

## **Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade**

### **Parliamentary inquiry – Inquiry into the Impact of Defence Activities and Training Areas on Rural and Regional Communities**

#### **ANSWER TO QUESTION SENT THROUGH IN ADVANCE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

##### **Department of Defence**

**Topic:** SSCFADT – Questions in advance of public hearing on impact of Defence training activities and facilities on rural and regional communities – 1.21 - The Committee

**Question reference number:** 1.21

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 19 March 2018

**Question:** As highlighted earlier, some Tier 1 contractors are providing information about upcoming business opportunities with Defence. The committee also heard evidence about the role other organisations (such as local council, RDAs, state government departments, industry advocates) have in disseminating information about business opportunities. The committee heard different accounts about the effectiveness of these communication channels.

- What formal and informal mechanisms are in place with Defence to facilitate information sharing across the range of organisations operating in this space? [local councils, state governments, RDAs etc)
- Does Defence communicate with industry associations about what their current or future project needs are in order to ensure that businesses are adequately trained and prepared to participate in Defence work? Does Defence gather information about local capability or is this left to Tier 1s?

##### **Answer:**

The Centre for Defence Industry Capability (CDIC) works with states and territories, regional development associations and local councils. The CDIC works with these organisations to ensure a coordinated and collaborative approach to developing Australia's defence industry and supporting SMEs to contribute to defence capability.

A Defence-State and Territory Government Industry Engagement Forum has also been established to allow Defence and the states and territories to discuss matters relevant to Australian defence industry and develop coordinated responses. A specific shipbuilding forum has also been established with the states and territories and Defence has an annual whole-of-Defence forum with each state and territory to discuss matters relevant to the relationship.

Defence and the CDIC also regularly engage with industry associations such as the Australian Industry Group Defence Council and the Australian Industry Defence Network to discuss opportunities and challenges facing the defence industry. This includes at a Ministerial, Senior Executive and working level. Defence also engages with peak industry bodies across a range of industry sectors, acknowledging the breadth of Defence procurement across the Australian economy.

The Local Industry Capability Plans require tenderers to outline how local industry has been engaged in Major Capital Facilities work. The Pilot has included projects such as the Shoalwater Bay Training Area Remediation, HMAS Cerberus Redevelopment and the Townsville Field Training Area Mid-Term Refresh. Also, the forthcoming Defence Policy for Industry Participation will provide a framework for consideration of competitive local industry in all Defence procurements.