



Australian Government
Department of Defence
Estate and Infrastructure Group

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Senator Dean Smith

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

Dear Senator Smith,

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT FOR THE RAAF BASE
WILLIAMTOWN REDEVELOPMENT STAGE TWO 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 RAAF Base Williamtown Redevelopment Stage Two Project (the Project).

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

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

The consultation activities undertaken included:

- Detailed email correspondence with local groups, State and Federal members, with individual briefings conducted where requested. The members and groups consulted, with a short description of the outcomes of the contact are detailed in Annex A. An example of the correspondence sent to the respective groups is detailed at Annex B;
- Advertisements in the local newspapers, listed in Annex C; and
- Two public consultation sessions undertaken, details listed at Annex D which were notified by the advertisements in the local newspapers and supplementary notification on radio stations NXFM on Thursday 2/7/15 and KOFM on Wednesday 1/7/15 and Thursday 2/7/15.

The Project had also previously held an initial Local Industry Forum but did not repeat this process in this current consultation period. Subject to Parliamentary approval of the Project, Defence's Managing Contractor will conduct a similar but more detailed forum in the latter half of 2015.

Key issues raised by the Community through the consultation sessions are listed at Annex E.

In general, the community feedback regarding the Project was positive and did not raise any issues with the proposed redevelopment works at RAAF Base Williamtown.

The consultation process did require clarification on the demarcation between the Project and other works currently being delivered at RAAF Base Williamtown under the New Air Combat Capability Facilities Project which are visible to the community.

There was strong support from the local community as the Project has the potential to generate employment for local businesses.

In conclusion, no significant issues have been identified during Defence's community consultations that will impact on the proposed works, and Defence is satisfied that it has taken all reasonable steps to inform the community about the Project and to provide opportunities for the community to raise concerns.

Yours sincerely,



N.F. BEUTEL

Brigadier

Director General Capital Facilities and Infrastructure

15 July 2015

Enclosures:

- A. List of Key Stakeholders Consulted
- B. Example Correspondence sent to Key Stakeholders
- C. Newspaper and Media Advertisements
- D. Public Consultation Sessions undertaken for the Project
- E. Key questions and issues raised during the community consultation sessions.

ANNEX A
DATED 15 JULY 2015

LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED

Level of Consultation	Organisation and Member	Date of Consultation	Comments
Local & State Government	State Member for Port Stephens, Ms Kate Washington MP	Scheduled for 16 th July 2015	Pending consultation on the morning of 16 th July 2015.
	Port Stephens Council, Mayor Mr Bruce MacKenzie	Not Applicable	Notified of project under letter dated 25.6.15. No Response received to Defence Letter.
	Port Stephens Council, Mr. Wayne Wallis	Not Applicable	Notified of project under letter dated 25.6.15. No Response received to Defence Letter.
	Hunter Business Chamber, Ms Kristen Keegan	Not Applicable	Notified of project under letter dated 25.6.15. No Response received to Defence Letter.
Federal Government	Federal Member for Newcastle, Ms Sharon Claydon, MP	Not Applicable Ms Sharon Claydon MP is a member of the PWC Committee attending the Hearing on 22 July 2015.	Notified of project under letter dated 25.6.15.
	Federal Member for Paterson, Hon Bob Baldwin, MP	Not Applicable	Notified of project under letter dated 25.6.15. No Response received to Defence Letter.
	Department of Environment	Consulted via the EPBC Act process with respect to the Project.	
	Department of Finance	Consulted as part of the draft exposure of the Statement of Evidence prior to Referral Motion.	

Level of Consultation	Organisation and Member	Date of Consultation	Comments
Local Area / Authority / Indigenous Representatives	AusGrid Mr Craig Moody	AusGrid sent a representative to the Williamtown Community Hall consultation session on 2 July 2015.	Notified of project under letter dated 25.6.15. No Response received to Defence Letter.
	Hunter Business Chamber, Ms Kristen Keegan	Not Applicable	Notified of project under letter dated 25.6.15. No Response received to Defence Letter.
	Hunter Water Board	Not Applicable	Notified of project under letter dated 25.6.15. Acknowledgment of letter receipt provided on 25 June 2015. No Response received to Defence Letter.
	Roads and Maritime Services	Not Applicable	Notified of project under letter dated 25.6.15. No Response received to Defence Letter.
	Hunter Water Corporation Mr Kim Wood	Not Applicable	Notified of project under letter dated 25.6.15. No Response received to Defence Letter.
	Telstra Mr Matthew Chapman	Not Applicable	Notified of project under letter dated 25.6.15. No Response received to Defence Letter.
	Newcastle Airport Proprietary Limited Mr Peter Cock	Not Applicable	Notified of project under letter dated 25.6.15. No Response received to Defence Letter.
	Hunter Land Graham Burns	A conversation was held with Mr James Garvey of Williamtown Aerospace Corporation who was advised of the consultation process by Hunter Land.	Issues related to industry benefit should Defence seek to divest further Commonwealth land adjacent to the existing Williamtown Aerospace commercial precinct.
	Worimi Aboriginal Land Council, Mr Jamie Merrick	Not Applicable	Notified of project under letter dated 25.6.15. No Response received to Defence Letter.

Level of Consultation	Organisation and Member	Date of Consultation	Comments
	Mu-Roo-Mar Mr. Anthony Anderson	Not Applicable	Notified of project under letter dated 25.6.15. No Response received to Defence Letter.
	Nur-Run-Gee Mr. Lennie Anderson	Not Applicable	Notified of project under letters dated 25.6.15. Acknowledgment of letter receipt provided on 29 June 2015. No Response received to Defence Letter.

ANNEX B
15 JULY 2015

EXAMPLE CORRESPONDENCE SENT TO KEY STAKEHOLDERS

An example of the email correspondence is as follows:

Good Afternoon Mr Bruce MacKenzie

I am writing to you on behalf of the Department of Defence regarding the Stage 2 Redevelopment at RAAF Base Williamtown.

The Base requires the upgrade or replacement of critical ageing infrastructure to support capability and to improve functionality and operational flexibility at the Base. There is a current and enduring Defence need for the Base and an urgent requirement to address deficiencies in capability, functionality, security and compliance of Base facilities and infrastructure.

The estimated cost of the Project is \$274 million, excluding Goods and Services Tax.

The Statement of Evidence, which provides detailed information on the RAAF Base Williamtown Redevelopment Stage 2, can be downloaded from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works website:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Public_Works/RAAF_Williamtown/Submissions

The public hearing for the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works is scheduled for approximately 12:00pm, Wednesday 22 July 2015, at the Williamtown Community Hall. Prior to the Public hearing we will be holding two consultation sessions where the public are invited to drop by and ask any questions regarding the RAAF Williamtown Redevelopment project. The first is being held at Williamtown Community Hall, 2 Sandeman Street, Williamtown, Thursday 2 July 2015 from 2:00pm to 4:00 pm. The second will be at the Market Place Raymond Terrace, 35 – 39 William Street, Raymond Terrace, Thursday 2 July 2015 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm.

If you would like any additional information, or would like to organise a brief on the Project to be conducted, please don't hesitate to contact either the Project Manager on 02 9256 4700 or email on ben.mackey@ttthinc.com.au, or alternatively Mr. Mark Bauer of the Department of Defence, on 02 6266 8343 or on email mark.bauer@defence.gov.au. We will be available at Williamtown on Wednesday 1 July and the morning of Thursday 2 July if you require further briefing.

Yours sincerely,

LTCOL Doug Fox
Project Director NSW Land and Air
Commonwealth's Representative

NEWSPAPER AND MEDIA ADVERTISEMENTS

The PWC public consultation sessions for the RAAF Base Williamtown Redevelopment Phase 2, were advertised in the Newcastle Herald and the Port Stephens Examiner.



Australian Government

Department of Defence

**Notice of Community
Information Sessions
RAAF Base Williamtown
Redevelopment Stage 2**

The Department of Defence is holding two community information sessions to outline the proposed scope of works for the RAAF Base Williamtown Redevelopment Stage 2 and seek feedback from the community. This work is subject to Parliamentary approval.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC) conducts inquiries into matters referred to it by the House of Representatives or a Minister of the Commonwealth Government. Members of the general public are provided with the opportunity to sit-in during the PWC hearing.

More information on the PWC Process can be found at:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Public_Works/RAAF_Williamtown/Submissions

The below sessions are run as drop-in, and community members are welcome to attend between the published times below.

Community Information Session Details

When: Thursday 2 July 2015

Time: 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Where: Williamtown Community Hall, 2 Sandeman Street, Williamtown

When: Thursday 2 July 2015

Time: 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Where: Market Place Raymond Terrace, 35-39 William Street, Raymond Terrace

ANNEX D
15 JULY 2015

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION SESSION FOR THE RAAF BASE WILLIAMTOWN
REDEVELOPMENT PHASE 2**

Two public consultation sessions were conducted, each over two hours, in two alternate locations at Williamtown and Raymond Terrace, on the date 2/7/15 providing a four-hour period open to *drop in* public consultation.

The first session was held at the Williamtown Community Hall on 2/7/15 from 2pm to 4pm and was an open session attended by approximately 12 parties.

The second session was held at the regional shopping centre, The Market Place at Raymond Terrace, from 5pm until 7pm and was an open sessions within the shopping centre which had a much higher volume of foot traffic, approximately 50 parties.

The Managing Contractor has undertaken to hold a future briefing in regards to contracting and supply chain opportunities in advance of their major procurement activities in the latter half of 2015 (subject to approval of the Project).

ANNEX E
DATED 15 JULY 2015

KEY QUESTIONS AND ISSUES RAISED DURING COMMUNITY CONSULTATION SESSIONS

A summary of the key issues and questions that were received during the community consultations, including the Defence responses provided, is indicated in the table below:

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES		
ISSUE / QUESTION	HOW EACH ISSUE / QUESTION WAS ADDRESSED	COMMUNITY MEMBER
WILLIAMTOWN COMMUNITY HALL CONSULTATION		
Which end of the runway is being extended?	Both ends of the runway are being extended to achieve a 10,000 foot runway under the separate New Air Combat Capability Project.	Local resident
Will the runway extensions require tunnel construction of public roads?	There are no plans to underground any of the existing road network.	Local resident
Base entry/intersection is dangerous with accidents occurring regularly	There will be improvements to the existing southern entry and a new signalised northern entry to replace the existing northern entry to address parking and traffic concerns.	Local residents (4)
Rumours Medowie Rd or Nelson Bay Rd are going to be closed or a bypass was to be built	Defence have no plans or authority to close roads outside the Base.	Local residents (3)
Will Defence be making offers to purchase remaining properties in Moxy Close?	Defence has no plans to actively purchase properties in Moxy Close at this time.	Local resident

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES		
ISSUE / QUESTION	HOW EACH ISSUE / QUESTION WAS ADDRESSED	COMMUNITY MEMBER
What works will be done first?	Works to the Northern Entry and its interface with Medowie Road are the first physical works that will be evident within the Project.	Local resident
When will work be completed?	There will be a high tempo of work until mid 2018 after which the tempo will reduce with final elements being completed in 2020 / 2021.	Local resident
Drainage – Moores Drain flooding since 1990 – Fullerton Cove not draining	Maintenance of the drains is a Council responsibility	Local residents (3)
What happens with the waste water run off from plane washing – are there contaminants in the run off?	The aircraft wash facilities at the Base have been designed and delivered under previous projects and is subject to Defence compliance requirements and appropriate environmental regulations.	Local resident
Noise of flying aircraft	The noise of the existing aircraft and future F-35A Lightning has been the subject of an Environmental Impact Statement with public exposure in 2014 under the NACC Facilities Project.	Local Resident (resident has sent an email to Jacqueline Payne – HQ Air combat Group)
Will this project provide bicycle paths in the area?	The Project does not intend to provide bike paths parallel to Medowie Road.	Councillor
Will the base collaborate with RMS and Council for upgrades to the roads and will	Defence are amenable to coordinating works on the Medowie Road pavements at the north and south entry upgrades with	Councillor

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES		
ISSUE / QUESTION	HOW EACH ISSUE / QUESTION WAS ADDRESSED	COMMUNITY MEMBER
there be a speed limit reduction	Council	
What is the level of noise attenuation for the buildings on base?	Existing noise exposure to Defence personnel has been a key driver of the Project and has led to a population of 953 personnel being accommodated within the Flexible Office Accommodation, and some attenuation to existing buildings to improve amenity and mitigate noise exposure.	Councillor
Are there plans to move Fighter World or the on base childcare?	There are no plans under this Project to move Fighter World nor current child care provision. These matters are for the Defence Estate managers.	Councillor
Noise of aircraft scares horses on local properties – why don't the planes fly strictly in accordance with the advertised schedule	The Air Force does occasionally depart from anticipated flying subject to impacts on training and operations arising to weather conditions and other interruptions outside of their control.	Salt Ash Resident
RAYMOND TERRACE CONSULTATION		
Industry interest (x4) will there be work for local small businesses?	The Managing Contractor was in attendance and undertook to provide briefing to local industry for contracting and supply chain opportunities in the latter part of 2015 prior to major procurement activities.	

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES		
ISSUE / QUESTION	HOW EACH ISSUE / QUESTION WAS ADDRESSED	COMMUNITY MEMBER
General interest - most visitors were generally interested and had no negative comments about the plans and were pleased to see money being invested locally.	Note	Local Residents