



Australian Government

Defence

Air Commodore Ron Tilley
Director General
Capital Facilities and Infrastructure
Brindabella Business Park [REDACTED]
PO Box 7925
CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

[REDACTED]

Mr Graham Perrett, MP

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

Dear Mr Perrett,

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT
FACILITIES TO SUPPORT IMPROVED EMBARKED LOGISTICS SUPPORT
HELICOPTER PROJECT**

1. The Facilities to Support Improved Embarked Logistics Support Helicopter Project was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on 20 August 2024. The project proposes to deliver facilities and infrastructure at:
 - a. HMAS *Albatross*, New South Wales; and
 - b. HMAS *Stirling*, Western Australia.
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 the 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 the 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 the Shoalhaven, New South Wales, and Rockingham, Western Australia, regions. Two community information sessions were held at the Fleet Air Arm Museum, Nowra Hill, New South Wales, on 1 August 2024. Details are included in the example advertisement at **Annex A**.
 - b. The type of information Defence presented to the public at the community information sessions is shown at **Annex B** and the level of attendance is 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 the project, including the status of each engagement, is at **Annex E**.
4. Information about the proposed works was generally well received at the community information sessions and feedback to date has been positive. Defence has not been made aware of any objections to the proposed works.
5. Comments raised by members of the community focused on:
 - a. existing noise pollution and impact of the project on aerodrome noise;
 - b. opportunities for local industry participation in the proposed works;
 - c. enquiries about the delivery program;
 - d. interest around the helicopter capability and the role it plays in the Royal Australian Navy; and
 - e. interest regarding personnel increases to support the project.
6. A summary of topics and key issues raised during the community information sessions is at **Annex F**.
7. Consultation activities have concluded. Defence will provide briefings to Federal, State and Local Members of Government contacted during the consultation should they request one.

Yours sincerely,

RM Tilley
Air Commodore
Director General Capital Facilities and Infrastructure

20 September 2024

Annexes:

- A. Newspaper Advertisements
- B. Examples of Community Information Session Resources
- C. Community Information Session Attendance and Summary
- D. Example of Letter of Invitation to Key Stakeholders
- E. Status of Key Stakeholder Communications
- F. Summary of Topics and Key Issues Raised during Consultation

NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS

Location	Publication	Dates Published
City of Rockingham, WA	Sound Telegraph	17 July 2024
City of Mandurah, WA	Mandurah Times	17 July 2024
NSW South Coast Region (Distributed from Gerringong to Sussex Inlet)	South Coast Register	17 July 2024
Regional New South Wales, Metropolitan Sydney and Australian Capital Territory	Sydney Morning Herald	17 July 2024

EXAMPLE OF NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS

Publications Displayed in the Sound Telegraph and Mandurah Times


Australian Government
 Department of Defence

Notice of Community Consultation Opportunity
Facilities to Support Improved Embarked Logistics Support Helicopters

The Department of Defence is proposing Facilities to Support Improved Embarked Logistics Support Helicopters at The Royal Australian Navy base HMAS *Stirling*. The works being proposed are to support the integration, operation, and sustainment of twelve additional MH-60R Seahawk (Romeo) helicopters.

These works involve construction of new facilities and upgrades to existing infrastructure including:

- The construction of a new manual handling equipment shelter for aircraft work platforms and tow motors.
- Providing four additional work-points and helicopter power converters to the existing hangars.

Community Input

If you would like more information on this Project, please visit <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/infrastructure-projects>

Should you have any questions, you can contact the Project Team via email at: PJ1805@rpsgroup.com.au

Publication displayed in the South Coast Register and the Sydney Morning Herald



Australian Government
Department of Defence

Notice of Community Information Sessions

Facilities to Support Improved Embarked Logistics Support Helicopters

The Department of Defence is proposing Facilities to Support Improved Embarked Logistics Support Helicopters at The Royal Australian Navy base HMAS Albatross. The works being proposed are to support the integration, operation, and sustainment of twelve additional MH-60R Seahawk (Romeo) helicopters.

These works involve construction of new facilities and upgrades to existing infrastructure including:

- Permanent operational squadron facilities to maintain up to twelve Romeo helicopters and the associated workforce, support equipment and supplies;
- Major civil and infrastructure works to support the integration of the new Squadron facilities into the existing Romeo precinct including extension of the existing carpark; and
- An extension to the existing Seahawk Simulation and Warfare Centre to house an additional training simulator.

Community Information Sessions

You are invited to attend the following community information sessions:

Date:	Time:	Location:
Thursday 01 August 2024	11:00am – 1:00pm and 5:00pm – 7:00pm (AEST)	Fleet Air Arm Museum 489A Albatross Rd, Nowra Hill NSW 2540

Representatives from the Department of Defence will be available at the sessions to answer your questions.

If you would like more information on this Project, please visit
<https://www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/infrastructure-projects>

Alternatively, you can contact the Project Team via email at:
PJ1805@rpsgroup.com.au

EXAMPLES OF COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION RESOURCES (PROJECT WEBSITE AND EMAIL ADDRESS)

A webpage for the Facilities to Support Improved Embarked Logistics Support Helicopter Project was established on the Department of Defence website. The webpage is available at <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/infrastructure-projects/facilities-support-improved-embark-logistics-support-helicopter>. The webpage presents an overview of the project, a project timeline, information regarding local industry engagement and the details for the community information sessions in Nowra. The website was visited 54 times between 9 July 2024 when the website was published and 14 August 2024.

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Department of Defence website, including links for DEFENCE, MINISTERS, NAVY, ARMY, and AIR FORCE. Below this is the Australian Government logo and the Defence logo. The main navigation bar includes links for Home, Defence Activities, ADF Members & Families, Business & Industry, Jobs & Careers, News & Events, and About. The breadcrumb trail reads: Home / About / Locations and property / Infrastructure projects / Facilities to Support Improved Embarked Logistics Support Helicopter. The main heading is "Facilities to Support Improved Embarked Logistics Support Helicopter".

Overview

The proposed Facilities to Support Improved Embarked Logistics Support Helicopter aims to provide new and upgraded facilities and infrastructure at the Royal Australian Navy base HMAS Albatross (Nowra, NSW) and HMAS Stirling (Garden Island, WA).

The works being proposed are to support the integration, operation, and sustainment of 12 additional MH-60R Seahawk (Romeo) helicopters to replace its fleet of 6 MRH-90 Taipan logistics support helicopters.

The project received 2 Minister approvals on 11 May 2023.

Community information

Defence is committed to providing the community with accessible and transparent information about the project and will provide opportunities to offer feedback. Defence recognises the importance of consulting with local residents, statutory authorities and other interested stakeholders on the project.

The project is anticipated to be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC) in August 2024.

Contacts

pj1805@rpsgroup.com.au

EXAMPLE OF LETTER BOX DROP MATERIAL

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



Notice of Community Information Sessions

Facilities to Support Improved Embarked Logistics Support Helicopters (HMAS Albatross)

The Department of Defence is holding community information sessions to outline the upcoming proposed works at HMAS Albatross.

These works involve construction of new facilities and upgrades to existing infrastructure including:

- Permanent operational squadron facilities to maintain up to twelve Romeo helicopters and the associated workforce, support equipment and supplies
- Major civil and infrastructure works to support the integration of the new squadron facilities into the existing Romeo precinct including extension of the existing carpark
- An extension to the existing Seahawk Simulation and Warfare Centre to house an additional training simulator.

To find out more, you are invited to attend the following community information session:

Date	Time	Location
Thursday 01 August 2024	11am – 1:00pm and 5pm – 7pm (AEST)	Fleet Air Arm Museum 489A Albatross Rd, Nowra Hill NSW 2540

Representatives from the Department of Defence will be available at the community sessions to answer your questions.

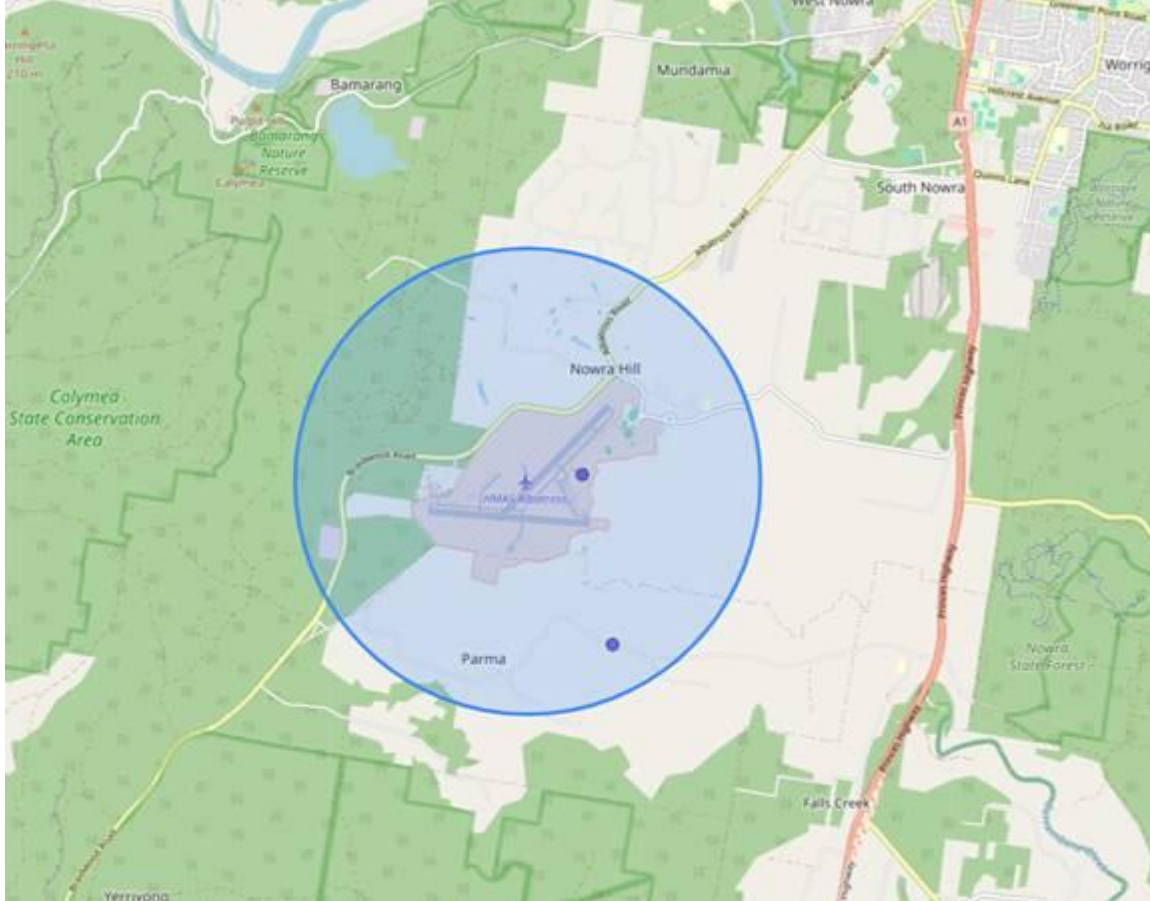


3D Render of Permanent Operational Squadron Facilities



LETTERBOX DROP DISTRIBUTION AREA

The notifications of the community information sessions were distributed in a 2 kilometre radius of HMAS *Albatross*, as shown in blue. 80 notifications were distributed in July 2024.



EXAMPLES OF COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION RESOURCES (INFORMATION BOARDS)



Australian Government
Defence

Facilities to Support Improved Embarked Logistics Support Helicopter

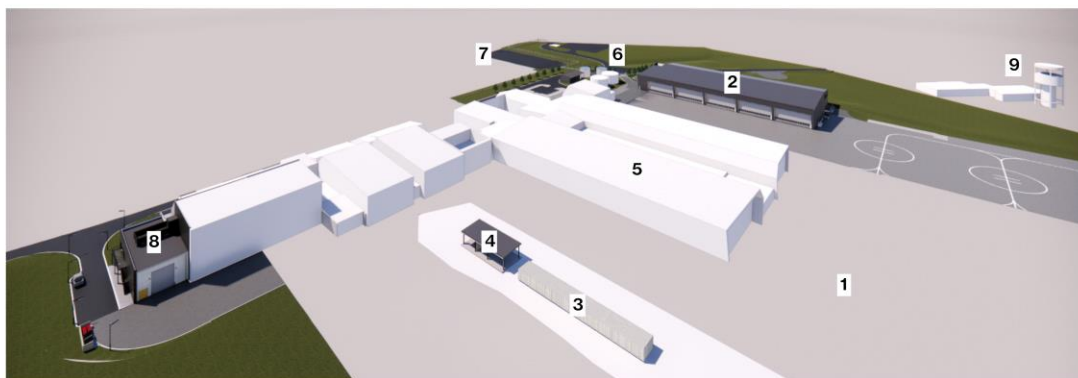
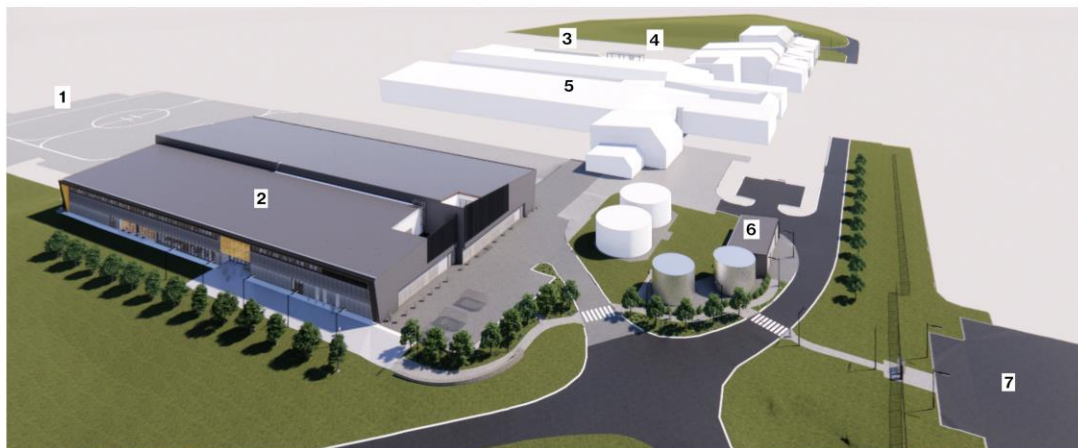
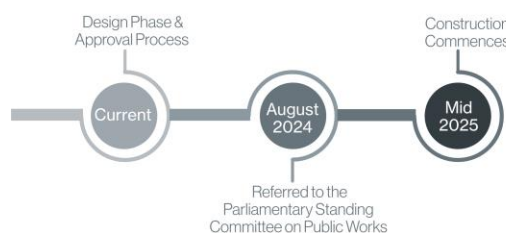
Proposed scope of works

The proposed scope of works at HMAS *Albatross* includes the following elements:

- Permanent operational squadron facilities for 808 Squadron to maintain up to twelve Romeo helicopters and the associated workforce, support equipment and supplies.
- Major civil and infrastructure works to support the integration of the new squadron facilities into the existing Romeo precinct including extension of the existing carpark.
- An extension to the existing Seahawk Simulation and Warfare Centre to house an additional training simulator.

Timeframes

The proposed project is currently in the design phase and progressing through required approvals. The project is likely to be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works in August 2024 as part of the approvals process. If approved, construction is expected to commence in mid-2025.



- 1. Existing Flightline
- 2. New 808 Squadron Facility
- 3. New Container Store Hardstand

- 4. New Store Shelter
- 5. Existing Romeo Facility
- 6. New Fire Pump Room and Tanks

- 7. New Car Park
- 8. New Training Simulator Facility
- 9. Existing Air Traffic Control Tower





Australian Government
Defence

Facilities to Support Improved Embarked Logistics Support Helicopter

About the project

The proposed project aims to provide new and upgraded facilities and infrastructure at the Royal Australian Naval Air Station, HMAS *Albatross*.

The works being proposed are to support the integration, operation, and sustainment of twelve additional MH-60R Seahawk (Romeo) helicopters to replace its fleet of six MRH-90 Taipan logistics support helicopters.

The Project will realise the potential of establishing a common maritime helicopter fleet capability by leveraging the existing Romeo capability, training and sustainment frameworks delivered by earlier acquisition projects.

Benefits of the project

- Enable the supply and delivery of construction services from the local and regional market.
- Enable local employment and training opportunities.
- Provide fit-for-purpose facilities for the Australian Defence Force to work and operate.

Budget

The estimated total capital out-turned cost is \$146.0 million (excluding Goods and Services Tax).

Interim Works

Works are currently in progress to provide Interim facilities for the storage of Romeo helicopters prior to the Proposed Works being completed.



COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION ATTENDANCE AND SUMMARY

Details

Two community information sessions were held on 1 August 2024 at the Fleet Air Arm Museum, Nowra, New South Wales. The sessions were held from 11:00am to 1:00pm and 5:00pm to 7:00pm. Defence held the sessions during and after business hours to allow community members with competing time commitments the opportunity to attend either session.

Resources

- Materials on display included the information boards shown at **Annex C**. The Defence consultation team in attendance included members from:
 - Defence's Project Delivery Team
 - Consultant Project Management Team
 - Consultant Design Team
 - Defence's Base Management Team
 - Representatives from the Royal Australian Navy (Maritime Integrated Capabilities, Base Command and Aerodrome Management).

Attendance

Number of attendees	Interest Group
4	Local Residents
Total: 4	

Key points raised:

- Existing noise pollution and impact of the project on aerodrome noise
- Opportunities for local industry participation in the proposed works
- Questions about the delivery program
- Curiosity around the capability and the role it plays in the Royal Australian Navy
- Questions regarding personnel increases to support the project.

EXAMPLES OF LETTER OF INVITATION TO KEY STAKEHOLDERS

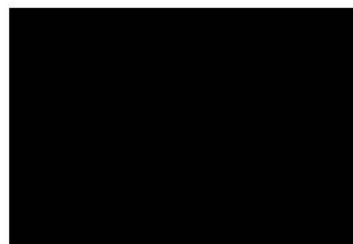
Examples of letters of invitation for personal briefings to key stakeholders are provided below. Invitations were sent to Mayors, State Members and Federal Members in the Nowra and South Coast Regions, New South Wales, and Rockingham, Western Australia. A summary of Key Stakeholder briefings is at **Annex F**.

Letter for HMAS *Albatross* region stakeholders

OFFICAL



Australian Government
Department of Defence
Security and Estate Group



PO Box 1436
NOWRA NSW 2541

Dear Ms Liza Anne Butler MP,

FACILITIES TO SUPPORT IMPROVED EMBARKED LOGISTICS SUPPORT HELICOPTERS AT THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY BASE HMAS ALBATROSS

On behalf of the Department of Defence, I would like to inform you of the works proposed at the Royal Australian Navy base HMAS Albatross.

I am writing to you in your capacity, as the State Member for South Coast, to offer you a personal briefing on the proposed works near your Electorate.

On Monday, 1 May 2023, the National Security Committee (NSC) of Cabinet provided approval of the capital funding for the works; however, the Project is yet to be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC) for its consideration. The final Statement of Evidence will be uploaded to the PWC's website once the referral has occurred. The document will be available at the following URL:

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

The works being proposed are to support the integration, operation, and sustainment of twelve additional MH-60R Seahawk (Romeo) helicopters. The Project has a majority of the works occurring at HMAS Albatross (Nowra Hill, NSW) and minor works at HMAS Stirling (Garden Island, WA).

The works at HMAS Albatross involve construction of new facilities and upgrades to existing infrastructure, including the permanent operational squadron facilities to maintain up to twelve Romeo helicopters and the associated workforce, support equipment, and supplies. Further, major civil and infrastructure works to support the integration of the new Squadron facilities into the existing Romeo precinct, including an extension of the existing carpark; and an extension to the existing Seahawk Simulation and Warfare Centre to house an additional training simulator.

The proposed works will be wholly situated on Commonwealth land.

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OFFICIAL

Similar to other major Defence infrastructure projects, the Project will generate employment opportunities in the construction sector and related support sectors in the local area.

If you or your staff would like to accept this invitation for a personal briefing on the proposed works, please contact me via email at [REDACTED]

The Department of Defence will be holding a community information forum on the works proposed at the Royal Australian Navy base HMAS Albatross. The forum will be held as follows:

- Fleet Air Arm Museum, 489A Albatross Rd, Nowra Hill, NSW 2540 on Thursday, 01 August 2024 from 11:00am – 1:00pm and 5:00pm – 7:00pm (AEST)

The Department of Defence has been advised that the PWC Public Hearing will most likely be held in September 2024. The PWC Secretariat is yet to confirm the date, time and location of the Public Hearing.

Yours sincerely,



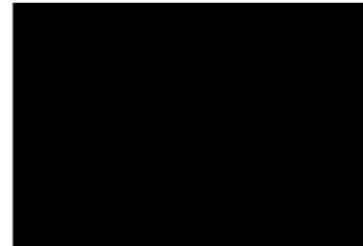
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Letter for HMAS Stirling region stakeholders

OFFICIAL



Australian Government
Department of Defence
Security and Estate Group



PO Box 5062
Rockingham Beach WA 6969

Dear The Hon. Madeleine King MP,

**FACILITIES TO SUPPORT IMPROVED EMBARKED LOGISTICS SUPPORT
HELICOPTERS AT THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY BASE HMAS STIRLING**

On behalf of the Department of Defence, I would like to inform you of the works proposed at the Royal Australian Navy base HMAS Stirling.

I am writing to you in your capacity, as the Federal Member for Brand, to offer you a personal briefing on the proposed works in your Electorate.

On Monday, 1 May 2023, the National Security Committee (NSC) of Cabinet provided approval of the capital funding for the works; however, the Project is yet to be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC) for its consideration. The final Statement of Evidence will be uploaded to the PWC's website once the referral has occurred. The document will be available at the following URL:

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

The works being proposed are to support the integration, operation, and sustainment of twelve additional MH-60R Seahawk (Romeo) helicopters. The Project has a majority of the works occurring at HMAS Albatross (Nowra Hill, NSW) and minor works at HMAS Stirling (Garden Island, WA).

The works at HMAS Stirling involve construction of new facilities and upgrades to existing infrastructure, including the construction of a new manual handling equipment shelter for aircraft work platforms and tow motors. Further, this Project provides four additional work-points and helicopter power converters to the existing hangars.

The proposed works will be wholly situated on Commonwealth land.

Similar to other major Defence infrastructure projects, the Project will generate employment opportunities in the construction sector and related support sectors in the local area.

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OFFICIAL

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OFFICIAL

If you or your staff would like to accept this invitation for a personal briefing on the proposed works, please contact me via email at [REDACTED]

The Department of Defence has been advised that the PWC Public Hearing will most likely be held in September 2024. The PWC Secretariat is yet to confirm the date, time and location of the Public Hearing.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and name of the sender.

STATUS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS

Name	NOTES
HMAS <i>Albatross</i> Federal/State/Local Government Stakeholders	
Mrs Fiona Phillips MP Federal Member for Gilmore	<p>18 July 2024. Defence emailed a letter to Mrs Phillips providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>1 August 2024. Defence provided a personal briefing to Mrs Phillips at the Fleet Air Arm Museum.</p>
Mr Gareth James Ward MP State Member for Kiama	<p>18 July 2024. Defence emailed a letter to Mr Ward providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>25 July 2024. Defence received an email confirmation that Mr Ward will not attend the community consultation session and did not request a personal briefing.</p>
Ms Liza Anne Butler MP State Member for South Coast	<p>18 July 2024. Defence emailed a letter to Ms Butler providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>5 August 2024. Defence provided an online personal briefing to Ms Butler.</p>
Mayor Amanda Findley Mayor of Shoalhaven City Council	<p>18 July 2024. Defence emailed a letter to Mayor Findley providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>31 July 2024. Defence received an email confirmation that Mayor Findley will not attend the community consultation session and did not request a personal briefing.</p>
HMAS <i>Albatross</i> Community Stakeholders	
Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council	<p>16 July 2024. Defence emailed the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council providing project information, HMAS <i>Albatross</i> community information forum details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>26 July 2024. Defence sent a follow-up email to confirm whether the Council has any questions related to the project. Nil response has been received to date.</p> <p>28 July 2024. Defence received an email confirmation that the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council will not attend the community consultation session and did not request a personal briefing.</p>
Nowra Local Aboriginal Land Council	<p>16 July 2024. Defence completed a webform to the Nowra Local Aboriginal Land Council providing a summary of the project, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a</p>

Name	NOTES
	<p>personal briefing.</p> <p>26 July 2024. Defence provided a follow-up webform submission to confirm whether the organisation has any questions related to the project.</p> <p>Nil response has been received to date.</p>
HMAS <i>Stirling</i> Federal/State/Local Government Stakeholders	
<p>The Hon. Madeleine King MP Federal Member for Brand</p>	<p>18 July 2024. Defence emailed a letter to Mrs King providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>19 August 2024. Defence received confirmation that a briefing will not be needed, and that the information provided to date is sufficient for Mrs King.</p>
<p>The Hon. Magenta Marshall MLA State Member of Rockingham</p>	<p>18 July 2024. Defence emailed a letter to Mrs Marshall providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>19 August 2024. Defence received confirmation that a briefing will not be needed, and that the information provided to date is sufficient for Mrs Marshall.</p>
<p>Mayor Logan Howlett Mayor Cockburn City Council</p>	<p>18 July 2024. Defence emailed a letter to Mayor Howlett providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>13 August 2024. Defence provided an online personal briefing to Mayor Howlett.</p>
<p>Mayor Peter Feasey Mayor of Kwinana City Council</p>	<p>18 July 2024. Defence emailed a letter to Mayor Feasey providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>26 July 2024. Defence sent a follow-up email to Mayor Feasey to confirm whether a personal briefing was requested.</p> <p>12 August 2024: Defence sent a further follow-up email to Mayor Feasey to confirm whether a personal briefing was requested.</p> <p>Nil response has been received to date.</p>

Name	NOTES
<p>Mayor Deb Hamblin Mayor Rockingham City Council</p>	<p>18 July 2024. Defence emailed a letter to Mayor Hamblin providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>26 July 2024. Defence sent a follow-up email to Mayor Hamblin to confirm whether a personal briefing was requested. Nil response has been received to date.</p> <p>7 August 2024. Defence received an email confirmation that Mayor Hamblin will not be requesting a personal briefing.</p>
<p>HMAS <i>Stirling</i> Community Stakeholders</p>	
<p>South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council</p>	<p>16 July 2024. Defence emailed the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council providing a summary of the proposed project works, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence with any questions related to the project.</p> <p>26 July 2024. Defence sent a follow-up email to confirm whether the organisation has any questions related to the project.</p> <p>Nil response has been received to date.</p>

SUMMARY OF TOPICS AND KEY ISSUES RAISED DURING CONSULTATION

TOPIC	RAISED BY	DEFENCE RESPONSE
Local employment opportunities.	Fiona Phillips, Federal Member for Gilmore	Defence recognises the importance of local employment opportunities. The Head Contractor engaged for the project will be required to produce and adhere to a Local Industry Capability Plan and an Indigenous Participation Plan.
How do Navy feel about the new facilities? Do they achieve Minimum Viable Product?	Fiona Phillips, Federal Member for Gilmore	Defence and the Royal Australian Navy support the new facilities and agree that they provide the Minimum Viable Product. The project will realise some efficiencies from the standardised fleet of helicopters, and the co-location with the existing facility.
Why are temporary facilities being provided?	Fiona Phillips, Federal Member for Gilmore	The Royal Australian Navy has limited control over the delivery timeline of the helicopters under the Foreign Military Sale, hence the helicopters will be delivered prior to the completion of permanent facilities.
What will be done to ensure that subcontractors are financially viable?	Fiona Phillips, Federal Member for Gilmore	Defence will conduct financial viability checks of subcontractors prior to engagement.
Is Navy meeting the recruitment targets to support the increase in the Helicopter Fleet?	Fiona Phillips, Federal Member for Gilmore	Defence acknowledges that the recruiting landscape is challenging but significant efforts are being made to recruit the numbers to meet the operational needs of the squadron.
When will construction occur, and what is the timeline for the project?	Fiona Phillips, Federal Member for Gilmore, Local Resident	The project is currently undergoing design and approvals. The project is aiming to achieve Parliamentary Approval in November 2024. Construction for the HMAS <i>Albatross</i> works are expected to commence in mid-2025 and be completed in early 2027.
Acknowledging that newspaper adverts have been placed in the Sound Telegraph and Mandurah Times, but should be expanded to include 'Perth Now'	Mayor Logan Howlett, City of Cockburn representative	For future works, projects will look at providing newspaper advertisements in 'Perth Now', in addition to the Sound Telegraph and Mandurah Times.
The placement of newspaper adverts is an issue - it would be appreciated if they were more prominent.	Mayor Logan Howlett, City of Cockburn representative	The placement of advertisements is determined by the newspaper and is outside of Defence's control.

TOPIC	RAISED BY	DEFENCE RESPONSE
Will there be additional noise from helicopters due to this project?	Daniel Simms, City of Cockburn representative	The facilities will house helicopters to support fleet activities that are typically conducted offshore. There will be no noticeable differences to existing noise levels.
Will an ‘in person’ community consultation occur?	Daniel Simms, City of Cockburn representative	Due to the small scale of the works at HMAS <i>Stirling</i> , newspaper advertisements and publication on the Defence website with an opportunity to email comments was deemed appropriate.
Regarding the publication of content on the Defence website, is it possible to make it more visible/easily found?	Daniel Simms, City of Cockburn representative	Defence could potentially add it as a ‘related project’ link under the ‘FAQ’ section of the Australian Submarine Agency website and will undertake further investigations.
What is the timeline for the Training Simulator and when will it be operational?	Lisa Ann Butler, Local Member for South Coast	The submission to the Australian Government for the simulator will be by the end of 2024, pending adequate market quotations. The simulator is expected to be commissioned in 2026.
Do the works require NSW Government Planning Approvals	Lisa Ann Butler, Local Member for South Coast	No, the works do not require NSW Government Planning Approvals as they are located on Commonwealth Land, and Defence will adhere to all requirements for a project of this size.
Will there be changes to the infrastructure surrounding the base?	Local Resident	There will be no changes in the infrastructure around the base. The Head Contractor will provide a Traffic Management Plan before construction starts, and they will be using this plan during that period.
Existing noise pollution.	Local Resident	The aircraft at HMAS <i>Albatross</i> are operated in accordance with noise abatement procedures as detailed in the En Route Supplement Australia publication on the Air Services Australia website. Defence acknowledges that due to training requirements, season and weather the flying patterns can be irregular, and invited local residents to contact the aerodrome if there are ongoing issues.
What is the increase in noise caused by this project?	Local Resident	Defence is purchasing 12 MH60-R Romeo Seahawk Helicopters, which will replace 6 MRH-90 Taipan Helicopters which have been grounded. The increase in noise at HMAS <i>Albatross</i> will be negligible. The helicopters will be frequently deployed to ships and will not operate out of HMAS <i>Albatross</i> continually.

TOPIC	RAISED BY	DEFENCE RESPONSE
What is the role of these helicopters, and are they fitted with weapons?	Local Resident	The new helicopters will primarily fulfil a maritime logistics support role, however will also be able to undertake anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare roles, like the existing Romeo helicopters.
Will this project result in an increase in people at the base?	Local Resident	There will be an increase in personnel at HMAS <i>Albatross</i> as a result of this project.
What will happen to the existing fire-fighting Foam tanks that service the existing Romeo facility?	Local Resident	The fire-fighting foam tanks that service the existing facility will be kept in place. The new facilities will not be built on top of the tanks, and they will remain accessible.
What are the concrete pipes being stored near Braidwood Road for?	Local Resident	The pipes are being stored for the major airfield maintenance works, involving major maintenance of aircraft pavements, airfield lighting and airfield drainage.