



Australian Government

Department of Defence
Defence Support and Reform Group

Minute

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Mrs Karen Andrews MP

Chair
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mrs Andrews,

AIR6000 Phase 2A/B – NEW AIR COMBAT CAPABILITY FACILITIES PROJECT

This letter is to inform the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC) of the nature and extent of community consultation undertaken as part of the New Air Combat Capability project (the project).

In general, the community feedback was positive about the Project and did not raise issues that had not been addressed in the Project's design. There was a strong appetite for more information about employment opportunities arising from the Project and that ongoing provision of project information would be welcomed. Generally there is strong support from the community as the Project will generate employment for small, medium and large sized local businesses.

Broadly, the strategy for community consultation adopted by Defence was undertaken with the objectives of:

- ensuring that the public was informed about the project using cost effective, wide ranging communications channels; and
- ensuring the public had every opportunity to raise issues of concern or seek further information.

The consultation activities undertaken included:

- Publication of a project web page, including an email facility for public inquiries and comments (<http://www.defence.gov.au/id/air6000/default.asp>).
- Advertisements in local newspapers, listed in Annex A.
- Direct email correspondence with local, State and Federal members listed at Annex B, with individual briefings conducted where requested.
- A letterbox drop to 2,000-2,200 homes and businesses in the Medowie and Raymond Terrace areas closest to RAAF Base Williamtown, including the main road between

both locations, to publicise the public information sessions (location map provided at Annex C).

- A number of popular locations were provided with copies of the letterbox drop pamphlet to distribute to interested members of the public including the Medowie Kindy Patch, Medowie Golf Club, Irrawang High School, Grahamstown Public School and 20-25 shops in Raymond Terrace.
- Promotion of the project through local community networks including, local Members of Parliament, Councils and business chamber notice boards.
- Factsheets were prepared and made available at the information sessions for members of the public to take away. Separate factsheets were prepared for RAAF Base Williamtown, RAAF Base Tindal, Defence Establishment Myambat and the Forward Operating Bases.
- Four public consultation information sessions were held as a part of a wider stakeholder communication approach. Details of each session and attendance numbers are provided at Annex D.

Comments and feedback have been generally supportive of the project however, some concerns were expressed. A table summarising these concerns and how these concerns have been addressed by Defence is provided for your reference at Annex E.

D.S. NAUMANN
Brigadier
Director General
Capital Facilities and Infrastructure

/ September 2014

Annexes:

- A. List of newspapers where Defence advertised the New Air Combat Capability Facilities Project.
- B. List of Stakeholders Consulted.
- C. Map showing extent of letterbox drop activity undertaken for the New Air Combat Capability Facilities Project.
- D. Public Consultation Sessions Undertaken for the New Air Combat Capability Facilities Project.
- E. Key issues raised during community consultation.

ANNEX A

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS

The PWC public consultation process for the New Air Combat Capability Facilities Project was advertised in the following newspapers:

- Newcastle Herald
- Port Stephens Examiner
- Muswellbrook Chronicle
- Katherine Times
- Bullsbrook Advocate
- Northern Territory News
- Darwin Sun
- Townsville Bulletin
- Townsville Sun
- Broome Advertiser
- Port Headland North West Telegraph
- Mt Isa North West Star
- News Review Messenger

ANNEX B

LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED

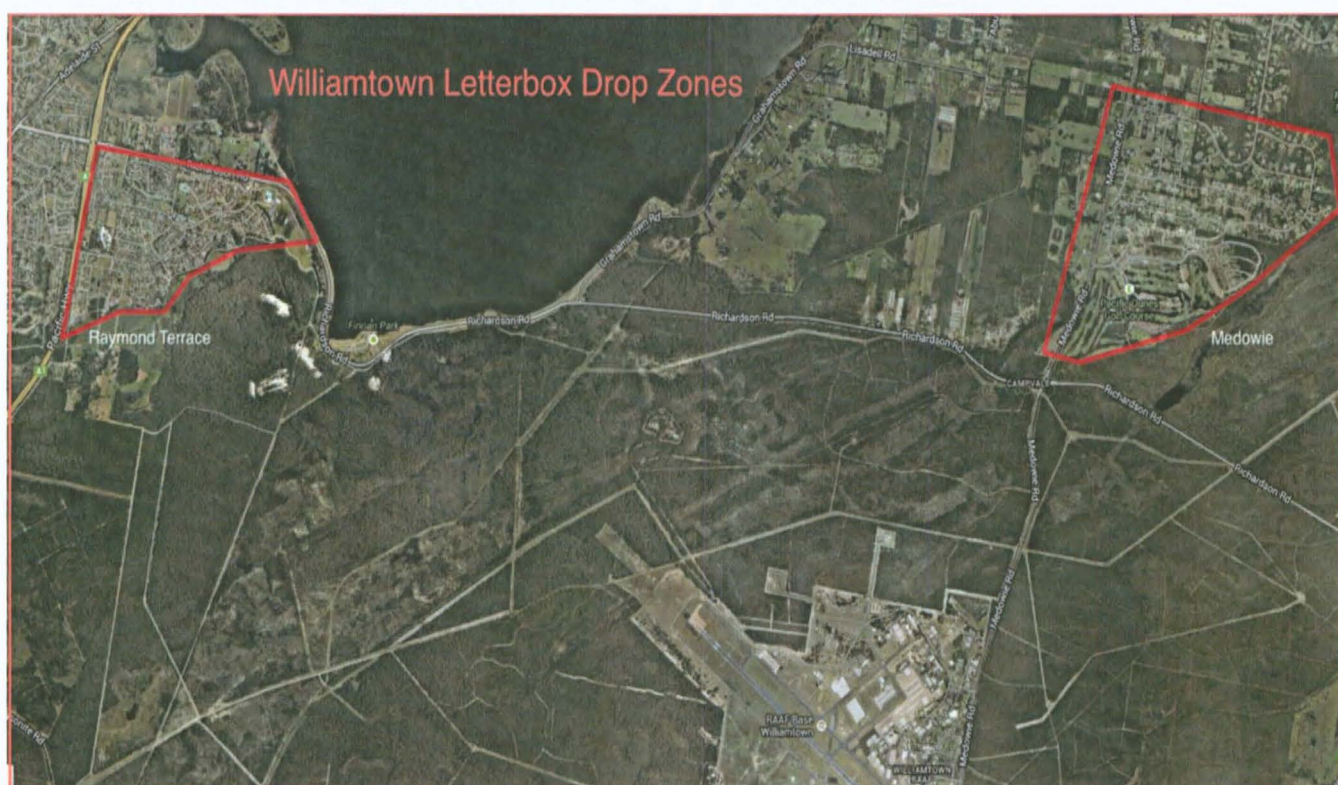
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Port Stephens Shire Council
Newcastle City Council
Muswellbrook Shire Council
Katherine Town Council
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
Federal Member for Newcastle, Sharon Claydon MP
Federal Member for Hunter, Shadow Defence Spokesperson, the Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP
Federal Member for Lingiari, the Hon Warren Snowden MP
Federal Member for Pearce, the Hon Christian Porter MP
Federal Member for Solomon, Natasha Griggs MP
Federal Member for Herbert, Ewen Jones MP
Federal Member for Durack, Melissa Price MP
Federal Member for Leichhardt, the Hon Warren Entsch MP
Federal Member for Wakefield, Nick Champion MP
Senator for the Northern Territory and Minister for Indigenous Affairs the Hon Nigel Scullion
STATE GOVERNMENT
NSW Minister for the Hunter, the Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP
NSW Deputy Premier & Minister for Trade & Investment, the Hon Andrew Stoner MP
NSW State Member for Port Stephens, Craig Baumann MP
NSW State Member for Upper Hunter, the Hon George Souris MP
NSW State Member for Maitland, Robyn Parker MP
NSW State Member for Newcastle, Tim Owen MP
NT Chief Minister, the Hon Adam Giles MLA
NT Minister for Land Resource Management, the Hon Willem Westra van Holthe MLA
State Member for Swan Hills, Frank Alban MP
State Member for Fong Lim, David Tollner MP,
State Member for Townsville, John Hathaway MP
State Member for Kimberley, Josie Farrer MP
State Member for Cook, David Kempton MP
State Member for Taylor, Leesa Vlahos MP
COMMUNITY, INDUSTRY & BUSINESS
Newcastle Airport
Hunter Business Chamber
HunterNet
Sydney Business Chamber
Australian Defence Association
Fighter World
Industry Capability Network
Medowie Progress Association (headed by retired Group Captain John Donahoo)
Medowie and Williamstown Business Association (Kate Washington)

Tomaree Residents & Ratepayers Association (TRRA)
Nelson Bay & District Business Association
Ecology/koala groups (Williamstown)
Denman Chamber of Commerce
Northern Land Council
Katherine Chamber of Commerce
Darwin City Council
Community of Katherine NT
Community of Medowie NSW
Community of Raymond Terrace NSW
Community of Denman NSW
COUNCIL'S
City of Swan
Darwin Municipality
Townsville City Council
Shire of Derby-West Kimberley
Cook Shire Council
City of Salisbury

ANNEX C

LETTERBOX DROP ACTIVITY UNDERTAKEN FOR THE NEW AIR COMBAT CAPABILITY FACILITIES PROJECT

A Project Flyer publicising the PWC public information sessions for the project was distributed as indicated below.



ANNEX D

PUBLIC CONSULTATION SESSIONS UNDERTAKEN FOR THE NEW AIR COMBAT CAPABILITY FACILITIES PROJECT

Public Consultation Sessions were conducted, over a three to four hour period, to provide ample time for people to drop in and find out about the project and the proposed works. Public Consultation Sessions were conducted at the following locations and times.

Defence Establishment Myambat

One public information session for the Myambat works was held during the engagement period.

A drop-in display was held on **Tuesday, 5 August 2014** between **2pm and 5pm** at the **Denman Visitor Information Centre**. Denman is the closest township to the site. A small number of attendees dropped-in including local community newsletter representatives.

RAAF Base Williamtown

Two public information sessions for the RAAF Base Williamtown works were held during the engagement period. These two sessions were run as drop-in displays allowing people to attend at any time during the scheduled period.

The first Williamtown session was held on **Wednesday, 6 August 2014** between **4pm and 8pm** at the **Raymond Terrace Bowling Club**. This location was chosen because of its close proximity to the base and easy access for potential visitors.

The second Williamtown session was held on **Thursday, 7 August 2014** between **4pm and 8pm** at the **Market Place Shopping Centre, Raymond Terrace**. This location was selected due to its accessibility for residents and stakeholders living in the local area. It was also strategically chosen for the amount of foot-traffic the centre receives on a Thursday night as part of late-night shopping. This time and location allowed the project team to reach a broad section of the community.

It is estimated that approximately **60 people** attended the Bowling Club and a further **175 people** stopped at the shopping centre display to ask questions, read the display boards or take away fact sheets.

RAAF Base Tindal

One information session was held for the RAAF Base Tindal works. The Tindal session was held on **Thursday, 14 August 2014** between **4pm and 8pm** at the **Katherine Oasis Shopping Centre, Katherine**. This location was selected due to its accessibility for residents and stakeholders living in the local area. It was also strategically chosen for the amount of foot-traffic the centre receives on a Thursday night as part of late-night shopping. This time and location allowed the project team to reach a broad section of the community.

It is estimated that approximately **50 people** attended the Katherine Shopping Centre display. The overwhelming theme was local employment and contracting opportunities.

ANNEX E

KEY ISSUES

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES TABLE		
RAAF BASE WILLIAMTOWN		
Issues Raised that have been addressed during the consultation period		
Issue	Discussed with:	How each item has been addressed:
Aircraft Noise was the most frequently cited issue at the Public Information Sessions.	Local community/Interest groups	<p>It was anticipated that many who attended the information sessions on the NACC Facilities Project might also be interested in the impacts from the JSF's operations , so an EIS fact sheet was also provided along with the details of the EIS information sessions.</p> <p>The Senior Australian Defence Force Officer (SADFO) from RAAF Base Williamtown attended to assist in advising local community and interest groups on noise related enquiries.</p>
Construction related traffic with construction vehicles potentially affecting traffic flow on Medowie Road during peak hour.	Port Stephens Council	The project is proposing to construct a separate construction entrance using the existing NSW Parks and Wildlife access road. This existing unsealed access road will be sealed for use by construction traffic. This will prevent queuing of traffic on Medowie Road. This proposal has been well received by both Port Stephens Council and the NSW Roads and Maritime Service.
There was strong interest expressed in opportunities for local businesses associated with the construction of the NACC Facilities	Members of the Local Industry, Hunter Net, Community attending information sessions	Attendees at community information sessions were advised in general terms about Defence procurement processes and project timeframes. Additionally, briefing sessions were held for interested businesses at HunterNet and associated Public Information Sessions.
Impact on Newcastle Airport Operations	Newcastle Airport and Local MP's.	The project team was able to provide assurance that impacts will be minimal in nature and that management processes used for other Defence major runway works have been successful in managing any impact.

Impact on Fighter World	Fighter World	Defence is currently looking carefully at this issue and working with Fighter World to develop an acceptable solution.
Technical questions regarding proposed Runway extension design	Former Defence Force member	Factual information was provided to the member of the community on the runway design.
Water Quality Management was discussed with Hunter Water in relation to the Tomago Sands.	Hunter Water	The Managing Contractor for the project is engaging with Hunter Water to develop further Water Quality Management plans.
Stormwater Drainage for RAAF Base Williamtown	Port Stephens Council	Drainage issues were discussed with Port Stephens Council resulting in an agreed approach in which Defence will provide a funding contribution to the Port Stephens Council for drainage works conducted on Lemon Tree Passage Road.
Koala habitat	Port Stephens Council	<p>Port Stephens Council facilitated a meeting with local ecological groups concerning plans to relocate a small number of koalas currently living directly adjacent to the runway due to the removal of preferred feeding trees for the runway extension.</p> <p>A parallel process is being conducted with a Threatened Species Permit submitted by Defence and currently under consideration by the Department of Environment.</p> <p>Port Stephens Council has identified concerns relating to Threatened Species affected by the project and has made a submission as part of the Threatened Species Permit process to the Department of Environment.</p>

RAAF BASE TINDAL		
Katherine Town Council raised issues around opportunities for indigenous employment and whether the influx of construction workers could affect housing prices in the town.	Katherine Town Council	<p>The latter issue was resolved satisfactorily through the proposal to construct a residential camp for workers.</p> <p>The project team is working with Charles Darwin University and the Northern Land Council to develop an effective strategy for fostering Indigenous Opportunities.</p>