



**Australian Government**  
**Defence**

Air Commodore Ron Tilley  
Director General Capital Facilities and Infrastructure  
Brindabella Business Park

**Mr Graham Perrett MP**

Chair

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

Parliament House

CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Perrett

## **RAAF BASE DARWIN MID TERM REFRESH PROJECT – COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT**

1. The RAAF Base Darwin Mid Term Refresh Project was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on 15 November 2023. The project proposes to deliver facilities and infrastructure on the Base, including substantial upgrades of two existing base entrances along the Stuart Highway.
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 local communities and other stakeholders are:
  - a. well informed about the project through effective and proven communication channels; and
  - b. provided the opportunity to raise any concerns or issues, or to seek further information so that, wherever feasible, Defence could address these in the proposed works.
3. The following stakeholder and community consultation activities have been delivered in accordance with the project's comprehensive community engagement strategy:
  - a. Community information sessions were advertised in relevant local newspapers in the Darwin (NT) region and a project email address was established to receive submissions and questions about the project. These details are included in the example advertisement shown at **Annex A**.
  - b. Community information sessions were held in Darwin on 23 and 24 October 2023.
  - c. The type of information Defence presented to the public is shown at **Annex B**, and the level of attendance is provided at **Annex C**.
  - d. Key stakeholders, including Federal and State Members of Government, and business groups were invited to receive a personal briefing about the project. An example of the invitation that was sent out 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 summary of topics and key issues raised during community information sessions is provided at **Annex F**.

5. Information about the proposed works was well received at the community information sessions and feedback to date has been constructive and of broad interest to local subcontractors within the immediate Darwin region in opportunities on the project. Defence has not been made aware of any objections to the proposed works.

6. Consultation activities have concluded. Defence will provide a briefing to Federal, State and Local Members of Government contacted during the consultation process should they request one.

Yours sincerely,

**RM Tilley**

Air Commodore

Director General Capital Facilities and Infrastructure

17 February 2024

**Annexes:**

- A. Newspaper Advertisements
- B. Community Information Session Resources (Information Boards)
- C. Community Information Session Attendance and Summary
- D. Example of Letter of Invitation to Key Stakeholders
- E. Status of Key Stakeholder Communications
- F. Summary of Topics and Key Issues Raised during Community Information Sessions

**NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Publication</b>	<b>Dates Published</b>
Darwin, NT	Northern Territory News	13 October 2023 20 October 2023
Online	BuySearchSell.com.au	13 October 2023

## EXAMPLE OF NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS

### Darwin – NT News – Newspaper Screen Shot and BuySearchSell.com.au Online Post

**NOTICE OF  
COMMUNITY  
INFORMATION  
FORUM - RAAF  
DARWIN MID  
TERM REFRESH  
PROJECT**

NOTICE OF  
COMMUNITY  
INFORMATION  
FORUM  
RAAF DARWIN MID  
TERM REFRESH  
PROJECT


The Department of Defence will conduct a community information forum to outline the proposed construction works associated with the project: RAAF Darwin Mid Term Refresh Project. Subject to Parliamentary Approval, the works will be delivered from 2024 through to 2026 at RAAF Base Darwin, Northern Territory.

The proposed works include a new high-capacity main entrance, an upgraded entrance for heavy vehicle access, and capacity, condition and compliance upgrades to the potable water, firefighting water and sewer networks. Most construction works will be conducted within the Base, while the enhancement of the two entrances will improve trafficability along the Stuart Highway through additional queuing capacity to the existing main entry and a new signalised intersection at Bombing Road. The designs of each of these entrances have been closely coordinated with the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics.

Information about the proposed works will be available at the forum with representatives from the Department of Defence available to answer any questions.

**Community Information Forum Details**  
Date and Time: Time:  
Venue  
Monday 23 October 2023 2:00pm-6:00pm  
Double Tree Hilton, 116 Esplanade, Darwin

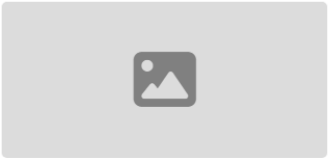
If you would like further information on the forum, please contact the project team via email at [darwinmtr\\_pwc@kbr.com](mailto:darwinmtr_pwc@kbr.com) (email account active until 31 October 2023).



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NOTICE OF COMMUNITY INFORMATION  
FORUM - RAAF DARWIN MID TERM  
REFRESH PROJECT



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RAAF DARWIN MID TERM REFRESH PROJECT

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(email account active until 31 October 2023).

**Darwin NT, Australia**

Map

## **COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION RESOURCES**

### **Darwin – Public Information Session – Conference Room**



## Pamphlet Available for Collection at Public Consultation Sessions

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# RAAF Darwin Mid Term Refresh Project

## Briefing for Public Consultation

October 2023

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## Project Aim and Overview

### Aim

- Project aims to address safety and capacity concerns associated with the current Base entrances, as well as prioritised capacity, condition and compliance upgrades of engineering services at RAAF Darwin.

### Overview

- RAAF Darwin is one of the Air Force's main forward operating bases
- The Base supports major exercises and operations within the north
- Shares its runway with Darwin International airport
- RAAF Darwin hosts an extended deployment of US Marine Corps personnel and their aircraft under the US Force Posture Initiative

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## Facilities Project Context

- 2020 Defence Strategic update and 2020 Force Structure Plan highlighted the need to enhance northern Defence capability as an integral part of Australia's Defence strategy
- 2023 Defence Strategic Review also urges for the upgrade and development of Australia's northern bases, improving the ability of the Australian Defence force to operate from Northern Australia.
- This project directly support Defence's strategic objectives by reinvesting in engineering services and associated facilities and infrastructure to improve the Base's ability to cater for surge activity.

3

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## Current Facilities Challenges

**Main Entrance** – Currently served by a single-entry point on Billeroy Road off Stuart Highway. Multiple deficiencies including:

- Safety and congestion issues
- Vehicle queuing issues during peak timings
- Inadequate passive and electronic security systems
- No vehicle rejection capacity
- Inadequate visitor parking or safe pedestrian access to pass office
- Inadequate staff facilities and visitor/contractor areas within PO
- Main access is via Amaroo Road entering directly into working accommodation precincts

4

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## Current Facilities Challenges



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## Current Facilities Challenges

**Heavy Vehicle Entrance** – Existing heavy vehicle entrance at Bombing road with an unmanned gate. Multiple challenges include:

- No right hand turn on Stuart Hwy where heavy vehicles can safely queue prior to turning into the Base
- No acceleration lane from Bombing Road onto the Stuart Hwy to enable vehicles to safely exit the base
- No signalisation of the current intersection for the safety of vehicle movements at the intersection
- No vehicle reject capability
- Inadequate passive and electronic security systems
- No facilities for security staff during entrance usage

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## Current Facilities Challenges



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## Current Facilities Challenges

**Potable Water Network** - existing potable water network is in poor physical condition and has hydraulic capacity constraints due to high friction losses. Additional compliance issues include water leakage from the system and poor water quality attributed to the age and deterioration of the network.

**Firefighting Network** - existing FF network is in poor physical condition with friction losses throughout the network. Additional compliance issues such as water leaks, quality and lack of pressure that are attributed to the age, connectivity and deterioration of the network.

**Sewer Network** – the existing base lacks sufficient sewer capacity to support the ongoing operation and future development of the Base. It also has existing compliance, condition issues that need to be addressed.

8

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## Proposed Facilities Solution

The essential requirements of the Project include:

1. A replacement high-capacity main entrance for the Base
2. An upgraded entrance for heavy vehicle access to the base for explosive ordnance and fuel deliveries
3. Capacity, condition and compliance upgrades to the potable water network
4. Capacity, condition and compliance upgrades to the firefighting network
5. Capacity, condition and compliance upgrades to the sewer network

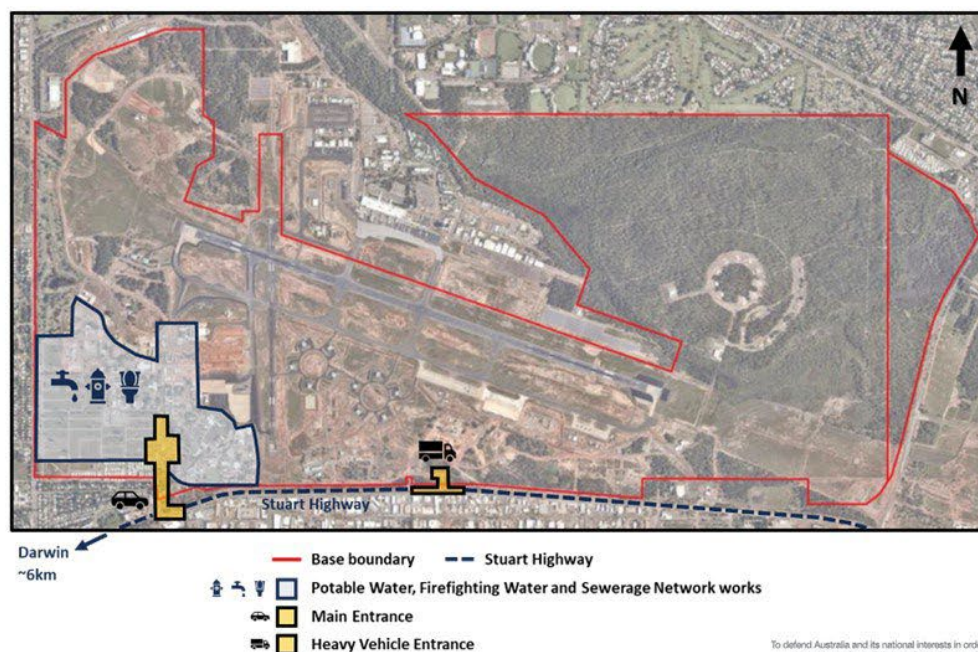


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## Proposed Facilities Solution



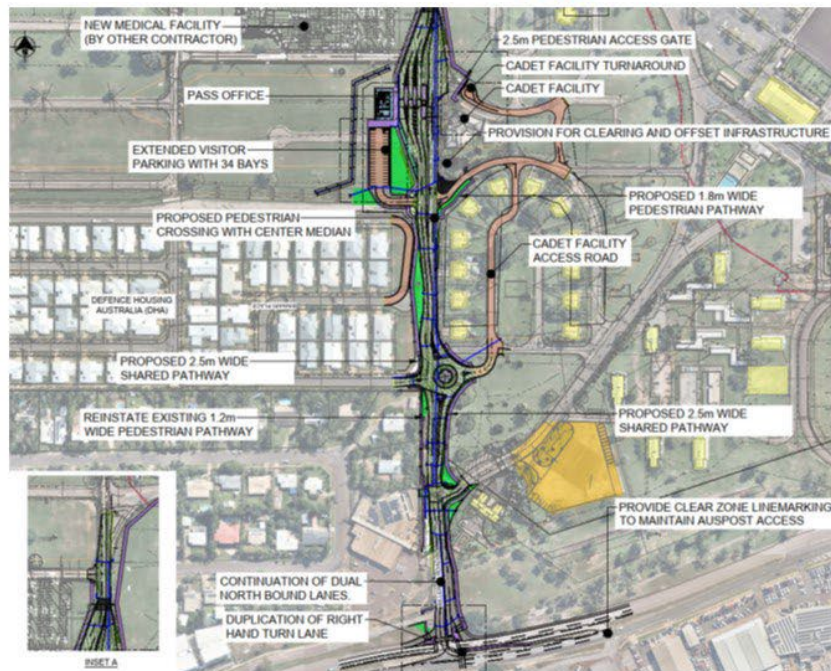
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## Main Entrance Upgrade



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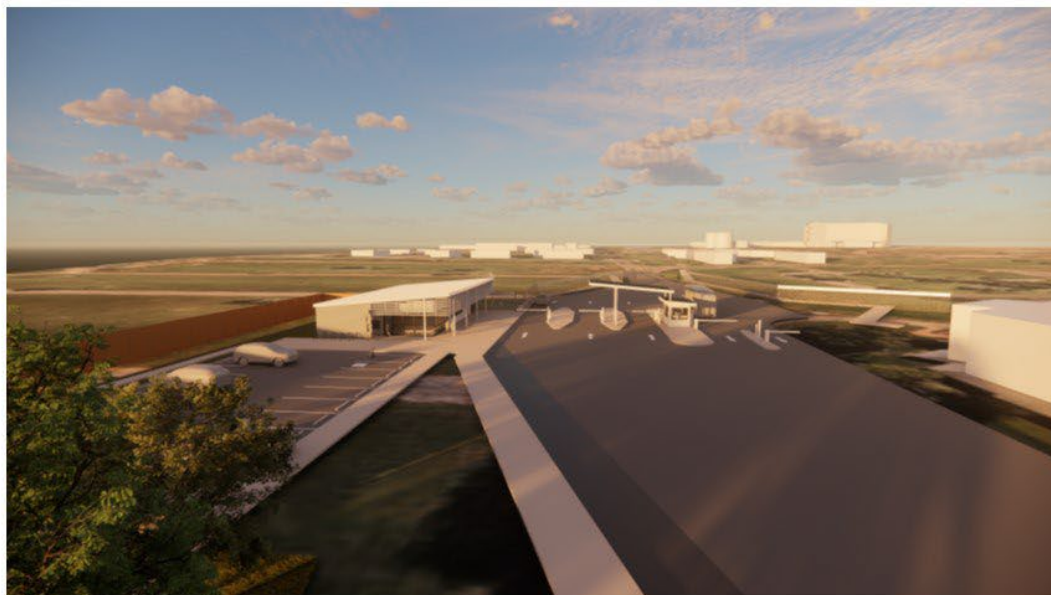


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## Main Entrance Upgrade



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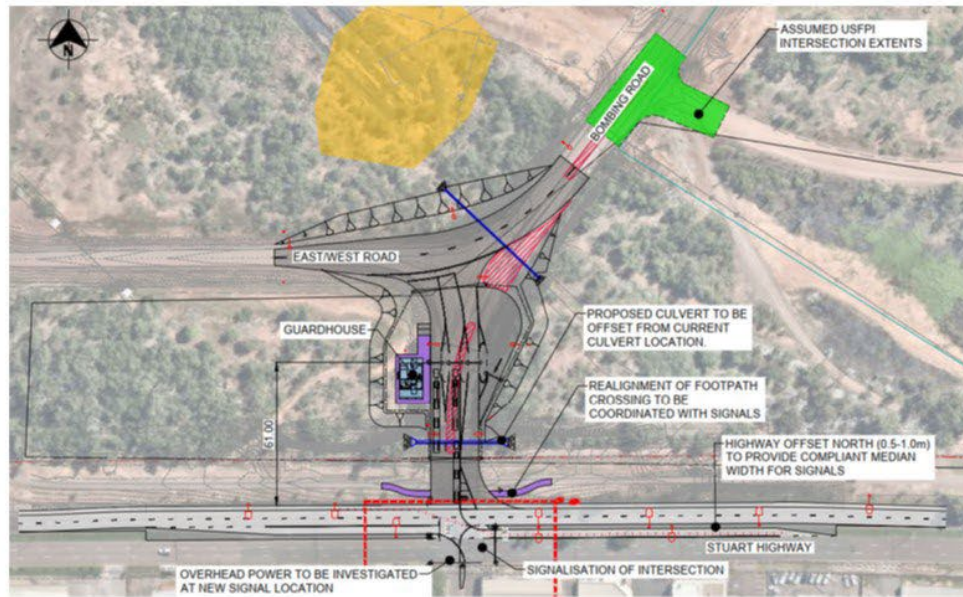


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## Heavy Vehicle Entrance Upgrade



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## Heavy Vehicle Entrance Upgrade



14

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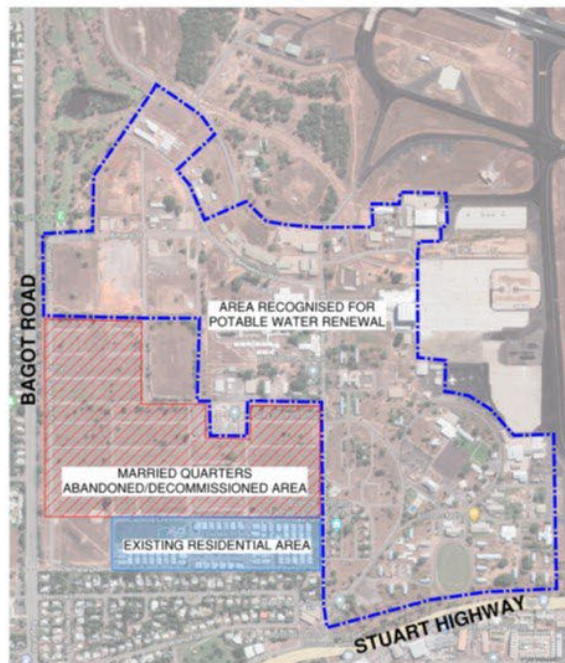
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## Potable Water Network Upgrade



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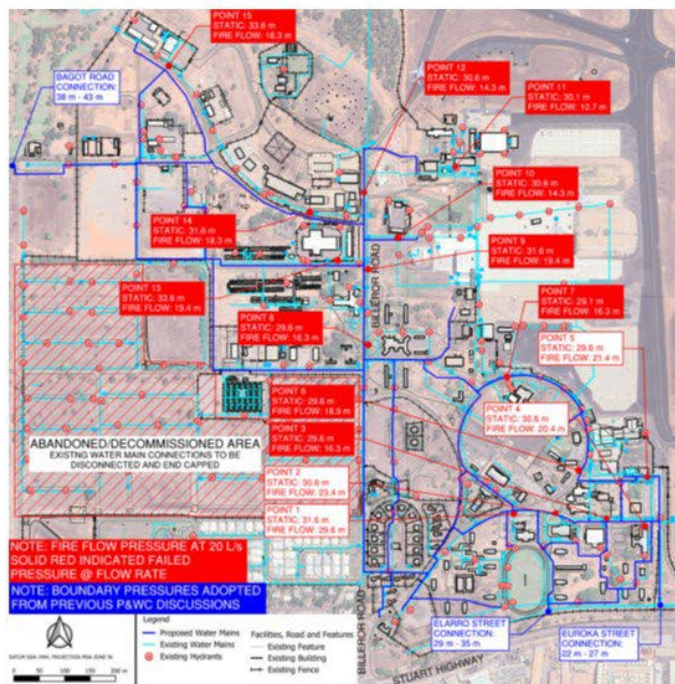
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## Potable Water Network Upgrade



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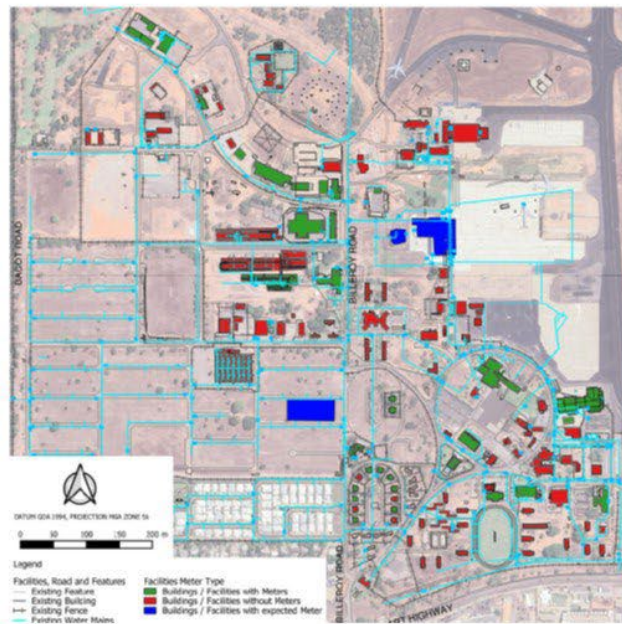
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## Potable Water Network Upgrade



17

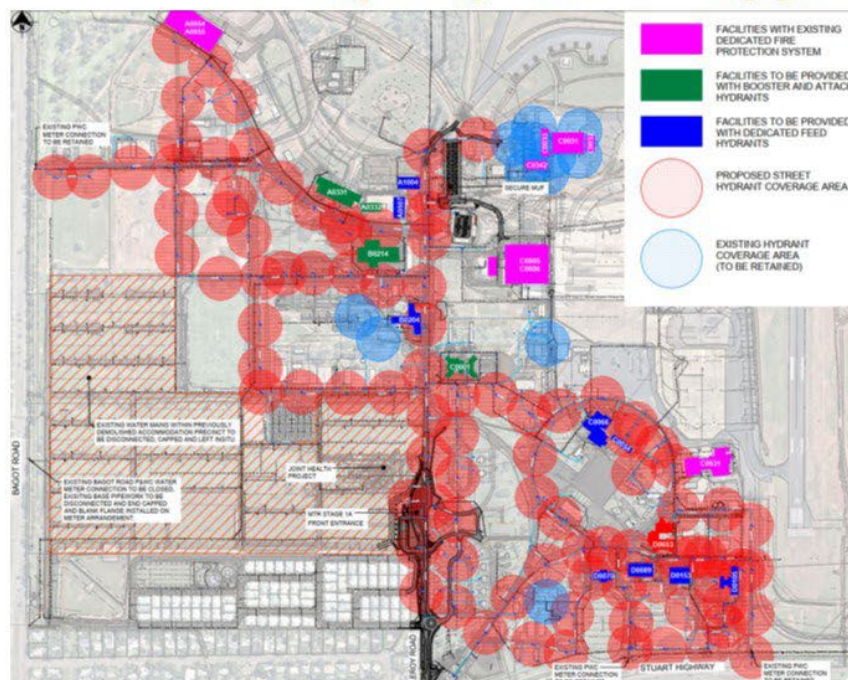
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## Firefighting Network Upgrade



18

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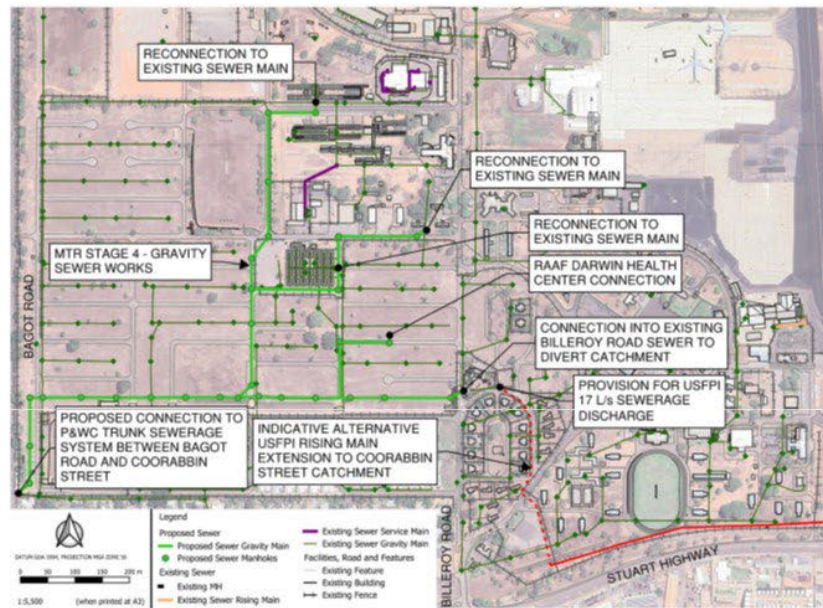
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## Sewer Network Upgrade



19

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## Questions

20

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## **COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION ATTENDANCE AND SUMMARY**

### Details

#### Public Information Sessions

- Darwin (Double Tree Hilton, 118 Esplanade, Darwin, NT)
- 23 October 2023, 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm
- 24 October 2023, 8:30 am to 11:00 am

### Resources

- Materials on display included the information boards and pamphlets shown at **Annex B**, with the pamphlet in presentation form on a projection screen. This was presented to the attendees.
- The Defence consultation team in attendance included members from:
  - Defence's Project Delivery Team
  - Consultant Project Management Team

### Attendance

<b>Number of attendees</b>	<b>Interest Group</b>
0	Local Residents
1	Local Government Mr Luke Gosling MP, Federal Minister for Solomon
<b>Total: 1</b>	

#### Key points raised:

- Mr Gosling queried the following key points:
  - likely construction start and finish dates
  - likely number of jobs to be generated from this project
  - level of community engagement during the design process.
- Mr Gosling also highlighted the importance of sustainability as a key design consideration.

## EXAMPLE OF LETTER OF INVITATION TO KEY STAKEHOLDERS



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

Alex Metcalf  
A/g Project Director  
Capital Facilities and Infrastructure



File Ref: [REDACTED]

Sent by email only (luke.gosling.mp@aph.gov.au)

Luke Gosling MP  
Member for Solomon  
3/266 Trower Road Casuarina,  
NT, 0810

Dear Mr Gosling,

### RAAF DARWIN MID TERM REFRESH PROJECT

I would like to inform you of works proposed by the Department of Defence under the RAAF Darwin Mid Term Refresh Project ("the project"). The Project proposes to deliver facilities and infrastructure within the RAAF Base, including substantial upgrade of two existing base entrances along the Stuart Highway.

The project will shortly be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC). The project, which is subject to Parliamentary Approval, can shortly be viewed on the PWC website:

[https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Joint/Public\\_Works](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Public_Works)

The aim of the project is to address safety and capacity concerns associated with the current Base entrances, as well as prioritised capacity, condition and compliance upgrades of engineering services at RAAF Darwin. This work will deliver enhanced resilience and redundancy to the Base, which supports Defence's strategic objectives.

The works include:

- A replacement high-capacity main entrance for the Base,
- An upgraded entrance for heavy vehicle access to the Base for explosive ordnance and fuel deliveries,
- Capacity, condition and compliance upgrades to the potable water network,
- Capacity, condition and compliance upgrades to the firefighting water network; and
- Capacity, condition and compliance upgrades to the sewer network.

Most construction works will be conducted within the Base, while the enhancement of the two entrances will improve trafficability along the Stuart Highway through additional queuing capacity to the existing main entry and a new signalised intersection at Bombing Road. The designs of each of these entrances have been closely coordinated with the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics.

**Annex D**

Subject to Parliamentary expediency, construction is proposed to commence in mid-2024, with completion scheduled in 2026.

Representatives of the project team will be in Darwin for a public drop-in information session, and a separate opportunity for a one-on-one discussion if desired. The details are below:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Time</b>
23 October 2023	Double Tree Hilton, 116 Esplanade Darwin, NT	Public Consultation 2pm – 6pm
24 October 2023	Double Tree Hilton, 116 Esplanade Darwin, NT	Opportunity for One-on-One Meeting by Appointment 8am – 11am

The Department's Statement of Evidence to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC), will be sent as a link in a follow-up correspondence.

If you or your staff would like a personal briefing on the project, please contact the team via email at [darwinmtr\\_pwc@kbr.com](mailto:darwinmtr_pwc@kbr.com).

Yours sincerely,

**Alex Metcalf**  
A/g Project Director  
Capital Facilities and Infrastructure  
10 October 2023

## STATUS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS

ORGANISATION AND MEMBER	NOTES
<b>FEDERAL GOVERNMENT</b>	
Mr Luke Gosling MP, Federal Member for Soloman	<p><b>11 October 2023.</b> Defence emailed a letter to Mr Gosling providing project information, contact details, and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p><b>23 October 2023:</b> Mr Gosling attended the community consultation session and subsequently posted a picture on his LinkedIn profile of the event.</p>
Senator Malarndirri McCarthy, Federal Senator for NT	<p><b>11 October 2023.</b> Defence emailed a letter to Senator McCarthy providing project information, contact details, and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>No Response has been received to date.</p>
Senator Jacinta Price, Federal Senator for NT	<p><b>11 October 2023.</b> Defence emailed a letter to Senator Price providing project information, contact details, and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>No Response has been received to date.</p>
<b>STATE/TERRITORY GOVERNMENT</b>	
Hon. Kate Worden, Member for Sanderson (NT Legislative Assembly)	<p><b>11 October 2023.</b> Defence emailed a letter to Hon. Worden providing project information, contact details, and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>No Response has been received to date.</p>
Hon. Mark Monaghan, Member for Fong Lim (NT Legislative Assembly)	<p><b>11 October 2023.</b> Defence emailed a letter to Hon. Monaghan providing project information, contact details, and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>No Response has been received to date.</p>
<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT</b>	
The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Darwin Hon. Konstantine Vatskalis	<p><b>11 October 2023.</b> Defence emailed a letter to Hon. Vatskalis providing project information, contact details, and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>No Response has been received to date.</p>
<b>COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS GROUP</b>	
Greg Ireland, Chief Executive Officer, Northern Territory Chamber of Commerce	<p><b>11 October 2023.</b> Defence emailed a letter to Mr Ireland providing project information, contact details, and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p>No Response has been received to date.</p>
Victoria Moore, Regulatory and Planning Manager, Airport Development Group (Darwin Airport)	<p><b>13 November 2023.</b> Defence provided a project briefing and site tour of the proposed works.</p>

## SUMMARY OF TOPICS AND KEY ISSUES RAISED DURING CONSULTATION

TOPIC	RAISED BY	DEFENCE RESPONSE
<b>Construction Timeline</b>  Likely construction start and finish dates.	Mr Luke Gosling, MP	Mr Gosling was advised that, subject to the timing of the Expediency, it was anticipated construction would commence in approximately June 2024 with works to progress through to late 2026.
<b>Local Industry Participation</b>  Likely number of opportunities to be generated from this project for local businesses.		Mr Gosling was advised that the project was targeting 90% of trade spend in the immediate Darwin area with an additional 5% in the Northern Territory. Monitoring of the contractor local industry plan was central to the delivery of the project. Further, recent subcontractor briefings had garnered significant interest with more than 240 attendees at an early October 2023 briefing on forthcoming tendering opportunities.
<b>Community Engagement</b>  Level of community engagement during the design process.		Mr Gosling was advised that there was an extensive level of community consultation throughout the entire design phase of the project, notably with the NT Government's Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics and Power & Water Corporation. The project has obtained the requisite authority approvals from each of these agencies, while further design and stakeholder coordination was also necessary with Australia Post, the local Winnellie shops and nearby Defence Housing community.