



**Australian Government**  
**Defence**

Air Commodore RM Tilley  
Director General  
Capital Facilities and Infrastructure

**Mr Graham Perrett MP**

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

Dear Mr Perrett

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT  
COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS AIRFIELD UPGRADE PROJECT**

1. The Cocos (Keeling) Islands Airfield Upgrade Project (the Project) was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for consideration on 24 November 2022. The Project proposes to deliver facilities, infrastructure and other works on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

2. This letter is to inform the Committee of the nature and extent of community consultation that has been undertaken by the Department of Defence for these proposed works. The aim of the consultation is to ensure the community and other stakeholders are:

- a. well informed about the proposed works through effective and proven communication channels
- b. provided the opportunity to raise any concerns or issues, or to seek further information so that, wherever feasible, Defence can address these in its proposed works.

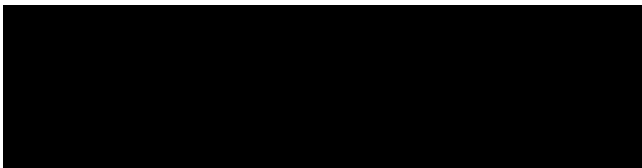
3. The following stakeholder and community consultation activities were delivered in accordance with the Project's comprehensive community engagement strategy:

- a. Details of community information forums were advertised in the community newsletter, and promotional posters were mounted in prominent locations on both West Island and Home Island. The content of the advertisement was translated into Cocos Malay to ensure that all members of the local community were able to be made fully aware of the forums. The details are included in the example advertisement shown at **Annex A**.
- b. Four community information forums were conducted between October 2022 and December 2022 – two on West Island and two on Home Island. Defence utilised a Cocos Malay translator on Home Island to ensure locals were able to receive the information being presented and communicate with the presenters.



- c. The type of information Defence presented at the community information forums is shown at **Annex B**, and details of attendance at the forums is provided at **Annex C**. In total, 30 people attended the community information forums on Home Island, and 19 people attended the community information forums on West Island.
  - d. In addition, five community consultation activities were held between August 2018 and November 2021. The purpose of these activities was to keep the community updated on the progress of the Project, which enabled Defence to, where possible, incorporate suggestions from the community, community leaders, local businesses and other key stakeholders into the Project's design and delivery methodology.
  - e. Key stakeholders, including Federal, State and Local Members of Government, and local community and business groups, were invited to receive a personal briefing about the Project. An example of the invitation that was sent to key stakeholders is at **Annex D**, and a list of all stakeholders engaged by the Project, including the status of each engagement, is provided at **Annex E**.
4. A Project Website was set up to announce information about the Project and receive questions from interested parties (<https://www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/infrastructure-projects/cocos-keeling-islands-airfield-upgrade-project>).
5. Information about the proposed works was generally well received at the stakeholder briefings and community information forums, and the feedback was generally supportive. The majority of comments received related to considerations of the impact of the works on the local community, potential environmental, cultural and religious sensitivities, concern about whether the Project would lead to an increase in Defence's operations from the island, and whether the Project would generate job opportunities for the local population. A summary of topics and key issues raised during the briefings and community information forums is provided at **Annex F**.
6. In conclusion, no issues were identified during Defence's community consultation activities that might have an impact on the proposed works. I am satisfied that Defence has taken all reasonable steps to inform the community about the Project and has provided opportunities for the community to raise any concerns and questions.

Yours sincerely,



**RM Tilley**  
Air Commodore  
Director General Capital Facilities and Infrastructure

17 February 2023



**Annexes:**

- A. Newspaper Advertisements and Promotional Posters
- B. Community Information Forum Resources – Information Boards and Project Brochure
- C. Community Information Forums – Attendance and Summary
- D. Example of Correspondence Sent to Key Stakeholders
- E. Status of Key Stakeholder Briefings
- F. Summary of Topics and Key Issues Raised during Community Information Forums




## NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS AND PROMOTIONAL POSTERS

Advertisements promoting the community information forums were placed in *The Atoll* community newsletter, and were also printed as posters that were displayed in prominent locations in the community. *The Atoll* is produced by the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Community Resource Centre once a fortnight and is distributed in hard copy to every registered postal address on West Island and Home Island. Additionally, an electronic version is emailed to their subscribers. The content of the advertisement was translated into Cocos Malay to ensure that all members of the local community were able to be made fully aware of the forums.

Location	Publication	Delivery Area	Date Published
The Cocos (Keeling) Islands	<i>The Atoll</i> Community Newsletter	Every postal address on West Island and Home Island	Friday 04 November 2022 Friday 18 November 2022

### “THE ATOLL” COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER – FRIDAY 18 NOVEMBER EXAMPLE

**“THE ATOLL” COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER**  
Public Notices (cont'd) *Notis – notis Umum (seterusnya)*



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**NOTICE OF COMMUNITY INFORMATION FORUMS**

From 26-29 November 2022, the project team for the Department of Defence's Cocos (Keeling) Islands Airfield Upgrade Project will conduct Community Information Forums on Home and West Island to outline proposed future construction works on West Island.

Subject to Parliamentary Approval, the project will provide a significant upgrade to the existing infrastructure of the existing Cocos (Keeling) Islands airfield to enhance the overall safety and serviceability for all aircraft operating out of the islands. The proposed works will involve upgrades to the runway, taxiways, aprons and lighting, in addition to improving drainage to minimise future flooding on the runway.

The project also proposes to upgrade existing infrastructure on the island (including road works along the Sydney Highway) and to construct a new, permanent Material Office Facility (construction wharf) at the Rumah Baru Port facility to enable construction activities to take place. The Project will also aim to remove some existing Defence legacy waste (aircraft debris) from West Island.

The Community Information Forums will include information, displays and a presentation outlining the proposed works and will also offer an opportunity for locals to ask questions and speak with members of the Project Team and Defence Representatives.

**Community Information Forum Details**


Date	Time	Venue
Saturday 26 November	1:00pm – 2:00pm	Home Island, Shire Office
Sunday 27 November	4:00pm – 5:30pm	West Island, CRC Conference Room
Monday 28 November 2022	4:30pm – 5:30pm	Home Island, Shire Office
Tuesday 29 November 2022	10:00am – 11:00am	West Island, CRC Conference Room

*\*Light refreshments will be provided at the information sessions*

**Contact the Team**

If you would like further details, please contact the Project Team via email at [R8129.PMCA@aecom.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:R8129.PMCA@aecom.onmicrosoft.com) (please note this email address replaces the previously advertised [info@cki-airfield-upgrade.com](mailto:info@cki-airfield-upgrade.com) email address which is no longer functional)

**“THE ATOLL” COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER**  
Public Notices (cont'd) *Notis – notis Umum (seterusnya)*



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**NOTIS FORUM INFORMASI MASYARAKAT**

Dari 26-29 November 2022, tim projek untuk Department of Defence's Cocos (Keeling) Islands Airfield Upgrade Project akan mengadakan forum informasi masyarakat di Kampong dan di Pulu Panjang untuk menerangkan pekerjaan yang telah di majukan untuk masa depan di Pulu Panjang.

Tunduk pada Persekituan Parlimen, projek ini akan memberikan peningkatan yang penting pada infrastruktur yang ada di lapangan terbang Cocos (Keeling) Islands untuk meningkatkan keselamatan dan kemudahan untuk semua kapal terbang yang beroperasi di luar pulu. Pekerjaan yang dicadangkan akan melibatkan membaiki runway, taxiways, tempat kapal terbang menanti dan lampu, di samping itu membaiki sistem saliran air untuk mengurangkan banjir di runway di masa depan.

Projek ini juga berancang untuk membaiki infrastruktur yang ada di pulu (termasuk pekerjaan jalan di sepanjang Sydney Highway) dan membuat tempat untuk menurunkan cargo yang baru (jambatan untuk kapal) di Rumah Baru Port facility untuk pekerjaan di jalankan. Projek ini juga akan bertujuan untuk mengahut sampah Defence (sampah kapal terbang) dari Pulu Panjang.

Forum Maklumat Masyarakat akan termasuk informasi, petunjukan dan presentasi menggariskan kerjaan yang dicadangkan dan juga akan menawarkan peluang kepada penduduk untuk bertanya dan bercakap dengan anggota Tim Projek dan Wakil Defence.

**Keterangan Forum Informasi Masyarakat**

Hari/tahun	Jam	Tempat
Sabtu 26 Novemba	1:00petang – 2:00petang	Kampong, Cpis Korsei
Ningga 27 Novemba	4:00petang – 5:30petang	Pulu Panjang, CRC Conference Room
Senin 28 Novemba 2022	4:30petang – 5:30petang	Kampong, Cpis Korsei
Selasa 29 Novemba 2022	10:00pagi – 11:00pagi	Pulu Panjang, CRC Conference Room

*\*Makanan ringan akan disediakan di sesi informasi*

**Hubungi Tim Projek**

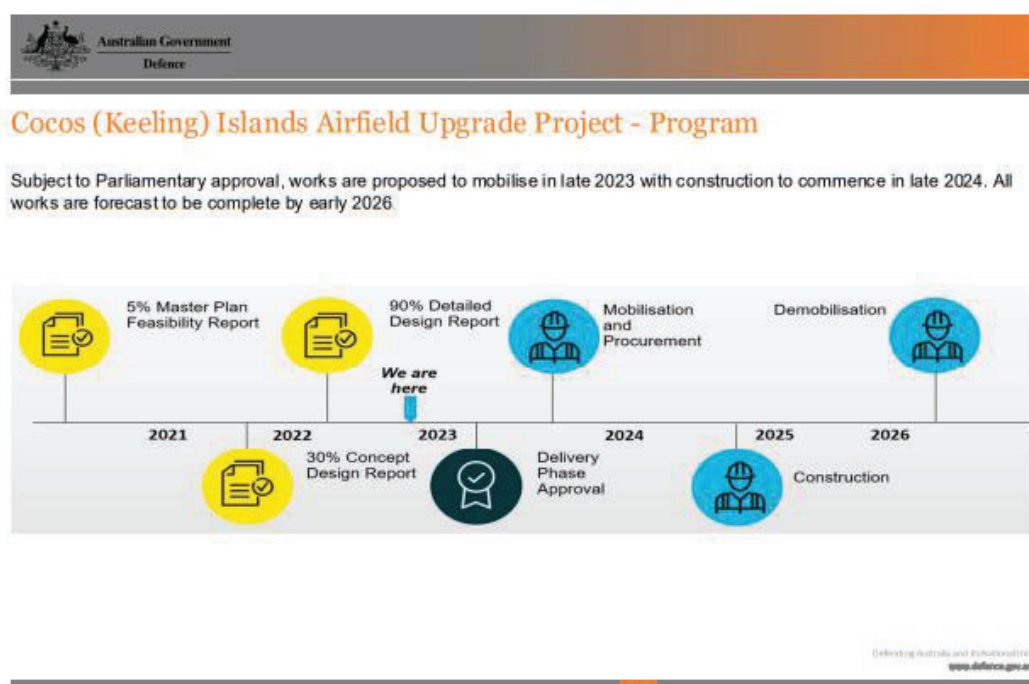
Jika anda ingin keterangan lebih lanjut, sila hubungi Tim Projek melalui emel di [R8129.PMCA@aecom.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:R8129.PMCA@aecom.onmicrosoft.com) (jika ambil perhatian bahawa emel ini menggantikan emel [info@cki-airfield-upgrade.com](mailto:info@cki-airfield-upgrade.com) yang di-batalkan sebelumnya)



## Annex B


### COMMUNITY INFORMATION FORUM RESOURCES – INFORMATION BOARDS

The below information boards containing Project information were on display during the community information forums (24 – 28 November 2022).





## COMMUNITY INFORMATION FORUM RESOURCES – INFORMATION BOARDS


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### Cocos (Keeling) Islands Airfield Upgrade Project

The Cocos (Keeling) Islands Runway Upgrade Project aims to upgrade the airfield at Cocos (Keeling) Islands (CKI) to support the Department of Defence's capability requirements. The proposed works will also improve safety for both civilian and military aircraft.

CKI airfield is an enabling element of the Australian Defence Force's (ADF) P-8A Poseidon aircraft. However, the heavy P-8A is currently unable to operate out of CKI due to insufficient length and strength of the existing airfield pavement infrastructure. The Project proposes to lengthen and strengthen pavement infrastructure to enable the operation of P-8A's at CKI. It also proposes to enhance airfield lighting and drainage/flood prevention infrastructure, develop a new, permanent construction wharf and remove Defence Legacy from West Island.

#### Scope of Works

The proposed project scope consists of 7 Work Elements which include:

**Work Element 1: Runway**

- Strengthening and widening the runway
- Inclusion of two turning nodes at either end

**Work Element 2: Taxiways**

- Strengthening and widening of all taxiways

**Work Element 3: Apron**

- Strengthening and reconfiguring the existing apron

**Work Element 4: Lighting**

- Refurbishment of Airfield Ground Lighting and installation of apron floodlighting

**Work Element 5: Drainage and Flooding**

- Relocation and compliance work on the stormwater drainage system

**Work Element 6: Runway Extension**

- 150m extension of the runway

**Work Element 7: Waste Removal**

- Removal of legacy waste on CKI from previous Defence projects and operations

Due to the remote location of the Project, three supporting elements are required to enable the works to occur:

**Supporting Element 1: Construction Support Facilities**


- Construction compounds with laydown areas
- Establish a permanent Material Offload Facility (MOF, 'construction wharf')

**Supporting Element 2: General Support**

- Measing, accommodation, transport and staging for the fly-in fly-out (FIFO) workforce
- Provision of fuel and other stores

**Supporting Element 3: Logistics**

- Enabling logistics to ship construction materials and equipment from Australia to CKI.



#### Sites


The proposed project works will take place on West Island at the following locations as depicted in the map above:

- CKI Airfield
- Lot 3003 Accommodation Camp
- Q-Station Compound & Main Office
- Waste-Water Treatment Plant and Salt-Water Reverse Osmosis Plant
- Stilling Basin Compound, Materials Offload Facility, and Satellite Office
- Sydney Highway
- Beach Landing

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## COMMUNITY INFORMATION FORUM RESOURCES – INFORMATION BOARDS



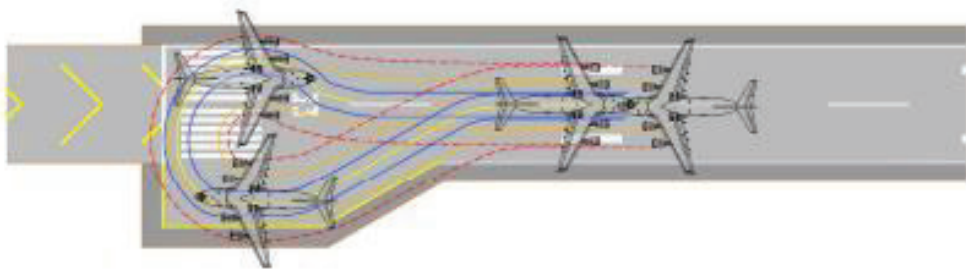
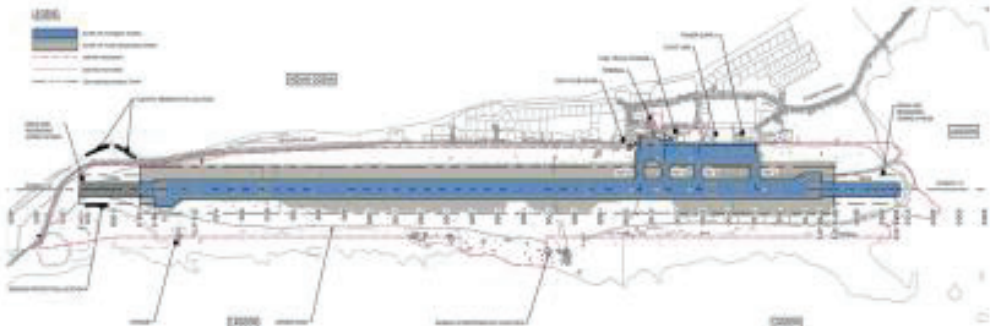

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### Work Element 1 – Existing Runway

Work Element 1 will consist of upgrades to the existing runway at the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Airfield.

The upgrades to the existing runway will involve:


- **Runway Strengthening** – overlaying the existing runway with asphalt to accommodate larger, heavier aircraft and mitigate inundation from sea level rising and/or localised flooding.
- **Runway Shoulders** – construction of shoulder pavements along the full length of the runway.
- **Turning Nodes** – construction of new turning nodes at each end of the runway to allow aircraft to backtrack onto the runway.
- **Runway End Safety Area** – strengthening the existing safety area to comply with requirements for larger aircraft.



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## COMMUNITY INFORMATION FORUM RESOURCES – INFORMATION BOARDS



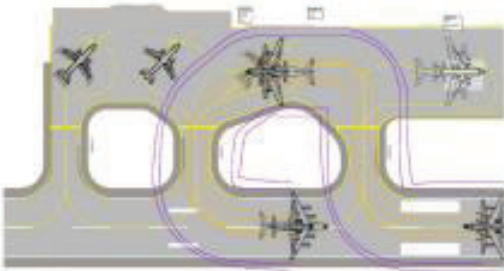
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### Work Element 2 – Taxiways

Work Element 2 will consist of upgrades to the four existing taxiways at the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Airfield.

The upgrades to the four existing taxiways will involve:

- **Taxiway Strengthening** – overlay all four existing taxiways with asphalt to achieve the required vertical design level.
- **Taxiway Shoulders** – widening all four taxiways.




### Work Element 3 – Existing Aprons

Work Element 3 will consist of upgrades to the four existing taxiways at the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Airfield. The existing apron comprises five parking bays of different sizes for various civilian and military aircraft, located adjacent to the taxiway.

The upgrades to the four existing taxiways will involve:

- **Apron Strengthening** – overlay existing apron with asphalt to achieve the required vertical design level to accommodate larger, heavier aircraft.
- **Apron Configuration** – the existing apron layout has been re-planned to create two dedicated parking positions that can accommodate the P-8A aircraft.

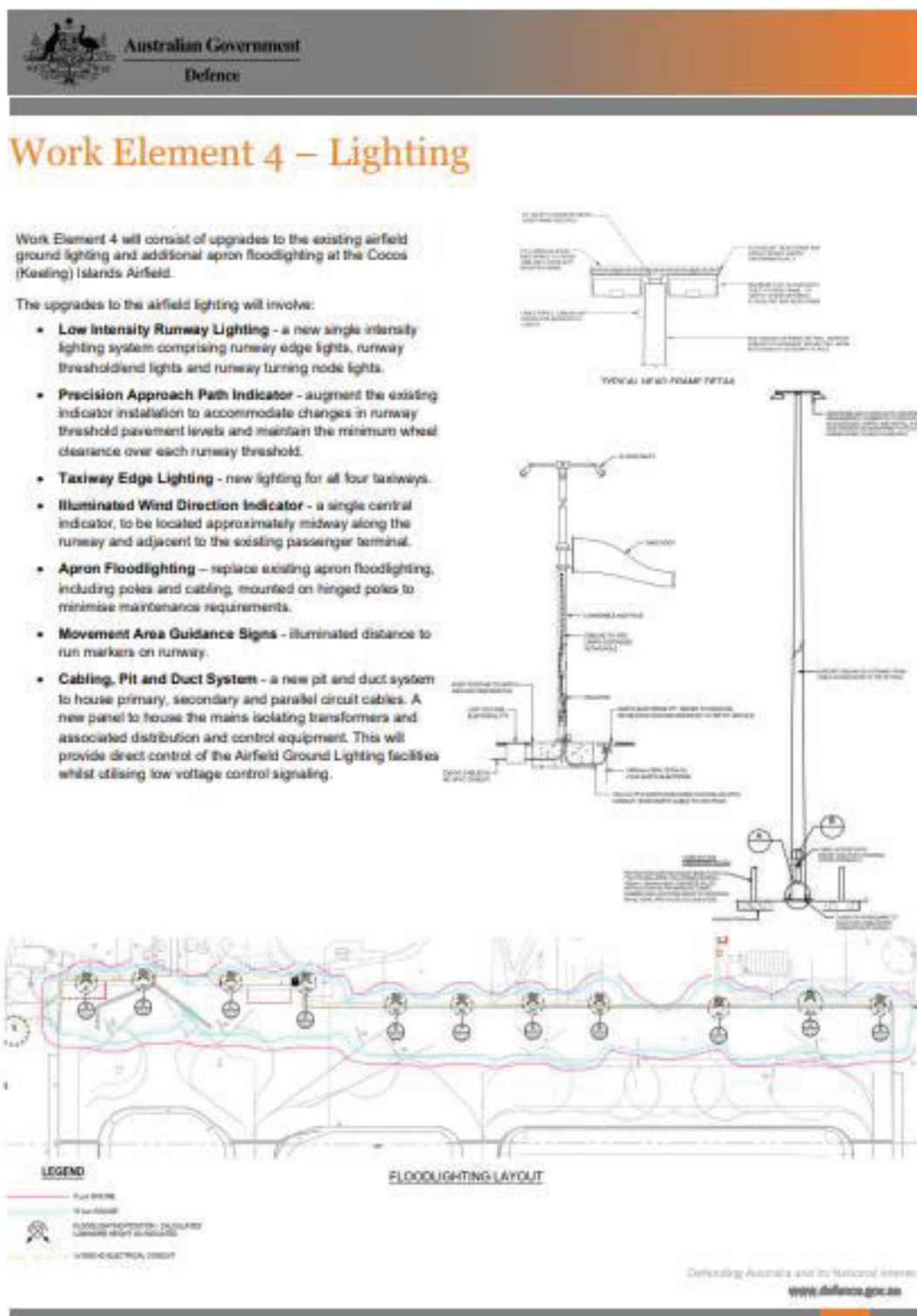


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## Annex B

### COMMUNITY INFORMATION FORUM RESOURCES – INFORMATION BOARDS





## COMMUNITY INFORMATION FORUM RESOURCES – INFORMATION BOARDS




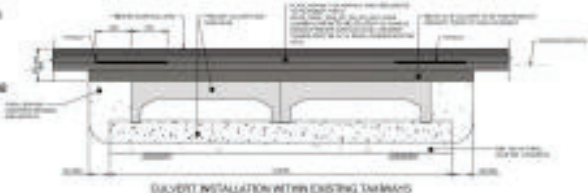
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### Work Element 5 – Drainage and Flooding

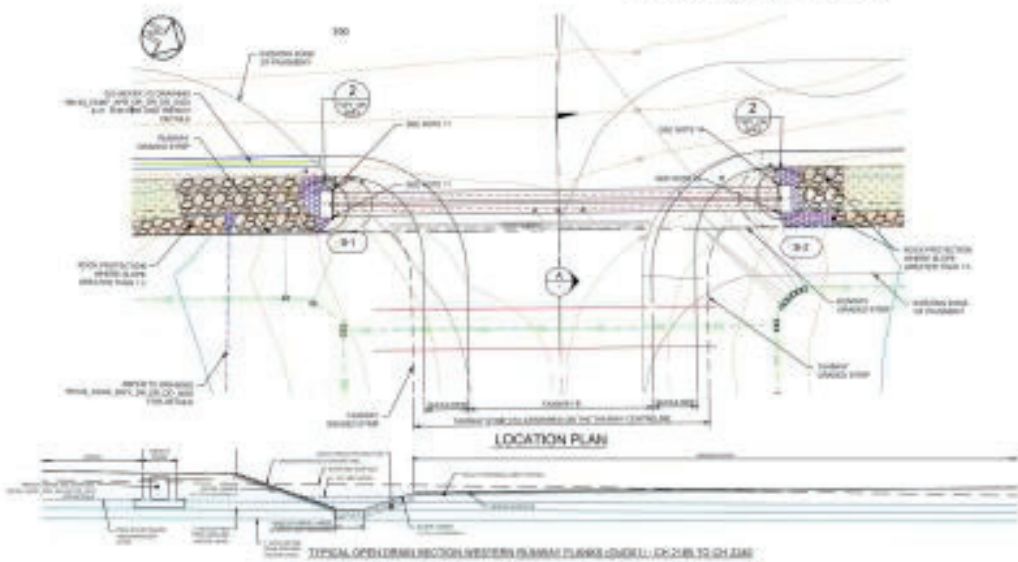
Work Element 5 will consist of upgrades to the drainage system at the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Airfield.

The existing drainage system at CKI airfield is inadequate for the site topography, ocean tidal levels and groundwater, which results in regular inundation and ponding of water. Upgrading the drainage system would minimise inundation during storm events, mitigate against sea level rise and reduce water ponding. A coastal hazard risk assessment also identified areas of low topography that could channel storm surges, leading to inundation of the southern portions of the runway.

- **Relocate existing drainage** – reroute the drainage path by constructing graded drains to existing outlets for both minor and major design storm events.
- **Taxiway Drainage** – install reinforced concrete box culverts underneath existing taxiways which will improve drainage.
- **Apron Drainage** – install a trench drain and manual control valve to capture any spills during refueling. The trench system would be located between each taxiway, based upon the proposed parking and refueling positions on the site.
- **Coastal Engineering** – construct a seawall of exposed geotextile sand containers to help prevent the spread and the flow of coastal waters. This method aligns with coastal protection infrastructure strategies employed elsewhere on the island.

CULVERT INSTALLATION WITHIN EXISTING TAXIWAYS




LOCATION PLAN

TYPICAL OPEN CHANNEL SECTION (WESTERN SUBURBAN FLUMES - OVERALL 1:20:1 TO 1:24:1)

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## COMMUNITY INFORMATION FORUM RESOURCES – INFORMATION BOARDS




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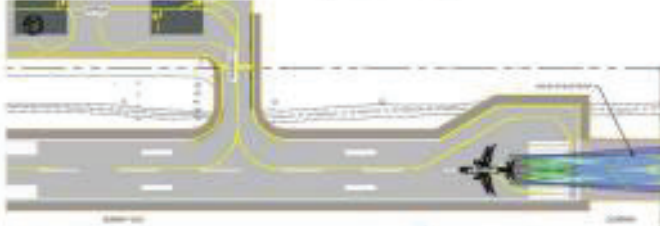
### Work Element 6 – Runway Extension

Work Element 6 will consist of an extension of the existing runway at the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Airfield.

The southern end of the runway will be extended to accommodate the P-8A Poseidon capability, but also to improve airfield safety. Works outlined in Elements 1 to 5 above will also be incorporated into the portion of the runway being extended to ensure consistency across the full runway post-upgrade. The Project will:

- extend the existing runway by 150 metres;
- include runway shoulder works along the length of the runway extension (refer Work Element 1);
- paved and sealed clearways at each end of the runway (refer Work Element 1);
- a 240 m x 90 m Runway End Safety Area at the southern end of the runway (refer Work Element 1);
- line marking; and
- clear vegetation from within the runway extension footprint.





**LEGEND**

- Runway Extension
- Runway Shoulder
- Runway End Safety Area


### Work Element 7 – Defence Legacy Waste

Work Element 7 would involve the removal of the Defence Legacy Waste from the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

The workforce and equipment to be deployed to CKI, and associated logistics, presents a potential opportunity to repatriate Defence legacy waste material. This includes aircraft and Marston Matting used in the original construction of the airfield which was originally deposited in the lagoon on West Island.

The method for disposing of the legacy waste is still being refined by Defence, its designers and environmental subconsultants. Surveys are currently being undertaken on island to confirm the appropriateness of removing the waste from CKI in light of any environmental impacts that could arise from this activity. Pending the outcome of further design and environmental surveys, Work Element 7 currently comprises:

- **Waste removal** - land-based waste removed by an excavator with swamp tracks, while waste located in the lagoon will be removed using a low-draft, workboat. Highly fragile waste will not be removed from CKI as it will naturally deteriorate. Waste that has become functional marine habitat, such as some aircraft debris, will not be removed.
- **Waste packaging, transport and disposal** - the waste will be screened, separated and containerised before being transported to Australia and disposed of appropriately.



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## COMMUNITY INFORMATION FORUM RESOURCES – INFORMATION BOARDS



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### Supporting Element 1 – Construction Support Facilities

Due to the remote location of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands (CKI), the Project will require several temporary facilities to support the construction and minimise impacts to the local population. Supporting Element 1 will consist of building or utilizing existing facilities to support the delivery of the Project and will include:

**Construction of a new, permanent Material Offloading Facility (construction wharf)** - The Project will require the offloading of a significant amount of construction materials, and the existing port for West Island is inadequate for the handling of bulk aggregates. The Project is proposing to build a new, permanent reinforced wharf on West Island, to facilitate works and support any future development activities on CKI.

The proposed wharf would comprise of a piled steel structure with precast decking and would be located adjacent to the existing port facility.

On completion, Defence would officially hand this facility over to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts to provide ongoing benefit to the CKI community.



(Permanent Material Offloading Facility)

**Stilling Basin Compound** - The Stilling Basin is an open stockpile area located next to the existing wharf at Rumah Baru. Pending approval, the Project is planning to use the compound to:

- facilitate vessel loading and unloading
- stage cargo including plant, equipment and materials
- undertake biosecurity inspections
- wash-down outward-bound cargo
- stockpile bulk aggregates
- refuel plant and equipment.



(Stilling Basin Compound)

**Road Works** - portions of Sydney Highway and Rumah Baru Road will be strengthened, widened and bypass bays constructed to support Project-related traffic and reduce safety risk to the local community. Works would include a new access road to the airfield from Sydney Highway that would bypass the township to reduce disruption to the local community and minimise traffic incidents.



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## COMMUNITY INFORMATION FORUM RESOURCES – INFORMATION BOARDS



### Supporting Element 2 – General Support

**Supporting Element 2 – General Support** - the scope and remote location of the Project requires support to facilitate the works and sustain the workforce, such as:

- Importing food, preparing meals and removing waste generated by the construction workforce.
- Transport and mainland Australia accommodation costs for the fly in fly out workforce.
- Provision of fuels and other general stores to service the worker's accommodation camp and construction activities.



### Supporting Element 3 – Logistics



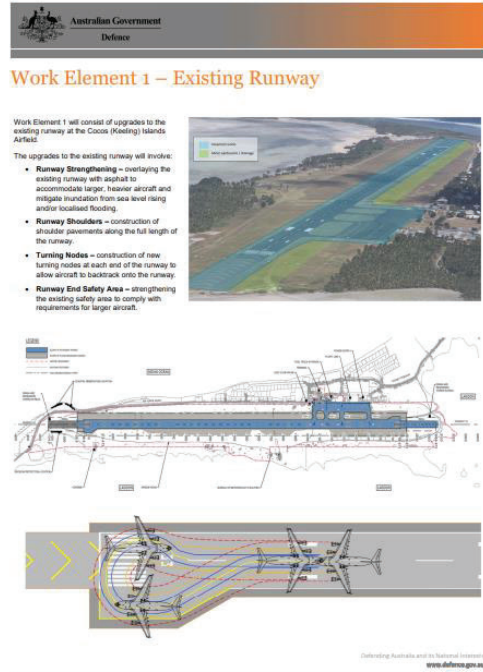
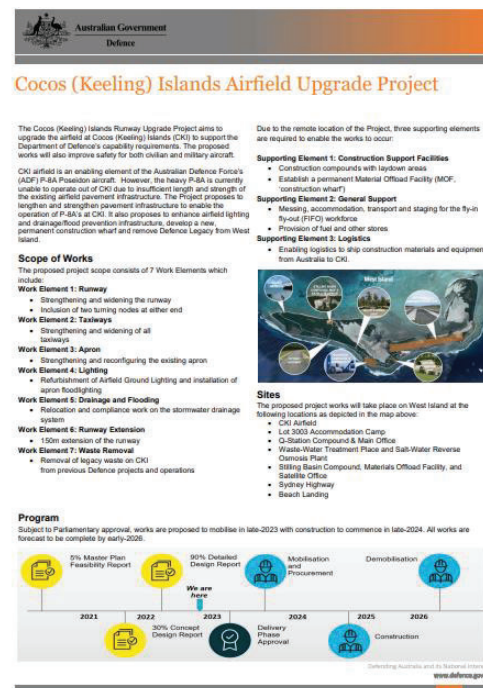
**Supporting Element 3 – Logistics** - Where possible the Project would provide a standalone project-specific supply chain to transport personnel, equipment and material to CKI and minimise disruption to the local community. Logistics will comprise:

- **Freight by Sea:** Sea freight is the primary logistics method to support bulk cargo and sustainment requirements. Cargo volume will greatly exceed the existing CKI maritime supply chain capacity, therefore the Project will establish a dedicated shipping supply chain to supplement the existing CKI supply chain to limit reliance on existing services.
- **Freight by Air:** Commercial air freight will be utilised to facilitate the uplift of perishables, high-value low-volume cargo, and urgent items.
- **Additional charter flight services:** While existing flights will be utilised throughout construction, additional charter services from mainland Australia will be required to accommodate the peak workforce during the construction stage of the Project to minimise service impacts to locals and tourists.



## COMMUNITY INFORMATION FORUM RESOURCES – PROJECT BROCHURE

The following project brochure was printed in A5 format and made available to attendees at each community information forum held between 24 and 29 November 2022. The intent of the brochure was to provide attendees with useful information that they could take home, consider and share amongst the wider community.





## COMMUNITY INFORMATION FORUM RESOURCES – PROJECT BROCHURE



### Work Element 2 – Taxiways

Work Element 2 will consist of upgrades to the four existing taxiways at the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Airfield.

The upgrades to the four existing taxiways will involve:

- **Taxiway Strengthening** – overlay all four existing taxiways with asphalt to achieve the required vertical design level.
- **Taxiway Shoulders** – widening all four taxiways.

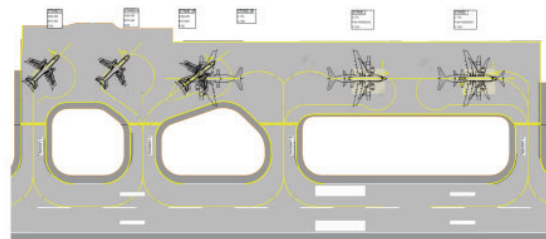


### Work Element 3 – Existing Aprons

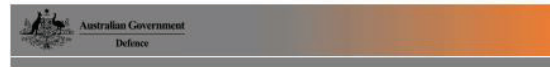
Work Element 3 will consist of upgrades to the four existing taxiways at the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Airfield. The existing apron comprises five parking bays of different sizes for various civilian and military aircraft, located adjacent to the taxiway.

The upgrades to the four existing taxiways will involve:

- **Apron Strengthening** – overlay existing apron with asphalt to achieve the required vertical design level to accommodate larger, heavier aircraft.
- **Apron Configuration** – the existing apron layout has been re-planned to create two dedicated parking positions that can accommodate the P-8A aircraft.



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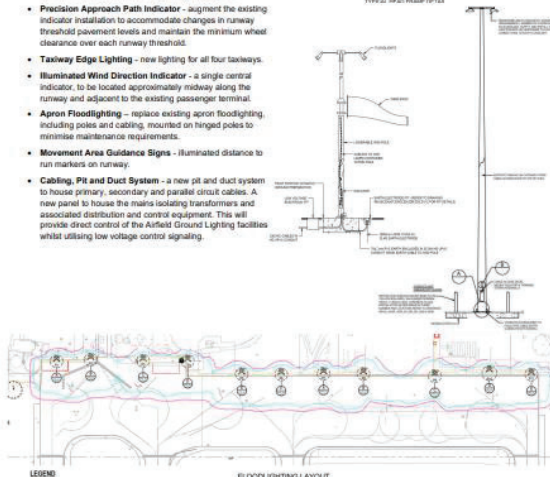


### Work Element 4 – Lighting

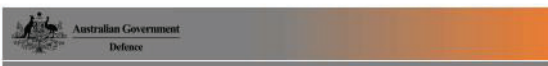
Work Element 4 will consist of upgrades to the existing airfield ground lighting and additional apron floodlighting at the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Airfield.

The upgrades to the airfield lighting will involve:

- **Low Intensity Runway Lighting** – a new single intensity lighting system comprising runway edge lights, runway threshold lights and runway turning node lights.
- **Precision Approach Path Indicator** – augment the existing indicator installation to accommodate changes in runway threshold pavement levels and maintain the minimum wheel clearance over each runway threshold.
- **Taxiway Edge Lighting** – new lighting for all four taxiways.
- **Illuminated Wind Direction Indicator** – a single central indicator, to be located approximately midway along the runway and adjacent to the existing passenger terminal.
- **Apron Floodlighting** – replace existing apron floodlighting, including poles and cabling, mounted on hinged poles to minimise maintenance requirements.
- **Movement Area Guidance Signs** – illuminated distance to run markers on runway.
- **Cabling, Pit and Duct System** – a new pit and duct system to house primary, secondary and parallel circuit cables. A new panel to house the mains isolating transformers and associated distribution and control equipment. This will provide direct control of the Airfield Ground Lighting facilities whilst utilising low voltage control signaling.



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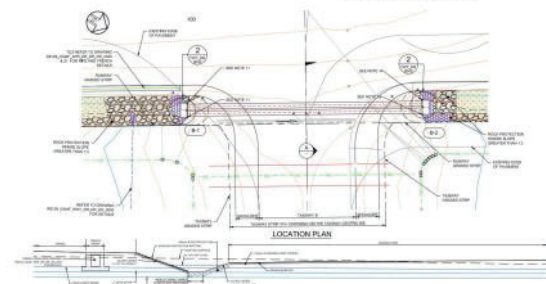
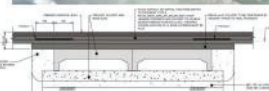


### Work Element 5 – Drainage and Flooding

Work Element 5 will consist of upgrades to the drainage system at the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Airfield.

The existing drainage system at CKI airfield is inadequate for the site topography, ocean tidal levels and groundwater, which results in regular inundation and ponding of water. Upgrading the drainage system would minimise inundation during storm events, mitigate against sea level rise and reduce water ponding. A coastal hazard risk assessment also identified areas of low topography that could channel storm surges, leading to inundation of the southern portions of the runway.

- **Relocate existing drainage** – reroute the drainage path by constructing shielded drains to existing outlets for both minor and major design storm events.
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- **Coastal Engineering** – construct a seawall of exposed geotextile sand containers to help prevent the spread and the flow of coastal waters. This method aligns with coastal protection infrastructure strategies employed elsewhere on the island.



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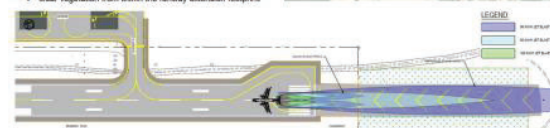


### Work Element 6 – Runway Extension

Work Element 6 will consist of an extension of the existing runway at the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Airfield.

The southern end of the runway will be extended to accommodate the P-8A Poseidon capability, but also to improve airfield safety. Works outlined in Elements 1 to 5 above will also be incorporated into the portion of the runway being extended to ensure consistency across the full runway post-upgrade. The Project will:

- extend the existing runway by 150 metres;
- include runway shoulder works along the length of the runway extension (refer Work Element 1);
- paved and sealed clearways at each end of the runway (refer Work Element 1);
- a 240 m x 90 m Runway End Safety Area at the southern end of the runway (refer Work Element 1);
- line marking; and
- clear vegetation from within the runway extension footprint.



### Work Element 7 – Defence Legacy Waste

Work Element 7 would involve the removal of the Defence Legacy Waste from the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

The workforce and equipment to be deployed to CKI, and associated logistics, presents a potential opportunity to repatriate Defence legacy waste material. This includes aircraft and Marston Matting used in the original construction of the airfield which was originally deposited in the lagoon on West Island.



The method for disposing of the legacy waste is still being refined by Defence, its designers and environmental subconsultants. Surveys are currently being undertaken on island to confirm the appropriateness of removing the waste from CKI in light of any environmental impacts that could arise from this activity. Pending the outcome of further design and environmental surveys, Work Element 7 currently comprises:

- **Waste removal** – land-based waste removed by an excavator with swaging tracks, while waste located in the lagoon will be removed using a low-draft, workboat. Highly friable waste will not be removed from CKI as it will naturally deteriorate. Waste that has become functional marine habitat, such as some aircraft debris, will not be removed.
- **Waste packaging, transport and disposal** – the waste will be screened, separated and contained before being transported to Australia and disposed of appropriately.

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## COMMUNITY INFORMATION FORUM RESOURCES – PROJECT BROCHURE

**Supporting Element 1 – Temporary Construction Facilities**


**Temporary Accommodation Camp** - a temporary camp is required to support the delivery of the Project. It will be located at Lot 3003 to the north of the main township on West Island.

- The camp will be a modular structure capable of accommodating the forecast workforce and would include messing and cyclone shelter facilities for the Project workforce.
- The accommodation camp will be dismantled following the Project and the site returned to its former condition.

**Accommodation Camp**



**Quarantine Station Compound** - Defence requires a compound area for material storage, processing and manufacturing activities during the Project's delivery phase. Location has been selected for its proximity to transport routes and distance from the local community, and has been agreed upon by Defence, the Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts.



(Quarantine Station Compound)

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**Supporting Element 1 – Temporary Construction Facilities**

Due to the remote location of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands (CKI), the Project will require several temporary facilities to support the construction and minimise impacts to the local population. Supporting Element 1 will consist of building or utilizing existing facilities to support the delivery of the Project and will include:

**Construction of a new, permanent Material Offloading Facility (construction wharf)** - The Project will require the offloading of a significant amount of construction materials, and the existing port for West Island is inadequate for the handling of bulk aggregates. The Project is proposing to build a new, permanent reinforced wharf on West Island, to facilitate works and support any future development activities on CKI.

The proposed wharf would comprise of a piled steel structure with precast decking and would be located adjacent to the existing port facility.

On completion, Defence would officially hand this facility over to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts to provide ongoing benefit to the CKI community.

**Permanent Material Offloading Facility**



**Stilling Basin Compound** - The Stilling Basin is an open stockpile area located next to the existing wharf at Rumbah Baru. Pending approval, the Project is planning to use the compound to:

- facilitate vessel loading and unloading
- stage cargo including plant, equipment and materials
- undertake biosecurity inspections
- wash-down outward-bound cargo
- stockpile bulk aggregates
- refuel plant and equipment.

**Road Works** - portions of Sydney Highway and Rumbah Baru Road will be strengthened, widened and bypass bays constructed to support Project-related traffic and reduce safety risk to the local community. Works would include a new access road to the airfield from Sydney Highway that would bypass the township to reduce disruption to the local community and minimise traffic incidents.




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**Supporting Element 2 – General Support**

**Supporting Element 2 – General Support** - the scope and remote location of the Project requires support to facilitate the works and sustain the workforce, such as:

- Importing food, preparing meals and removing waste generated by the construction workforce.
- Transport and mainland Australia accommodation costs for the fly in fly out workforce.
- Provision of fuels and other general stores to service the worker's accommodation camp and construction activities.




**Supporting Element 3 – Logistics**






**Supporting Element 3 – Logistics** - Where possible the Project would provide a standalone project-specific supply chain to transport personnel, equipment and material to CKI and minimise disruption to the local community. Logistics will comprise:

- Freight by Sea:** Sea freight is the primary logistics method to support bulk cargo and sustenance requirements. Cargo volume will greatly exceed the existing CKI maritime supply chain capacity, therefore the Project will establish a dedicated shipping supply chain to supplement the existing CKI supply chain to limit reliance on existing services.
- Freight by Air:** Commercial air freight will be utilised to facilitate the uplift of perishables, high-value low-volume cargo, and urgent items.
- Additional charter flight services:** While existing flights will be utilised throughout construction, additional charter services from mainland Australia will be required to accommodate the peak workforce during the construction stage of the Project to minimise service impacts to locals and tourists.

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**Questions**

For more information, contact the Project team via email: [R8129.PMCA@secom.crimsonsoft.com](mailto:R8129.PMCA@secom.crimsonsoft.com)

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## Annex C

### COMMUNITY INFORMATION FORUMS – ATTENDANCE AND SUMMARY

#### Community consultation activities held from 2018 to 2021:

Activities were held on Cocos (Keeling) Islands on:

- 15 August 2018
- 03 March 2020
- 29 July 2020
- 10 March 2021
- 03 November 2021

#### Community Information Forums held between 26 and 29 November 2022:

Forum	Number of Attendees	Interest Group
<b>Community Information Forum #1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home Island, Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands Offices</li> <li>• Saturday 26 November 2022, 1300-1400hrs</li> </ul>	15 (plus 1 translator)	Local Residents
<b>Community Information Forum #2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Island, Community Resource Centre</li> <li>• Sunday 27 November 2022, 1600-1700hrs</li> </ul>	9	Local Residents
<b>Community Information Forum #3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home Island, Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Island Offices</li> <li>• Monday 28 November 2022, 1630-1730hrs</li> </ul>	15 (plus 1 translator)	Local Residents
<b>Community Information Forum #4</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Island, Community Resource Centre</li> <li>• Tuesday 29 November 2022, 1000-1100hrs</li> </ul>	10	Local Residents

Defence consultation team in attendance included members from:

- The Project Delivery Team
- Consultant Project Management Team
- Integrated Managing Contractor and Design Team
- Representatives from the Royal Australian Air Force
- A local Cocos Malay translator for the Community Information Forums on Home Island.



## EXAMPLE OF CORRESPONDENCE SENT TO KEY STAKEHOLDERS



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Defence**  
Security and Estate Group

Mr Will Stephen  
Project Director – West Australia  
Capital Facilities & Infrastructure Branch  
26 Brindabella Circuit  
Canberra Airport, ACT, 2609

[REDACTED]

Ms Sarah Vandenbroek  
Acting Administrator of the Indian Ocean Territories  
(Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands)  
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts  
111 Alinga Street  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Via email: [REDACTED]

Dear Sarah,

### **RE: COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS AIRFIELD UPGRADE PROJECT**

I am writing to you on behalf of the Department of Defence to offer you a personal briefing on the works proposed to be delivered under the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Airfield Upgrade Project.

The project aims to upgrade the Cocos (Keeling) Islands airfield for use by heavier aircraft and to improve the airfield safety for both civilian and military aircraft.

On 24 November 2022, the proposal was referred for Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC) consideration, with the date and location of the Public Hearing yet to be advised by the Committee.

My team recently travelled out to the islands to undertake community consultation in support of the Parliamentary approvals process. During the visit we met with a number of key community stakeholders and also held community information sessions on both Home (26 & 28 November) and West Island (27 & 29 November) whereat the public were invited to ask questions and raise any concerns relating to the proposed works. Details of these engagements will be made publicly available by Parliament in due course.

My team has also met with your predecessor on several occasions across the development phase to provide regular updates on the status of the project.

If you or your staff would like to receive a briefing on the proposed works, please contact my project manager (Mr Edward Senneck) via the following email address  
[R8129.PMCA@aecom.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:R8129.PMCA@aecom.onmicrosoft.com)



Alternatively, the project's public submission can be downloaded from the following address  
[https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Joint/Public\\_Works/CocosAirfield  
Upgrade](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Public_Works/CocosAirfieldUpgrade).

Yours sincerely,



**Mr Will Stephen**  
Project Director  
Capital Facilities and Infrastructure  
Department of Defence  
13 January 2023



**Annex E**

**STATUS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER BRIEFINGS**

ORGANISATION AND MEMBER	NOTES
<b>FEDERAL GOVERNMENT</b>	
Ms Sarah Vandebroek - Acting Administrator for Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands	<p><b>13 January 2023:</b> Defence emailed a letter to Ms Vandebroek providing project information, contact details, a website link and an invitation to contact Defence to receive a personal briefing.</p> <p><b>19 January 2023:</b> Defence personally briefed Ms Vandebroek via a video conference call.</p> <p>No major issues were raised. Ms Vandebroek commended Defence on the recent community consultations.</p>
Ms Marion Scrymgour MP - Federal Member for Lingiari	<p><b>17 February 2023:</b> Defence emailed a letter to Ms Scrymgour providing project information, contact details, a website link and an invitation to contact Defence to receive a personal briefing.</p>
<b>STATE/TERRITORY GOVERNMENT</b>	
<p>Mr Peter Wood – Principal Planning Officer</p> <p>WA Department of Land, Planning and Heritage</p>	<p><b>16 January 2023:</b> Defence emailed a letter to Mr Wood providing project information, contact details, a website link and an invitation to contact Defence to receive a personal briefing.</p> <p><b>31 January 2023:</b> Defence issued a follow up email to Mr Wood.</p> <p><b>07 February 2023:</b> Defence issued a further follow-up email to Mr Wood.</p>
<p>Hon Mark McGowan</p> <p>WA Department of Premier and Cabinet</p>	<p><b>17 January 2023:</b> Defence emailed a letter to Hon McGowan providing project information, contact details, a website link and an invitation to contact Defence to receive a personal briefing.</p> <p><b>31 January 2023:</b> Defence issued a follow up email to Hon McGowan's office.</p> <p><b>07 February 2023:</b> Defence issued a further follow up email to Hon McGowan's office.</p> <p><b>08 February 2023:</b> The Office of the WA Department of Premier and Cabinet requested a briefing which is currently being arranged.</p>
<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT</b>	



**Annex E**

ORGANISATION AND MEMBER	NOTES
Mr Frank Mills – CEO, Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands	<p><b>01 November 2022:</b> Defence contacted Mr Mills directly via email and extended an invitation for a personal briefing to occur on Cocos (Keeling) Islands, concurrent with the community information forums.</p> <p><b>26 November 2022:</b> Defence personally briefed Mr Mills who advised that the following items would need to be considered by the Project:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. local and Indigenous industry participation;</li> <li>2. effect on the community’s lifestyle during construction, particularly traffic management on Sydney Highway;</li> <li>3. potential for the project to upgrade elements outside of the project scope such as Air Force Road upgrades, and the Rumah Buru boat ramp upgrades; and</li> <li>4. potential to leave useful construction material behind for Cocos Island’s future use.</li> </ol> <p>Defence advised Mr Mills that all items raised would be considered in the detailed planning for the Project’s delivery and that further consultation would be undertaken in due course.</p>
<b>LOCAL BUSINESSES AND ASSOCIATIONS</b>	
Indian Ocean Territories Regional Development Association	<p><b>01 November 2022:</b> Defence contacted the Indian Ocean Territories Regional Development Organisation directly via email and extended an invitation for a personal briefing to occur on Cocos (Keeling) Islands concurrent with the Community Information Forums.</p> <p><b>26 November 2022:</b> The Indian Ocean Territories Regional Development Organisation attended a personal briefing.</p> <p>The Indian Ocean Territories Regional Development Organisation advised that the following items would need to be considered by the Project:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Local industry participation</li> <li>2. Effect on the community’s lifestyle during construction, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. dust from construction;</li> <li>b. disruptions to the school;</li> <li>c. traffic management;</li> <li>d. social impacts from construction personnel;</li> <li>e. increased demand during enabling works needs to be considered as the town has limited capacity to cater including accommodation, food and water, commercial flights and space on existing shipping arrangements; and</li> <li>f. potential for the project to ship back Cocos Island waste, as well as project waste.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>



**Annex E**

ORGANISATION AND MEMBER	NOTES
	<p>Defence advised the Indian Ocean Territories Regional Development Organisation that all items raised had been or would be considered in the detailed planning for the Project's delivery phase and that further consultation would be undertaken in due course.</p>
<p>Cocos (Keeling) Islands Emergency Management Committee Executive</p>	<p><b>14 November 2022:</b> Defence contacted the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Emergency Management Committee Executive directly via email and extended an invitation for a personal briefing to occur on Cocos (Keeling) Islands concurrent with the Community Information Forums.</p> <p><b>29 November 2022:</b> Defence personally briefed the members who advised that the following items would need to be considered by the Project:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. how incidents of anti-social behaviour by members of the construction workforce would be managed;</li> <li>2. the temporary worker's accommodation camp will need to be provisioned with an adequate cyclone shelter; and</li> <li>3. how impacts to the local community will be managed with respect to accommodation, food and water, commercial flights, capacity of existing shipping and air freight supply chain, and medical support.</li> </ol> <p>Defence advised members of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Emergency Management Committee Executive that all items raised had been or would be considered in the detailed planning for the Project's delivery phase and that further consultation would be undertaken in due course.</p>



**SUMMARY OF TOPICS RAISED DURING THE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION  
ACTIVITIES HELD PROGRESSIVELY THROUGHOUT THE DURATION OF THE  
PLANNING STAGE – AUGUST 2018 TO NOVEMBER 2021**

From August 2018 to November 2021, the Project conducted five community consultation activities on the islands. The purpose of these activities was to keep the community updated on the progress of the Project and to enable Defence to, where possible, incorporate suggestions from the local community, community leaders, local businesses and other key stakeholders into the project's design and delivery methodology. Examples of where this occurred include (but are not limited to):

1. The development of a project accommodation strategy in consultation with local businesses and community leaders to minimise impacts to the local community (for instance, the price of rentals and availability of tourist accommodation) during construction;
2. Designing the standalone construction wharf (the Material Offload Facility) to utilise a piled structure which will allow sand and water to pass under freely in order to mitigate community concerns around the potential for a build-up of sand that could inhibit the use of the community boat ramp;
3. Utilising a standalone shipping contract and providing a separate standalone construction wharf to minimise impacts to the existing local sea freight supply chain and ferry service;
4. Planning for additional chartered flights during peak construction to minimise impacts to existing regular domestic passenger flight services;
5. Reducing pressure on local services by ensuring the Project's peak workforce will be mostly sustained by its own standalone supply chain with respect to food supply and waste removal;
6. Proposing the construction of a new access road to the airfield to divert construction traffic away from the township to minimise disruption and potential for traffic incidents; and
7. Delivering road upgrades to Sydney Highway, including the provision of overtaking lanes to prevent disruption to local traffic and minimise the potential for safety incidents.



**Annex F**

**SUMMARY OF TOPICS AND KEY ISSUES RAISED DURING THE  
COMMUNITY INFORMATION FORUMS IN NOVEMBER 2022**

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>RAISED BY</b>	<b>DEFENCE'S RESPONSE</b>
Who is funding the Project?	Local Resident	Subject to Parliamentary approval, the Project will be funded by the Federal Government within the Department of Defence's existing budget arrangements.
Will there be a future presence of foreign military partners on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands (for instance, the United States of America)?	Local Resident	<p>The airfield is not a Defence site and will remain a civilian aerodrome that is available for other nations to use in accordance with the airfield operators commercial conditions.</p> <p>While the airfield upgrade scope is driven specifically by P-8A requirements, the lengthening and strengthening of the runway and strengthening of the apron will also benefit other military and civilian aircraft that may visit Cocos (Keeling) Islands. This will permit aircraft to operate with greater fuel, passenger and/or cargo loads without the risk of damaging the airfield. Military aircraft that will regularly operate through the Cocos (Keeling) Islands include the Australian Defence Force's MC-55 Peregrine and P-8A Poseidon. Other ADF military aircraft that may periodically visit Cocos (Keeling) Islands include the C-130J Hercules and C-17A Globemaster.</p>
The southern side of the runway is prone to flooding, has this been considered?	Local Resident	Defence has considered this issue in the design of the Project. The height of the southern end of the runway will be raised, improved drainage infrastructure provided and additionally sea walls will be installed to mitigate against inundation and improve safety.



**Annex F**

TOPIC	RAISED BY	DEFENCE'S RESPONSE
<p>There was a Coastal Hazard Risk Management Adaption Planning (CHRMAP) workshop held recently at Cocos (Keeling) Islands, and it indicated that there could be issues with runway flooding due to sea level rises. Has the predicted change in sea level been considered in the design?</p>	<p>Local Resident</p>	<p>The Project has been in development for a number of years and is focused on delivering Defence capability requirements. The Coastal Hazard Risk Management Adaption Planning (CHRMAP) process is being led by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communication and the Arts ('Department of Infrastructure') and the Western Australian State government as part of their overall future planning and administration of the islands.</p> <p>Defence has developed the Project to account for the predicted 2035 sea level rise and the Project will raise the height of the airfield pavement and install additional sea walls to mitigate against coastal inundation. Beyond 2035, periodic, required maintenance of the airfield (every 10-15 years) should be undertaken to resurface the runway which will further raise the height of the airfield.</p>
<p>Will more commercial flights come in?</p>	<p>Local Resident</p>	<p>The Project will increase the airfield's potential capability to operate heavier commercial aircraft by strengthening pavement infrastructure and lengthening the runway.</p> <p>Defence cannot comment on any potential changes to existing commercial aircraft arrangements as these fall outside the remit of the Project and the Department.</p>
<p>A 2010 report suggested that an incinerator is required for Cocos (Keeling) Islands waste. Is your project using an incinerator, and if so, can it be left as a legacy item for the islands?</p>	<p>Local Resident</p>	<p>The Project will not be using an incinerator, but will use reverse logistics (shipping) to remove all waste generated by the Project from the islands (as opposed to relying on existing services).</p> <p>Defence considered a number of different waste management options during development and elected for the option which was most economical and logical for</p>



**Annex F**

TOPIC	RAISED BY	DEFENCE'S RESPONSE
		<p>managing the waste generated by the Project.</p> <p>Long-term waste management is the remit of the Department of Infrastructure.</p>
<p>Has Defence considered the potential impacts of the peak construction workforce (approximately 100 people) on the community, noting this represents a significant increase in people living on West Island? How will Defence manage issues such as road use/disruption and anti-social behaviours?</p>	<p>Local Resident</p>	<p>Defence acknowledges and understands the concerns around potential anti-social behaviors and crime generated by the construction workforce. The Project will screen the workforce before approving them to travel to the islands and will instigate a zero-tolerance policy with respect to anti-social behavior. The Project will seek sensitively and respectfully integrate with the local community and implement measures so as not to overload the existing, local amenities and services.</p> <p>Additionally, to avoid congestion on the roads a bus will be provided for the work crew (thereby reducing the number of vehicles on the roads) and the Project will build overtaking lanes along Sydney Highway to enable locals to overtake heavy vehicles, minimising delays and improving safety. The Project will also work to be as self-sufficient as possible during peak works (for instance, by utilising bespoke freight, building own accommodations and arranging food catering for the peak workforce) to minimise impacts to the local community.</p>



**Annex F**

TOPIC	RAISED BY	DEFENCE'S RESPONSE
How will airfield operations be affected during construction?	Local Resident	<p>Works will be scheduled to deconflict with the existing regular scheduled airfield operations with respect to commercial passenger and freight aircraft.</p> <p>However, any unscheduled aircraft will be unable to use the runway during each work shift when works are being completed on the airfield.</p> <p>To address this impact, Defence will ensure the runway is clear and safe to operate at the end of each work shift. Works are designed to enable a construction methodology that can support a four-hour reinstatement time in the case of any emergency unscheduled aircraft.</p> <p>This will minimise the impact on operations on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands airfield.</p>
Will the works affect operations of (access to) the golf course?	Local Resident	<p>There may be some disturbances to normal golf course operations during construction, but the Project will work with the golf club to minimise impacts.</p>
How are you controlling dust?	Local Resident	<p>The Project will implement dust suppression measures during construction to minimise impacts to the community. Mitigations will include the use of water carts to suppress dust from the works and bitumen emulsion spray to treat the material stockpiles.</p>



**Annex F**

TOPIC	RAISED BY	DEFENCE'S RESPONSE
How are you controlling noise?	Local Resident	<p>Defence will implement several measures to minimise noise impacts to the community including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ensure the community is well informed of works schedule and scope, and provide communication mechanisms for interaction with the Project;</li> <li>2. establishment of and adherence to set working hours;</li> <li>3. restriction of construction traffic to designated roadways and within the limitations of approved Traffic Management Plan (TMP); and</li> <li>4. scheduling works to avoid the school vicinity at pick up and drop off times or heavily reducing noisy activities during school hours.</li> </ol>
Will underground services be left behind at the temporary accommodation site? Because this would be useful for any future developments in the area?	Local Resident	<p>Defence advised the current plan is to remove services from the temporary accommodations on project completion.</p> <p>Defence agreed to raise the potential for services to be left behind with the Department of Infrastructure. Defence has since engaged with the Department of Infrastructure who support the removal of these temporary services on completion.</p>
Can you tell us more about the proposed sea wall design?	Local Resident	<p>The proposed seawall is to be installed adjacent to Air Force Road in the vicinity of the southern end of the runway. This is a location that is prone to coastal inundation due to the current tidal patterns.</p> <p>The installation of a sea wall at this location will minimise the inundation to the existing road and the southern area of the airfield. The proposed construction of the sea wall will be to utilise the same type of sandbags that are used elsewhere on the island.</p>



**Annex F**

TOPIC	RAISED BY	DEFENCE'S RESPONSE
Will there be an extension to the northern end of the runway?	Local Resident	The Project is not proposing to deliver an extension to the northern end of the runway.
Will there be opportunities for local businesses to work on the Project?	Local Resident	<p>Yes. Defence will be aiming to maximise opportunities for local individuals and businesses to bid to support Project activities.</p> <p>Local companies and individuals will be afforded the opportunity to bid to support the Project.</p>
How many people are expected to be involved in construction of the Project?	Local Resident	The Project will have a peak workforce of approximately 100 people, but this will only be during the delivery of major runway works. For approximately the first year of construction, the Project will have an on-island workforce of around 30 people during the establishment of enabling works. The peak workforce is expected to be on island from late-2024.
How can local businesses prepare for the project and to be upskilled in readiness to 'bid' for opportunities to work on the Project?	Local Resident	The Project is being delivered under an Integrated Managing Contractor (IMC) methodology that will involve the release of several specialist subcontractor packages to support the delivery of the works. Once this subcontractor packaging strategy is approved by Defence, the IMC will undertake engagement on the islands in mid-2023 to provide further information and support local businesses and individuals in bidding to support the project. Defence intends to maximise opportunities for local businesses and individuals to be involved in the Project.
Will the Project be bringing its own medical personnel?	Local Resident	During the initial phase of the Project, during which the IMC will be establishing the Project's key supporting elements, the Project will only require a relatively small workforce (approximately 30 people) who are planned to be accommodated within existing tourist accommodation on West Island. This small workforce will have the



**Annex F**

TOPIC	RAISED BY	DEFENCE'S RESPONSE
		<p>capability to administer minor first aid if required, but will utilise the existing services on the islands in case of emergency.</p> <p>During peak construction (late-2024 – mid-2026), the IMC is planning to employ two full-time medical personnel to support the Project workforce.</p> <p>The IMC will also run a medical screening process for all staff prior to deploying to the islands to reduce the risk of medical incidents occurring.</p>
Once the Material Offload Facility is constructed and in use, who will maintain it?	Local Resident	Defence has engaged extensively with the Department of Infrastructure throughout the development of the Project. The Department of Infrastructure had previously requested the Material Offload Facility be converted from a temporary to a permanent facility. It has been agreed that, on completion, responsibility for this facility will be handed over to the Department of Infrastructure for ongoing management and maintenance.
For the shipping, where will the stevedoring be sourced from?	Local Resident	As the Project is still subject to Parliamentary Approval, no subcontracts have been awarded for these services. Pending Parliamentary Approval and procurement of an experienced provider, it will be the responsibility of the relevant subcontractor(s) to secure their required services. Suitably skilled local companies and/or individuals will be afforded the opportunity to bid to support the Project.
During the presentation it was mentioned that the Project would be self-sufficient in terms of waste management, what about power?	Local Resident	The current plan is for all of the Project's power will be self-provided via suitably sized renewable and/or non-renewable generation sources.



**Annex F**

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>RAISED BY</b>	<b>DEFENCE'S RESPONSE</b>
What is planned to happen to the Temporary Accommodation Camp at the end of the Project?	Local Resident	The current plan is that the Temporary Accommodation Camp will be removed from the islands. Defence has engaged extensively with the Department of Infrastructure throughout development and they have indicated the facilities will not be retained on completion.
What is the likely increase in Defence personnel on Cocos (Keeling) Islands?	Local Resident	There is no anticipated increase to the current two Defence personnel permanently stationed on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. There will be a resumption of maritime surveillance operations similar to those conducted by the AP-3C Orion once the runway has been made suitable for the P-8A Poseidon aircraft. These operations require stopovers on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands for aircraft refueling and crew rest.
Are there any additional benefits regarding waste removal? Is there any opportunity for the project to remove any of the community's existing waste on island?	Local Resident	Defence is unable to make any firm commitments with respect to augmenting the island's existing waste management arrangements. The cost of shipping and reverse logistics has been driven by the project's forecasted volume of waste and no provision has been made for removing any waste on island. Noting this is a Defence project, expenditure has been optimised to enhance capability outcomes, with local waste arrangements falling under the remit of the Department of Infrastructure. Pending Parliamentary approval, Defence may explore potential efficiencies and opportunities to support the local community where possible, but cannot make any firm commitments at this time.
Will the fuel needs for the P-8A aircraft be met by the existing stores on island or will the Project be expanding the fuel stores?	Local Resident	A portion of existing aviation fuel storage is guaranteed for Defence use and existing fuel stores are expected to be sufficient to support military aircraft without the need to increase holdings. The Project does not plan to change the existing fuel storage capacity on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.



**Annex F**

TOPIC	RAISED BY	DEFENCE'S RESPONSE
Will the Temporary Accommodation Camp be constructed using demountables?	Local Resident	Yes. The Temporary Accommodation Camp will be demountables similar to those typical on a mining project.
How will the works impact on the availability of flights?	Local Resident	<p>The Project will utilise existing flights through the commercial provider (Virgin) to transport workers to and from the islands during construction (particularly during establishment of the supporting elements).</p> <p>The Project will use charter flights during peak construction to transport the peak workforce to and from the islands.</p> <p>Works will be scheduled to deconflict with the existing regular scheduled airfield operations with respect to commercial passenger and freight aircraft. However, any unscheduled aircraft will be unable to use the runway during each work shift when works are being undertaken on the airfield.</p> <p>To address this impact, Defence will ensure the runway is clear and safe to operate at the end of each work shift. Works are designed to enable a construction methodology that can support a four-hour reinstatement time in the case of any emergency unscheduled aircraft.</p> <p>This will minimise the impact on operations out of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands airfield.</p>
How will you manage food?	Local Resident	<p>During peak construction, food to the Temporary Accommodation Camp will be supplied using a separate supply chain (shipping and air freight) to limit impacts to the local supply.</p> <p>During the construction of the supporting elements (including the Temporary Accommodation Camp) the smaller workforce will utilise the existing arrangements on the islands.</p>



**Annex F**

TOPIC	RAISED BY	DEFENCE'S RESPONSE
We are a very small community and we are a little bit worried about the impact of the workers on local amenities – cafes, bars, etc. How will the interface with the local community be managed by the Project?	Local Resident	<p>Defence understand the community's concern. To address this the Project will implement a rigorous screening process to select suitable staff. Additionally, the Project will also implement a zero-tolerance policy with respect to anti-social behavior.</p> <p>The IMC will attempt to sensitively and respectfully integrate with the local community and not overload the existing local amenities and services.</p> <p>Additionally, to avoid congestion on the roads the Project will provide a bus for the work crew and also provide overtaking lanes on Sydney Highway.</p> <p>The IMC will also use best endeavours to be self-sufficient with its staff largely contained within the Temporary Accommodation Camp, including a wet-mess and catering facilities.</p>
What is the likely roster?	Local Resident	The Project is planning 2 weeks on / 1 week off for management staff and 3 weeks on / 1 week off for workers.
What happens if not approved by Parliament?	Local Resident	The Project is still subject to Parliamentary consideration and approval. While the Project has achieved Government approval to proceed there is always a chance that Parliament may decide not proceed the works. Construction will not commence until the Project has received Parliamentary Approval.
Is there any chance the P-8A aircraft could be pulled from service prior to the airfield being used?	Local Resident	No. The P-8A is expected to be in service for 20-25 years which extends well beyond the date by which the airfield upgrade works will be completed.
Will the temporary accommodation definitely be removed at the end of the project?	Local Resident	The current plan is to remove the temporary accommodation upon Project completion. Defence has discussed the potential of leaving the facilities behind with the Department of Infrastructure.



**Annex F**

TOPIC	RAISED BY	DEFENCE'S RESPONSE
Where is the 'Enabling Works' workforce planned to be accommodated?	Local Resident	The 'Enabling Works' workforce of approximately 30 people are planned to be accommodated at the Cocos Beach Resort (West Island). The peak workforce will be accommodated at the temporary worker accommodation camp commencing in late-2024.
Will the southern extent of the runway encroach on Air Force Road?	Local Resident	No. The 150 metre runway extension and its associated safety clearances zones do not encroach on Air Force Road or require any realignment of that road.
Will Virgin provide extra flights during the works?	Local Resident	The current civilian aircraft service to the Cocos (Keeling) Islands is operated by Virgin and managed by the Department of Infrastructure and Toll Logistics. Any changes to existing commercial service arrangements fall outside the remit of the Project. The Project will arrange separate private charter flights to transport the peak workforce to the islands to minimise impacts to the existing Virgin service.
When are the 'market sounding' activities for local businesses likely to commence?	Local Resident	Pending Parliamentary Approval, these engagement activities are anticipated to occur in mid-2023.
Will the boat ramp be affected by the Material offloading Facility?	Local Resident	No. The Material Offloading Facility has been designed with to be on a pile structure which will enable sand and water to pass underneath freely with minimal disruption. As such, there is expected to be minimal impact relating to sand build-up on the boat ramp.



**Annex F**

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>RAISED BY</b>	<b>DEFENCE'S RESPONSE</b>
Why is the Material Offloading Facility so high, and will it be able to cater for smaller vessels?	Local Resident	<p>The diagram is somewhat deceptive as it also shows the sub-structure (below the surface of the water and ground).</p> <p>The design height allows for the expected height of the proposed vessel, and the platform can move up and down to cater for different size vessels.</p>
Is the close proximity to the lagoon for the southern extension an issue?	Local Resident	<p>No, the proximity to the lagoon is not expected to be an issue.</p> <p>Defence has allowed for this in the design by ensuring that the clearances between the runway and the lagoon are in accordance with the appropriate regulations, undertaking extensive geotechnical investigations and incorporating appropriate drainage arrangements and erosion protection elements.</p>