

Conclusions and recommendations

The conclusions and recommendations of the Committee and the paragraphs in the report to which they refer are set out below.

The continued usage and improvement of RAAF Base Townsville as part of Australia's northern air defence is appropriate. (paragraph 18)

The provision of an improved Ordnance Loading Apron Complex is necessary to ensure that military aircraft can be armed with explosive ordnance safely and efficiently and that disruptions to the operations of general aviation and commuter aircraft are minimised. (paragraph 30)

A Quick Reaction Alert Facility (QRAF) will enhance the effectiveness of fighter aircraft by retaining them on alert for long periods and providing runway access. (paragraph 31)

Due to the replacement of the Caribou aircraft with Light Tactical Aircraft, there is a need for additional space to accommodate the aircraft and increased personnel numbers. A Light Tactical Aircraft flight simulator facility is also necessary. (paragraph 45)

A new consolidated vehicle and battery maintenance facility is needed and should overcome the deficiencies of the existing maintenance facilities and therefore improve performance and efficiency. (paragraph 50)

A new perimeter road is necessary to provide a safe all-weather route for boundary access to the Base by emergency vehicles, security patrols and vehicles transporting explosive ordnance. (paragraph 55)

Fuel Farm 1 is a potential hazard to the Base and the surrounding area, and attracts unnecessary maintenance overheads. Its closure is therefore appropriate. (paragraph 59)

The Department of Defence has undertaken adequate consultative processes in relation to the Borrow Pits. The replacement habitat should provide a suitable alternative habitat for the flora and fauna which currently resides in the Borrow Pits. (paragraph 94)

The Committee recommends that the development of the Borrow Pit replacement habitat continue to involve consultation between the Department of Defence and the relevant authorities and interest groups, to ensure that a suitable replacement habitat is provided. (paragraph 95)

The Committee is satisfied that the Department of Defence appears to have undertaken sufficient consultation with the relevant authorities and interest groups in the consideration of environmental and heritage issues associated with the redevelopment. (paragraph 106)

The Committee recommends the construction of RAAF BASE Townsville Redevelopment Stage 1, at an out turn cost of \$87.05 million. (paragraph 121)

Hon. Judi Moylan MP
Chair
2 September 1999