



**SELENAUIBO** MLA  
Member for Arnhem



29 August 2022

To Chair of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works Mr Graham Perrett MP,

**Submission to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works regarding the 'AIR7000 Phase 1B Remotely Piloted Aircraft System Facilities Project'**

I am writing as the Local Member for the Northern Territory Electorate division of Arnhem which encompasses RAAF Base Tindal in the electoral boundary.

I have received a briefing by representatives of the Australian Defence Force on the Phase 1B Project and have been comfortable with the information provided regarding the anticipated infrastructure to works to support the introduction into service of the MQ-4C Triton aircraft system (Triton). I note that the Project will be delivered at two Defence sites being RAAF Base Edinburgh (SA) and RAAF Base Tindal (NT) and that the proposal includes opportunities for Indigenous business involvement in accordance with the Government's Indigenous Procurement Policy.

I note that Defence anticipates that, over the life of the Project, approximately 1,150 personnel will be provided with employment opportunities across both RAAF sites. I am writing to encourage the Committee to consider the impact of the RAAF Base Tindal component of the Project on the local township of Katherine. The main points I would ask the Committee to consider is the support that the Project can offer in regards to alleviating the pressures on housing. The Big Rivers region has been experiencing growth and in particular Katherine as the main service hub for the Big Rivers region has been struggling with sufficient housing right across the public, private and industry housing needs.

The Northern Territory Government (NTG) and Australian Government recently announced the Katherine East serviced superlot subdivision which is a staged project to create and service 6 superlot subdivision parcels, including streets and public areas. It will create the potential future provision of around 300 residential lots in Katherine East after completion. It is envisioned that these works will also enable potential future development of a neighbourhood centre, which can include a mix of retail, commercial and residential land uses. I have attached the NTG fact sheet to my submission and further information can be located at: <https://dipl.nt.gov.au/projects/supporting-growth-in-katherine-east>  
[Supporting Growth in Katherine East | Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics](#)

I understand that the Committee has specific terms of reference to adhere to and it is my intention through this brief submission to encourage the attention on Defence projects and the potential impact on the surrounding and wider community or region. I support and view this Project as a positive one however as Local Member and a Katherine resident myself I am unclear of what direct community infrastructure benefit could be generated directly through the Project proposal.

Yours sincerely,



**Selena Uibo MLA**  
Member for Arnhem