



Australian Government

**Australian Government response to the Senate
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References
Committee**

**Impact of Defence training activities and facilities
on rural and regional communities – First interim
report**

May 2024

Recommendation 1

The committee recommends that Defence engage with the Office of the Industry Advocate to investigate opportunities for events or workshops which also include regional areas and local businesses.

Response:

The Government notes the recommendations. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 2

The committee recommends that Defence review its formal mechanisms for communication and coordination in the Upper Spencer Gulf region to ensure:

- the most effective flow of information including plans which may generate potential business opportunities;
- as much information about upcoming training exercises is being disseminated to the local community with as much advance notice as possible; and
- that a contact point regarding local exercises is available on an ongoing basis and that this information is disseminated regularly.

Response:

The Government notes the recommendations. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 3

The committee recommends that Defence hold a post exercise debrief with the local community representatives on a trial basis and then, in consultation, evaluate whether it would be useful for stakeholders on an ongoing basis.

Response:

The Government notes the recommendations. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 4

The committee recommends that Defence review Defgram 218/2017 to clarify or issue supplementary guidance to staff that local purchases outside the Standing Offer Panel is also encouraged as required.

Response:

The Government notes the recommendations. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 5

The committee recommends that Defence make information available to local communities about Defence expenditure in the area. In consultation, with the local community, Defence should consider how best to present and disseminate this information.

Response:

The Government notes the recommendations. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.