

## **Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade**

### **Parliamentary inquiry – Inquiry into the Impact of Defence Activities and Training Areas on Rural and Regional Communities**

#### **ANSWER TO QUESTION SENT THROUGH IN ADVANCE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

##### **Department of Defence**

**Topic:** SSCFADT – Questions in advance of public hearing on impact of Defence training activities and facilities on rural and regional communities – 1.22 - The Committee

**Question reference number:** 1.22

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 19 March 2018

##### **Question:**

In Bendigo, local council representatives explained that Defence is represented on the council's emergency management committee and that this is a positive example of consultation and communication between Defence, local government and the community.

- Could the consultation forum used for emergency management be used as a model for broader engagement with the community?
- What can Defence do to improve the information flow to local businesses?

##### **Answer:**

Defence recognises that each local community is unique, and that the level and nature of Defence engagement with a local community varies from base-to-base. It would not be possible to address all aspects of defence engagement through a single mechanism with each local community. Instead, Defence has many different arrangements, guided by Defence and the local community's needs, to engage local areas.

Defence engages continually with local communities where there is a Defence presence and uses direct engagement, utilises existing functions of local, state and territory governments, industry peak bodies and Tier 1 contractors more broadly to provide information. Mechanisms such as the Centre for Defence Industry Capability have been established to provide a source of information for businesses across Australia about potential procurement opportunities.