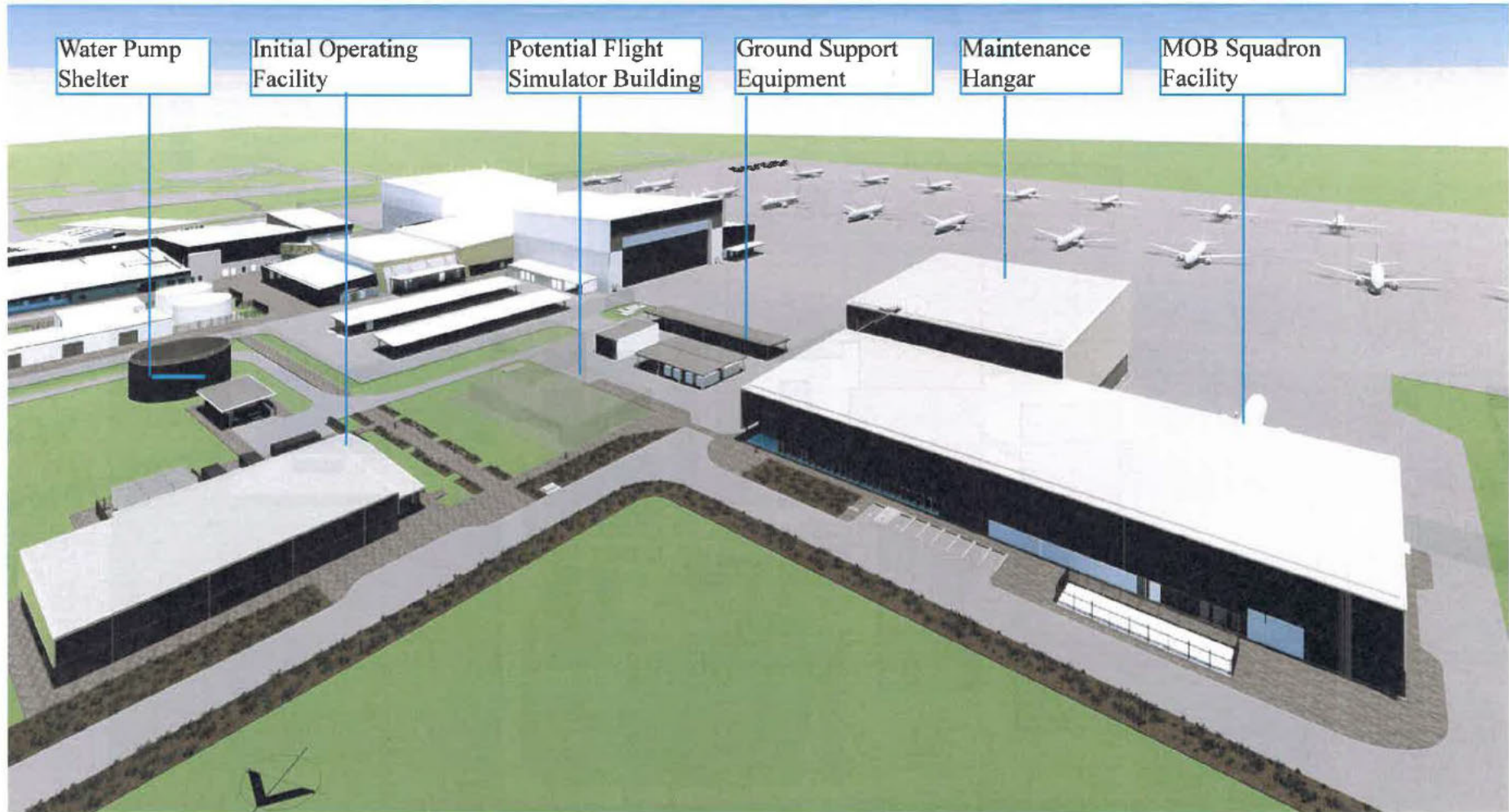
Attachment 2 Existing & Proposed Extension of ISR Precinct Plan, RAAF Base Edinburgh, SA



**Attachment 3** MC-55A Peregrine Proposed Facilities - Site Plan - RAAF Base Edinburgh, SA



Attachment 4 MC-55A Peregrine Proposed Facilities - 3D Render - RAAF Base Edinburgh, SA



Attachment 5 MC-55A Peregrine Proposed Facilities - Site Plan - RAAF Base Townsville, QLD



Attachment 6 MC-55A Peregrine Proposed Facilities - Site Plan - Cocos (Keeling) Islands

