

The Proposed Works

Purpose

- 2.1 The purpose of the proposed works is to provide facilities and infrastructure to support the introduction of four Boeing C-17 Globemaster III heavy airlift aircraft, the acquisition of which was announced by the Minister for Defence in March 2006. The aircraft will be based at RAAF Base Amberley (Qld), with support facilities being provided at RAAF Base Darwin (NT), RAAF Base Edinburgh (SA), RAAF Base Pearce (WA) and RAAF Base Townsville (Qld).¹

Need

- 2.2 This project is being undertaken in response to a Government initiative associated with the acquisition of new C-17 heavy lift aircraft that will enhance the heavy air lift requirements of the Australian Defence Force (ADF). The increased aircraft weight, dimensions, fuel and cargo capacity requires an investment in airfield infrastructure and cargo preparation and

¹ Appendix C, Submission No.1, paragraph 2.

handling facilities principally at RAAF Base Amberley with other infrastructure modifications to be undertaken at bases elsewhere.²

Scope of works

- 2.3 No. 36 Squadron, recently deployed from RAAF Base Richmond to RAAF Base Amberley, will operate the aircraft.³
- 2.4 The proposed works at RAAF Base Amberley will include the provision of:
- a newly constructed combined headquarters, and a maintenance and logistics building for No. 36 Squadron;
 - a new air movements terminal and cargo hanger;
 - a C-17 simulator for flight crew, loadmaster and maintenance crew training;
 - a new warehouse for C-17 spare parts and shelters for the C-17 and air movements ground support equipment;
 - new and refurbished workshop space for C-17 specialist support equipment and aircraft maintenance; and
 - field pavement work, including:
 - ⇒ the construction of a new combined C-17 and air movements aircraft parking apron with hydrant refuelling;
 - ⇒ widening and strengthening of taxiways; and
 - ⇒ a new apron for loading explosive ordnance cargo.⁴

Options considered

- 2.5 At RAAF Base Amberley, Defence considered opportunities to re-use or expand existing facilities, as opposed to the construction of new facilities. The existing Air Movement terminals at RAAF Base Amberley is over 30 years old and has no residual economic value, and although the building is in generally good condition, there is limited scope for expansion.

2 *ibid.*, paragraph 7. See paragraph 2.1 above.

3 *ibid.*, paragraph 4.

4 *ibid.*, paragraph 11.

Consequently it was concluded that the most viable and cost effective option is to construct new facilities.

- 2.6 In terms of siting facilities at RAAF Base Amberley the department considered a number of options that involved either the reconstruction of the air movements terminal separate to No. 36 Squadron facilities, or the development of an air lift precinct meeting the air movement requirements of No. 36 Squadron and No. 33 Squadron.
- 2.7 The preferred option is to provide a new air lift precinct based around the No. 33 Squadron hangar and apron currently under construction. It co-locates similar functions, which rationalises the pavement for aircraft parking, reduces the number of aircraft movements from their squadron apron to air movements and allows space for future expansion for either additional aircraft or any other relocated elements from the Air Lift Group.⁵

Project Delivery

- 2.8 The proposed delivery system for RAAF Base Amberley will be by way of a Managing Contractor. This methodology has been selected on the basis of the scope, the risk of disrupting base activities, the value of the works and any interdependencies with other concurrent projects. A single Project Manager has been engaged to represent Defence and to act as Contract Administrator for the whole of the project.⁶

Cost

- 2.9 The estimated out-turn cost of this project is \$268.2 million across five bases. This includes:
- construction costs;
 - management and design fees;
 - furniture, fittings and equipment; and
 - contingencies and escalation.⁷

5 *ibid.*, paragraphs 13 and 14.

6 *ibid.*, paragraph 80.

7 *ibid.*, paragraph 77.

