



Australian Government

Department of Defence

Defence Support and Reform Group

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Mr Graham Perrett MP

Deputy Chair

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

Parliament House

CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Perrett,

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT FOR THE JP 9000 PHASE 7 -
HELICOPTER AIRCREW TRAINING SYSTEM (HATS) FACILITIES PROJECT**

This letter is to inform the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC) of the nature and extent of community consultations undertaken as part of the JP 9000 Phase 7 HATS Facilities Project (the project).

Broadly, the strategy for community consultation adopted by the Department of Defence (Defence) was undertaken with the objectives of:

- ensuring that the Community was informed about the Project using effective and proven communication channels; and
- ensuring that the Community had every opportunity to raise issues of concern or seek further information so that wherever feasible, they could be addressed by Defence in its program of works.

Multiple activities were undertaken under the Project Consultation Plan, namely:

- advertisements in local and regional newspapers;
- a Stakeholder Briefing Program (provided at annex A), where Local, State and Federal members and authorities were provided with direct email correspondence, and if requested, individual briefings;
- promotion of the project through local community networks including local Members of Parliament, Councils, Business Chamber notice boards and the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development's Jervis Bay Territory Community Bulletin; and
- a Public Information Session was undertaken on 11 November 2014 in Nowra, New South Wales.

A table summarizing the issues and questions raised by the Community, and how these have been addressed by Defence is provided at annex B.

Generally, feedback on the Project from key stakeholders, including the local community has been positive and there were no significant issues identified. There was also strong support from the Community given the benefits of the Project, and there were many requests for information concerning employment opportunities arising from the Project.

In conclusion, no significant issues have been identified during Defence's community consultations that will impact on the proposed works, and Defence is satisfied that it has taken all reasonable steps to inform the Community about the Project and to provide opportunities for the Community to raise concerns.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N.F. Beutel', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

N.F. BEUTEL

Brigadier

Director General Capital Facilities and Infrastructure

19 January 2015

Annexes:

- A. List of Stakeholders Consulted
- B. Summary of Key Issues Raised During Consultation

Annex A

LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED

The following is a list of Local, State and Federal stakeholders and authorities consulted by the Project Team:

- The Hon. Shelley Hancock MP, New South Wales State Member for South Coast
- Ann Sudmalis MP, Federal Member for Gilmore
- Cr Joanna Gash, Mayor Shoalhaven City Council
- Ms Sheryl Klaffer, Director, Jervis Bay Territory Administration, Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development
- Roads and Maritime Services NSW
- Local Indigenous Groups including:
 - Nowra Local Aboriginal Land Council; and
 - Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council
- Service Providers of electricity, gas, water, sewer and stormwater including:
 - Shoalhaven Water, NSW; and
 - Endeavour Energy, NSW
- The Industry Capability Network (South East Region)

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES RAISED DURING CONSULTATION

Specific Feedback / Comments: At each of the HATS consultation sessions with stakeholders, including the Public Information Session held at Nowra, New South Wales, there was strong support for the project. The benefits of the project were recognised and no significant issues were identified that will impact on the proposed works.

Issue:	Discussed with:	How each issue has been addressed:
<i>What is the estimated increase in aircraft traffic noise associated with the Project?</i>	Member of the public	<p>HATS will create a minor increase in noise.</p> <p>16 training helicopters are being decommissioned and 15 are being commissioned, therefore overall numbers are about the same but an increase in training tempo has also been planned.</p> <p>Many of the operational helicopters, which are noisier than the training helicopters, are away at sea for long periods of time, and have minimal impact on the noise levels on the base.</p> <p>The use of flight simulators will also reduce the number of aircraft hours and noise levels associated with the project.</p> <p>The Commanding Officer for HMAS <i>Albatross</i>, the Commander of the Navy Fleet Air Arm, and the Executive Officer of HMAS <i>Creswell</i> attended the Public Information Session and responded to all questions relating to HMAS <i>Albatross</i> and Jervis Bay Airfield aircraft operations.</p>
<i>What are the details of training flight patterns?</i>	Members of the public	<p>Flight patterns of helicopters are irregular in nature as opposed to fixed wing aircraft which have specific take-off and landing patterns.</p> <p>A training map was provided for viewing by attendees, which indicated the flight patterns forecast for training helicopters over the region and the altitude envelopes.</p>
<i>What is the anticipated increase in employment opportunities both during construction and in the longer term?</i>	Members of the public / Business NSW / Wreck Bay Representatives / ICN	<p>There will be increase in local employment opportunities during the construction phase.</p> <p>Subject to Parliamentary approval of the project, an average of 380 full-time jobs for the project over a period of approximately 24 months is potentially available.</p> <p>Boeing and Thales (HATS Capability Provider / Contractor) may also provide longer term employment opportunities.</p>

<i>What are the indigenous employment opportunities at Jervis Bay Airfield?</i>	Members of the public / Wreck Bay Representative	<p>The Managing Contractor has local indigenous opportunities programs which they adopt on all their sites nationally to ensure indigenous employment opportunities are available.</p> <p>Opportunities will be publically advertised from 2015, and the Managing Contractor will engage with any interested parties as part of the open tender process.</p>
<i>What form of protection or security is available to local Small and Medium Enterprise?</i>	Federal member for Gilmore, Ms Ann Sudmalis MP	<p>Under the Managing Contractor Contract, a trust account is set up for sub-consultants and sub-contractors from which they are paid from. This account is audited regularly and the money is in a separate account to the Managing Contractors payments.</p> <p>A statutory declaration must be made for each payment claim to evidence payment of subcontractors from the trust account.</p> <p>Opportunities for involvement with the HATS facilities project for sub-contractors will be advertised through local papers from 2015.</p>
<i>Have the Helicopters been purchased?</i>	Member of the public	<p>The HATS EC135 training helicopters have been purchased and will arrive in Australia from late 2016.</p>
<i>When will construction commence at HMAS Albatross and Jervis Bay Airfield?</i>	Members of the public / Business NSW	<p>Subject to Parliamentary approval, construction is scheduled to commence at HMAS <i>Albatross</i> by mid 2015 and Jervis Bay Airfield works will commence from mid 2016.</p>
<i>Why didn't people in the Jervis Bay Community have adequate notification of today's public consultation?</i>	Member of the public	<p>Defence used multiple communication channels, to provide two and a half weeks of advance notice of the Public Information Session.</p> <p>In consultation with the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development's Director of the Jervis Bay Territory Administration office, the Jervis Bay Territory Community Bulletin was also used to engage with the Jervis Bay local community.</p> <p>Advertisements were also placed in a local paper (The South Coast Register) and the regional paper (Illawarra Mercury) for four weekdays and two weekend editions during the two and a half weeks prior to the Public Information Session.</p> <p>Letters were also provided to regional stakeholders including local community groups.</p>

<i>Is Jervis Bay Airfield currently being used?</i>	Member of the public	Yes. Jervis Bay Airfield is currently used by various Defence units, predominately the Parachute Training School. It will continue to be used into the future due to its close proximity to the coastline for maritime training requirements, including by HATS training helicopters.
<i>What is the cost of the project?</i>	Member of the public	The total facilities project budget yet to be approved by parliament is \$157.1 million, which includes design, construction and management costs.
Issues that cannot be addressed		
No issues were taken on notice, all questions and issues were addressed at each consultation session with stakeholders and at the Public Information Session.		