

SENATE HEARING ON DEFENCE ACTIVITIES IMPACT TO BE HELD IN PORT AUGUSTA

The Senate References Committee for Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade will be holding a public hearing into the impact of Defence training activities and facilities in rural and regional areas in Port Augusta on Thursday 8 June 2017.

Regional Development Australia Far North (RDAFN) has played a pivotal role in securing the hearing in the region.

Dr Jen Cleary, Chair said that following the submission that RDAFN made into the Senate Inquiry, and other regional submissions, the holding of an official hearing in the region is a major coup. "The Far North region is impacted in many ways from activities carried out at both the Cultana Training Facility near Port Augusta and the Woomera Prohibited Area. This hearing will give local businesses, government and other agencies a chance to put their case across first hand to the Senate."

The Parliamentary Inquiry focuses on economic, social and environmental impacts, consultation and communication, investment in new facilities and infrastructure, utilisation of local suppliers and any other matters.

"RDAFN is working with neighbouring RDA's and local businesses to ensure a good representation at the hearing. We have engaged four local businesses to take part in the hearing. These businesses have had both successes and challenges with the Defence Department. RDAFN will also be taking part in a panel discussion and will highlight the results of research that was undertaken into the impact of Defence activities in the Far North region. The hearing will contribute to the final Senate report due on 30 November 2017." Dr Cleary said.

Local and regional businesses and residents are also encouraged to attend the hearing, with details on the timing and venue to be announced in coming days.

"We will keep businesses up to date via email as well as via our website at www.rdafn.com.au."

For more information on the Senate Inquiry visit

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Foreign_Affairs_Defence_and_Trade/Defencetraining

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