

The Proposed Works

Purpose

- 2.1 The purpose of this proposal is to provide facilities to support the introduction of the MRH90 (Multi-role Helicopter 90) aircraft.¹ This will include the refurbishment, re-use and construction of facilities of the Army's 5 Avn Regt facilities.²

Need

- 2.2 The 171st Aviation Squadron has been relocated to Holsworthy Barracks and will be replaced at Townsville by a squadron equipped with the new MRH90 which "can carry troops, small vehicles or underslung cargo".³ The MRH90 is being introduced under Defence Capability Plan Project Air 9000 (Phase 2).⁴

1 Appendix C, Submission No. 1, paragraph 11

2 *ibid*, paragraph 1

3 *ibid*, paragraph 2

4 *ibid*, paragraph 1

- 2.3 The delivery of the MRH90 aircraft will be phased in over 18 months from December 2007. Defence plans to provide facilities progressively from July 2007 until February 2008.⁵

Cost

- 2.4 The estimated project cost is \$20 million excluding GST. This figure includes:
- construction costs with fit-out;
 - professional fees;
 - furniture and fittings;
 - information technology; and
 - a contingency sum.⁶
- 2.5 In addition, there will be a slight increase in the operating costs of RAAF Base Townsville. This increase can be attributed to “the energy, maintenance and garrison support cost for the new buildings”.⁷

Scope

- 2.6 Defence’s proposal involves:
- construction of a new purpose built building (Training and Mission Planning);
 - refurbishment of existing buildings (aircraft shelters, repair parts store and workshops);
 - extension of two buildings (to house repair parts administration, ground support equipment workshop and storage, and Draft Priority 1 equipment storage); and
 - construction of car parking and engineering services infrastructure.⁸

5 Appendix C, Submission No. 1, paragraph 6

6 *ibid*, paragraph 13

7 *ibid*, paragraph 14

8 *ibid*, paragraph 9

2.7 The details of the works are as follows:

- Aircraft Shelters – minor modifications;
- Technical Support Squadron Workshops – refurbishment and reconfiguration;
- Repair Parts Store – minor modifications and extensions for administration functions;
- Draft Priority 1 Store – a new extension for Draft Priority 1 storage;
- Ground Support Equipment – new extensions to provide a workshop and a storage facility;
- Mission Planning Facility / Army Aviation Training Facility – new combined facility; and
- car parking and infrastructure – new asphalt car park and services infrastructure including electrical, water and sewerage reticulation.⁹

Project Delivery

2.8 Defence submitted that, subject to Parliamentary approval, the project would commence in late 2006 with completion expected in early 2008.¹⁰

2.9 Further, Defence stated that the project would be delivered using a Head Contractor delivery system as it feels that this delivery system is particularly suited to works, such as the current proposal, where the scope is well defined.¹¹

9 Appendix C, Submission No. 1, paragraph 26

10 *ibid*, paragraph 8

11 *ibid*, paragraph 82