Air Commodore Ron Tilley
Director General
Capital Facilities and Infrastructure
Brindabella Business Park

Mr Graham Perrett MP

Chair Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works Parliament House CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Perrett

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT GUIDED WEAPONS EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE STORAGE PROGRAM TRANCHE 2

- 1. The Guided Weapons Explosive Ordnance Storage Program Tranche 2 Project was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on 1 July 2024. The project proposes to deliver new and upgraded facilities and infrastructure at Defence Establishment Orchard Hills, New South Wales.
- 2. This report is to inform the Committee of the nature and extent of community consultation that has been undertaken by the Department of Defence for the 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 regarding the project so that, wherever feasible, Defence can address these in its proposed works.
- 3. The following stakeholder and community consultation activities have been delivered in accordance with the project's comprehensive community engagement strategy:
- a. Community information sessions were advertised in relevant local newspapers, in Sydney and the Penrith region, and were held in Claremont Meadows on 3 July 2024. These details are included in the example advertisement at **Annex A**.
- b. The type of information Defence presented to the public is shown at **Annex B**, and the level of attendance is provided at **Annex C**.
- c. Key stakeholders, including Federal, State and Local Members of Government, and local community, Local Indigenous Communities and business groups were invited to receive a personal briefing about the project. An example of the

invitation that was sent out is at **Annex D**, and a list of all stakeholders engaged by Defence, including the status of each engagement, is at **Annex E**.

- d. A project webpage and email address have been set up to receive submissions and questions about the project. These details are at **Annex F**.
- 4. Information about the proposed works was generally well received at the community information sessions and feedback to date has been supportive. A summary of topics and key issues raised during community information sessions and via the project email address is provided at **Annex G.**
- 5. Comments raised by members of the community focused on:
- a. increased demolitions, disposal and testing at Defence Establishment Orchard Hills;
- b. explosive ordnance safeguarding arcs;
- c. impact to the proposed re-zoning of the surrounding areas;
- d. impact on local roads and traffic from the proposed works and base access; and
- e. the new Western Sydney Airport and any potential impacts of new flight paths on the proposed works.
- 6. Consultation activities have concluded. Defence will provide briefings 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

27 August 2024

Annexes:

- A. Newspaper Advertisements
- B. Examples of Community Information Session Resources (Information Boards)
- C. Community Information Session Attendance and Summary
- D. Example of Letter to Key Stakeholders
- E. Status of Key Stakeholder Communication
- F. Project Webpage and Email Address
- G. Summary of Topics and Key Issues Raised during Consultation

Annex A

NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS

Location	Publication	Dates Published
Sydney and New South Wales	The Daily Telegraph	19 June 2024
Western Sydney	Blue Mountains Gazette	19 June 2024
Penrith Local Government Area	The Western Weekender	21 June 2024 edition*

^{*}The Western Weekender is published weekly, which is why the advertisement was placed in the 21 June 2024 edition.

EXAMPLE OF NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT



NOTICE OF COMMUNITY INFORMATION FORUM

The Department of Defence will conduct a community information forum to outline a proposed infrastructure project at Defence Establishment Orchard Hills under the Guided Weapons Explosive Ordnance Storage Program. The project is subject to Parliamentary approval.

The aim of the project is to expand explosive ordnance storage and non-explosive goods storage at Defence Establishment Orchard Hills through the provision of new purpose designed explosive ordnance storage facilities and associated infrastructure upgrades, including base roads, power, and water. If approved, construction will commence in early 2025.

Information and displays outlining the proposed works will be available at the forum. Representatives from the Department of Defence will be available to answer questions.

Further information is available at:

www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Public_Works

When: Wednesday 3 July 2024

Time: 10am-12pm & 1pm-5pm

Where: Claremont Meadows Community Centre, NSW

Annex B

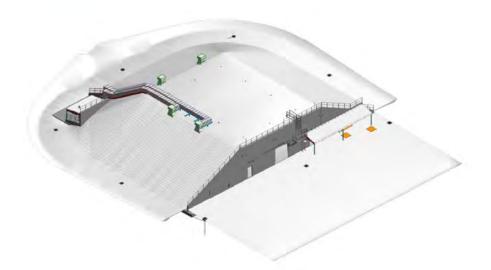
EXAMPLES OF COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION RESOURCES INFORMATION BOARD PRESENTATION



Defence Establishment Orchard Hills

Earth Covered Building Design





Earth Covered Buildings

Earth Covered Buildings (ECB) are designed to store Explosive Ordnance in a safe environment that provides protection to surrounding facilities. GWEO SP shall provide Defence Establishment Orchard Hills with 14 new ECBs to support the Australian Defence Force's Strategic Capabilities.





Guided Weapons Explosive Ordnance Storage Program Tranche 2

Defence Establishment Orchard Hills

Non-Explosive Stores (NEDG Stores)





Non-Explosive Dangerous Goods Stores

GWEO SP shall provide Defence Establishment Orchard Hills with two new Non-Explosive Dangerous Goods (NEDG) Stores. These buildings are large warehouse structures designed to store small quantities of dangerous goods.





Guided Weapons Explosive Ordnance Storage Program Tranche 2

Defence Establishment Orchard Hills

Non-Explosive Ordnance Store



Material Handling Equipment Store



Non-Explosive Ordnance & Material Handling Equipment Stores

GWEO SP shall provide Defence Establishment Orchard Hills with a new Non-Explosive Ordnance (NEOS) Store designed to store general non-explosive items, and a Material Handling Equipment (MHE) Store designed for storage of up to two forklifts used in the daily operations of loading and unloading procedures.

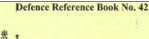


INFORMATION FLYERS

A public information brochure was distributed to community members during the community information sessions. These brochures provided useful information surrounding safeguarding for explosive ordnance facilities for the attendees. Webpage links and contact details were also provided.

The following brochure was produced:

Department of Defence Safeguarding Maps for Explosive Facilities, Public Information **Brochure**





DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

SAFEGUARDING MAPS FOR **EXPLOSIVE FACILITIES**



A Public Information Brochure

SAFEGUARDING MAPS FOR EXPLOSIVES FACILITIES

Introduction

As part of their activities, the Department of Defence store and handle explosives. These explosives are primarily stored in purpose built facilities, located at storage depots, bases, armament wharves and research establishments.

Explosive ordnance storage and handling facilities attract a high level of investment. Therefore, it is important to protect the longterm viability of these facilities from the adverse effects of incompatible development of adjacent land. This is achieved through a process known as safeguarding.

Safety Principles

In the 1970s, the United Nations (UN) recommended changes to procedures for classifying and transporting a wide range of dangerous goods, including explosives. These UN recommendations have now been adopted internationally. As a consequence, the nations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) developed explosives storage and handling principles to incorporate the requirements of the UN system. The principles have been tested by large-scale trials, some of which were conducted in Australia and are constantly under review. These NATO storage and handling procedures, along with the UN system, form the basis of current Department of Defence explosives safety procedures.

Public Consultation

Safeguarding is, in the first instance, a consultative process intended to ensure that local planning authorities and landowners affected by an explosives licence are aware of the Department of Defence's need to protect the utility of the licensed facility. It is, however, Department of Defence policy to obtain adequate control over land that is affected by explosive licences. Where control is required over land that is not owned by the Commonwealth, the Department of Defence may seek to impose restrictions on developments allowed in those areas through local planning authorities.

In the event of incompatible developments being approved, the implications for public safety would require the Department of Defence to modify or reduce its operational capability. In severe cases this may require the Department of Defence to relocate some or all of its activities to a less restrictive site,

Sufeguarding lines

To assist in development planning on and around Department of Defence land, three safeguarding lines have been defined. These lines represent areas within which certain land uses may not be desirable or compatible with the storage of explosives. The three lines are defined as follows:

PURPLE SAFEGUARDING LINE

Defines the minimum distance large public buildings, where many people may congregate, or major community amenities, must be sited from explosive facilities. The following are examples of structures and facilities that the Department of Defence may not wish to see approved inside the Purple Line.

- major public structures or facilities of economic importance or of vulnerable construction, eg transportation terminals and telephone exchanges,
- major structures or facilities that attract large populations, eg multi-storey buildings, schools, hospitals, shopping centres, sports stadiums, and
- major public infrastructure which would cause considerable inconvenience to the general public if damaged, eg major bridges and dams.

3

YELLOW SAFEGUARDING LINE

Defines the minimum distance inhabited buildings, general community amenities or major traffic routes, must be sited from explosives facilities. The following are examples of structures and facilities that the Department of Defence may not wish to see approved inside the Yellow Line.

- the structures and facilities not permitted within the Purple Safeguarding Line,
- · residential housing and its associated services,
- major public roads and railways,
- · major electrical transmission lines.
- places where people permanently or temporarily assemble eg golf or tennis clubhouses and churches, and
- facilities which serve the needs of the general public, eg water, gas and electricity installations.

GREEN SAFEGUARDING LINE

Defines the minimum distance public recreation areas must be sited from explosive facilities. The following are examples of structures and facilities that the Department of Defence may not wish to see approved inside the Green Line.

- the structures and facilities not permitted within the Purple and Yellow Safeguarding Lines,
- railroads and public roads of minor to medium importance, and
- 'open space' recreational areas to which members of the general public have uncontrolled access.

Safeguarding Maps

To further assist development planning, the Department of Defence produces Safeguarding Maps for distribution to appropriate land planning authorities upon request. These maps show the three safeguarding lines. Publicly distributed maps may only show where the lines extend beyond the Department of Defence property boundary.

It is Department of Defence policy to contain yellow and green lines within its own property boundaries. Where possible, the Department of Defence also aims to contain the purple line within its property boundary. Figure 1 shows an example safeguarding map and the three safeguarding lines.



Further Information

It is recommended that where changes in zoning and planning schemes are proposed or where approval is being sought for additional structures, buildings, public facilities or engineering works within the Department of Defence facility's Safeguarding Lines, consultations should be held with:

Director Risk Management Infrastructure Division Corporate Services and Infrastructure Group Department of Defence Brindabella Business Park (BP-2-B016) Canberra ACT 2600

Telephone (02) 6266 8056 Facsimile (02) 6266 8166

Annex C

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION ATTENDANCE AND SUMMARY

Details

Two Community Information sessions were held on 3 July 2024 at the Claremont Meadows Community Centre, 172-180 Sunflower Dr, Claremont Meadows, NSW. The sessions were held at 10:00am to 12:00pm and 1:00pm to 5:00pm.

Resources

- Materials on display included the information boards shown at Annex B.
- The Defence Consultation Team included members from:
 - Defence's Project Delivery Team
 - Consultant Project Management Team
 - Explosives Ordnance Branch

Attendance

Number of attendees	Interest Group	
Session 1 – Claremont Meadows Community Centre – 10:00am to 12:00pm		
9	Local Residents	
2	Local Government	
1	Local media	
Total: 12		
Session 2 – Claremont Meadows Community Centre – 1:00pm to 5:00pm		
7	Local Residents	
0	Local Government	
Total: 7		

Key points raised during the community information sessions included:

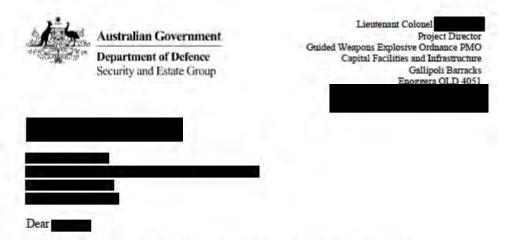
- Increased demolitions and disposal; with Defence advising these activities will not be impacted by the project.
- Increased testing, with Defence advising no live testing undertaken on base.
- Expansion of Explosive Ordnance safeguarding arcs; with Defence advising the existing Explosive Ordnance safeguarding arcs will not be impacted by the project.
- Impact to the proposed re-zoning of the surrounding area; with Defence advising the project does not represent a change to the existing base operations or conditions.
- Impact on the local roads and traffic from the project works and Base access; with Defence advising traffic management will be addressed under the Contractor's Traffic Management Plan.
- Impact on Western Sydney Airport flightpaths; with Defence advising Western Sydney Airport is aware of Base operations and the project will not impact on existing operations.

Further information is detailed in Annex G.

Annex D

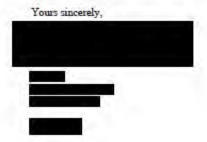
EXAMPLE OF LETTER TO KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Invitations for personal briefings were sent out to the Mayor, State and Federal Members, Local Indigenous Organisations in Orchard Hills. An example of an invitation sent to key stakeholders is provided below.



ESTJP2093PH1 GUIDED WEAPONS EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE STORAGE PROGRAM TRANCHE 2

- On behalf of the Department of Defence, I would like to inform you of works proposed at Defence Establishment Orchard Hills in New South Wales under the Guided Weapons Explosive Ordnance Storage Program Tranche 2 project, which is subject to parliamentary approval.
- Defence Establishment Orchard Hills is an enduring site for Defence and provides explosive
 ordnance storage, maintenance and distribution services. It is also Defence's primary explosive
 ordnance training facility in the safe handling, storage, maintenance and disposal of explosive
 ordnance.
- The proposed works at Defence Establishment Orchard Hills will meet Guided Weapons and Explosive Ordnance storage requirements through the provision of new purpose designed explosive ordnance storage facilities and associated infrastructure upgrades, including base roads, power, and water.
- 4. Subject to Parliamentary Approval, the works are proposed to commence in early 2025. The Project will promote opportunities for small and medium local enterprises through construction trade packages, and provide employment opportunities in the Western Sydney region. There will also be opportunities for Indigenous businesses to be involved in the Project, in accordance with the Government's Indigenous Procurement Policy.
- The Department of Defence is seeking a referral of the project to the Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Public Works for consideration in the third quarter 2024 and expect that the Committee will arrange for a Public Hearing. Those details will be advised once confirmed.
- If you or your staff would like to be given a briefing, have any questions, or would like to discuss the project please contact the Project Manager / Contract Administrator Emma Abberton via email at



Annex E

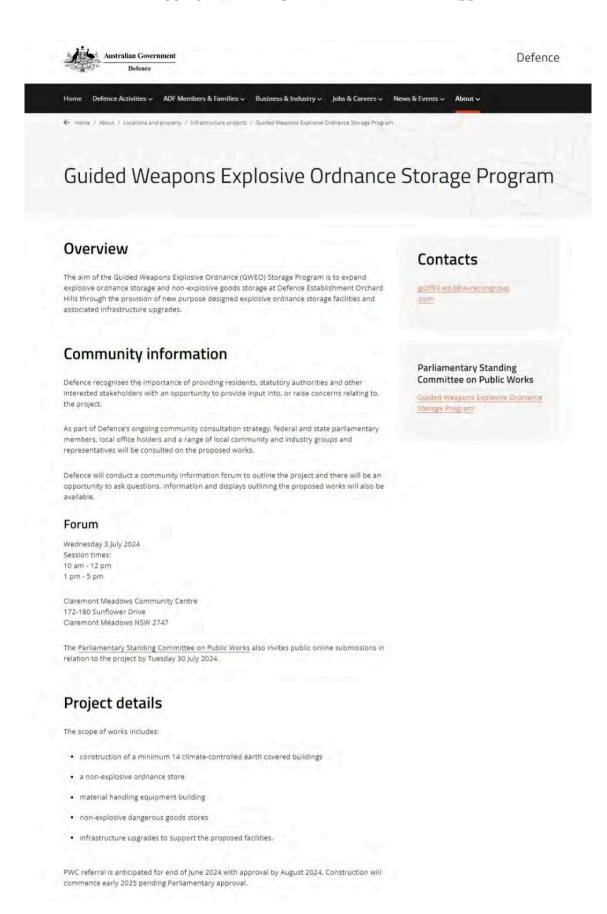
STATUS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS

ORGANISATION AND MEMBER	NOTES	
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT		
	12 June 2024. Defence posted a letter to Mrs McIntosh, providing project information, contact details and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.	
	26 June 2024. Defence followed up via an email to Mrs McIntosh and provided details of the community information sessions.	
Mrs Melissa McIntosh MP Federal Member for Lindsay	3 July 2024. Mr Kalvin Biag attended the community information session on behalf of Mrs McIntosh. No initial questions were raised.	
	22 July 2024. Joint Briefing with Explosive Ordnance Facilities Northern NSW Redevelopment project. Mrs McIntosh was supportive of the project. Questions were raised regarding the community engagement, impacts of the airport, the scope and requested information on the environmental offset area.	
STATE/TERRITORY GOV	ERNMENT	
Mrs Tanya Davies MP State Member for Badgerys Creek	12 June 2024. Defence posted a letter to Mrs Davies, providing project information, contact details and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.	
	26 June 2024. Defence followed up via an email to Mrs Davies and provided details of the community information sessions.	
	A response has not yet been received.	
LOCAL GOVERNMENT		
Councillor Todd Carney Penrith City Mayor	12 June 2024. Defence posted a letter to Mr Carney, providing project information, contact details and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.	
	26 June 2024. Defence followed up via an email to Mr Carney and provided details of the community information sessions.	
	5 August 2024. Joint Briefing with Explosive Ordnance Facilities Northern NSW Redevelopment Project. Mr Carney queried the outcome of the community consultation session and sought to understand the explosive ordnance safeguarding arc limitations on the surrounding community. Mr Carney expressed satisfaction with the responses provided by Defence.	
Councillor Sue Day Penrith Councillor	3 July 2024. Ms Day attended the community information session. Defence followed up via an email to Ms Day, providing project information, contact details and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.	
	Ms Day did not request a briefing but passed on the information to Mr Todd Carney, the Penrith City Mayor, who was provided a briefing.	

ORGANISATION AND MEMBER	NOTES
COMMUNITY AND BUSIN	ESS GROUP
Mr Richard Fox Penrith Valley Chamber of Commerce	12 June 2024. Defence posted a letter to Mr Fox, providing project information, contact details and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.
	26 June 2024. Defence followed up via an email to Mr Fox and provided details of the community information session.
	A response has not yet been received.
Ms Kate Robinson Orchard Hills Community Consultative Committee	3 July 2024. A representative from the Orchard Hills Community Consultative Committee attended the community information session advising the existence of the committee. Defence followed up via an email to Ms Kate Robinson.
	3 July 2024. Ms Robinson requested further information regarding the project to address community questions issued to her committee. Defence provided Ms Robinson with the PWC Project website to download the submission. Defence is still to confirm whether this has answered all of Ms Robinson questions or if she requires additional information.
Ms Corina Wayali Norman Cultural Consultant Darug Ngurra Aboriginal Corporation	12 June 2024. Defence posted a letter to Ms Norman providing project information, contact details and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.
	26 June 2024. Defence followed up via an email to Ms Norman and provided details of the community information sessions.
	A response has not yet been received.
Mr Athol Smith Chair, Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council	12 June 2024. Defence posted a letter to Mr Smith providing project information, contact details and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.
	26 June 2024. Defence followed up via an email to Mr Smith and provided details of the community information sessions.
	A response has not yet been received.

Annex F

PROJECT WEBPAGE AND EMAIL ADDRESS



Annex G

SUMMARY OF TOPICS AND KEY ISSUES RAISED DURING CONSULTATION

TOPIC	RAISED BY	DEFENCE RESPONSE
Increased demolitions and live	Local resident	The project team advised there is no
testing.		live testing conducted on base.
		Demolitions and activity in the
		training area will not increase as a
		result of the project.
Changes to the Explosive	Local resident	The project team advised there is no
Ordnance arcs.		change to the Explosive Ordnance
		safety arcs as a result of this project.
Impact to the urban development	Local resident	The project team advised that since
of the surrounding area.		there is no change to the Explosive
		Ordnance arcs, there will be no
		impact on future urban development
		as a result of this project.
Increase in traffic and local road	Local resident	The project team spoke to the
deterioration.		information boards at Annex B.
Increase quantity of explosives	Local resident	The project team advised that while
being stored on base.		the amount of Explosive Ordnance is
		increasing, there is no change to the
		safety arcs, hence there is no
		increased risk to the public.
Manufacturing of weapons at	Local resident	The project team spoke to the
Defence Establishment Orchard		information boards at Annex B. The
Hills.		project team advised that the project
		is for storage only.
Impact to local flight paths.	Local resident	The project team advised that there is
		no change to the Explosive Ordnance
		safety arcs.
Alternative siting options.	Local resident	The project team advised that the
		project will increase storage capacity
		at Defence Establishment Orchard
		Hills.
Impacts on environmental offset	Mrs Melissa	The offset area is still in place.
area due to the development.	McIntosh MP	Defence is in the process of
	Federal Member	requesting permission to have road
	for Lindsay	access through the offset area. There
		are guidelines on using the areas.
		Defence is managing the areas in line
		with the Offset Management Plan.
		(Following the meeting, Defence
		issued the guidelines link to the
		Member)
Amount of munitions coming to	Mrs Melissa	There will be more munitions coming
Orchard Hills.	McIntosh MP	to the Base, hence the need for
	Federal Member	expansion via the project. A number
	for Lindsay	of bases across Australia will be
		developed for additional storage.

TOPIC	RAISED BY	DEFENCE RESPONSE
Expansion of the Base – Is it standalone works or happening across the country.	Mrs Melissa McIntosh MP Federal Member for Lindsay	There is an increased storage for Defence that will be expanding over the next five years across the country. New storage areas are also being considered.
Would the project be impacted by the new airport works.	Mrs Melissa McIntosh MP Federal Member for Lindsay	The Western Sydney Airport was designed around the Base. The no-fly zones would still remain. The project will not be impacting or changing these guidelines in place.
Changes in safety arc.	Mrs Melissa McIntosh MP Federal Member for Lindsay	There are no changes in safety arc, despite increase in explosives stored on site.
Community engagement during the Project.	Mrs Melissa McIntosh MP Federal Member for Lindsay	Community consultation sessions were held earlier this year. The public was informed via newspaper advertising and a community consultation day was held, where public could ask questions. The Project is on the PWC website, and as a part of the process, the public have been engaged. The community is welcomed to make submissions online via the PWC website. Moreover, the PMCA have group mailbox. This information has been released to the public. Engagement with local council, local indigenous groups and NSW planning took place as well.
Why does Defence see this infrastructure project and upgrade of facilities as necessary? Is Defence increasing the amount of ordnance being stored at the Orchard Hills site, if so by how much?	Media Enquiry	The additional facilities at Defence Establishment Orchard Hills are required to support the acquisition and sustainment of increases in Guided Weapons and Explosive Ordnance required under the 2024 National Defence Strategy.
In January 2024 Lockheed Martin signed a \$37m contract with Defence for manufacturing Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System at the Orchard Hills site. Are the proposed upgrades being built to facilitate these domestically manufactured weapons?	Media Enquiry	The storage project at Defence Establishment Orchard Hills is not related to the Lockheed Martin contract for the domestic manufacture of weapons.

TOPIC	RAISED BY	DEFENCE RESPONSE
How will future residential developments planned for surrounding suburbs Glenmore Park and Orchard Hills be affected?	Media Enquiry	As the Explosive Ordnance safety arcs are not increasing there are no impacts to future planned residential developments.
What license does the establishment currently have in terms of ordnance storage? If the proposal is approved will the establishment have its license modified to increase a larger amount of ordnance?	Media Enquiry	The explosive storage area at Defence Establishment Orchard Hills is a COMCARE licensed Major Hazards Facility. In addition to COMCARE licensing requirements, Defence applies its own licensing requirements which are based on international best practice and derived from North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Quantity Distances criteria. The criteria outlines minimum distances between explosive storage buildings and outside quantity distances for separation to facilities outside of the Commonwealth Property Boundary. Defence Major Hazard Facilities licenses are routinely revised and updated as required.
Is it correct that the Sydney Water pipeline adjacent to the Orchard Hills Defence Establishment from Warragamba Dam is currently unprotected from explosion events?	Media Enquiry	As the Explosive Ordnance safety arcs are not increasing, there are no impacts to Sydney Water pipelines.
Does this pose a risk to Sydney's water supply?		
What are the potential consequences of having ordnance stored under the future flights of Western Sydney airport?	Media Enquiry	As the Explosive Ordnance safety arcs are not increasing there are no impacts to aircraft flying overhead.
Does the safety arc cover the school on the Northern side of the Base?	Penrith Council	No, the school buildings are not within the purple line (major buildings exclusion zone).
If an explosion takes place, which way would it go?	Penrith Council	The buildings are sited to minimise the impact. For an Earth Covered Building the door is the weakest point.
What questions were raised	Penrith Council	There were questions regarding the

G-4

TOPIC	RAISED BY	DEFENCE RESPONSE
during Community engagement?		increased explosive ordnance storage on Base. The Explosive Ordnance safety arcs are not changing, despite the increase in explosives storage. There were concerns on if the Projects would affect the future development of Orchard Hills by NSW Planning.
		Defence has been engaging with NSW Planning for a while on the development and as there are no changes in the Explosive Ordnance safety arcs, there is no impact in what NSW Planning proposes to do in the nearby areas. An expert from the Explosive Ordnance Storage branch was available at the Community Consultation and covered details regarding storage of explosives. Most public was reasonably happy; some are concerned about the storage of explosives on the Base.
Mr Todd Carney stated that no concerns were raised by the residents to the Council. There was a media report published, however, no reports were seen subsequently.	Penrith Council	Comment noted. There was engagement of the Public by the PWC as well, via the PWC website. Guided weapons project had four submissions, while this project had one submission. Most comments were about explosive ordnance storage. Defence was expecting that feedback at the commencement of the Project.