



Australian Government
Defence

Air Commodore Ron 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
AIR7000 PHASE 1B REMOTELY PILOTED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM FACILITIES
PROJECT

1. The AIR7000 Phase 1B Remotely Piloted Aircraft System Facilities Project (the Project) was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on 3 August 2022. The Project proposes to deliver facilities and infrastructure at RAAF Base Edinburgh, South Australia, and RAAF Base Tindal, Northern Territory.
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 works. The aim of the consultation is to ensure local communities and other stakeholders are:
 - a. well informed about the Project details through effective and proven communication channels
 - b. provided the opportunity to raise any concerns or to seek further information so that, wherever feasible, Defence could address these in its program of works.
3. The following stakeholder and community consultation activities are being delivered in accordance with the Project's comprehensive community engagement strategy:
 - a. Advertising community information session details in relevant local newspapers in the Northern Territory, and establishing a Project email address (for the RAAF Base Edinburgh works) to receive submissions and questions about the Project, and provide a dedicated phone number for the public to call. These details were included in the advertisements at Annex A.
 - b. Conducting a community information session in Katherine, Northern Territory, on 15 June 2022. The type of information Defence presented to the public is shown at Annex B, and the level of attendance is provided at Annex C.

- c. Inviting key stakeholders, including Federal, State and Local Members, and local industry business associations, to receive a personal briefing about the Project. An example of the invitation sent is at [Annex D](#). A list of all stakeholders engaged by the Project and the status of the engagement is provided at [Annex E](#).
4. A summary of topics and key issues raised during all consultation activities is provided at [Annex F](#). Key areas of concern include the impact of the Project upon affordable accommodation and housing, and the lack of investment in social infrastructure to assist with addressing the challenge of attracting and retaining a long-term, skilled workforce in Katherine.

Yours sincerely,

RM Tilley

Air Commodore

Director General Capital Facilities and Infrastructure

September 2022

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 Consultation

NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS

Location	Publication	Delivery Area	Dates Published
RAAF Base Tindal	Katherine Times	Katherine	Wednesday 8 June 2022 Wednesday 15 June 2022
RAAF Base Tindal	NT News	Northern Territory, including Darwin and Katherine	Saturday 4 June 2022 Saturday 11 June 2022
RAAF Base Edinburgh	Adelaide Advertiser	Adelaide	Saturday 27 August 2022 Saturday 3 September 2022

 **Australian Government**
Department of Defence

NOTICE OF COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION

RAAF Base Tindal - AIR7000 Phase 1B MQ-4C Triton Remotely Piloted Aircraft System Facilities Project.

The Department of Defence will hold a community information session to outline the proposed facilities to be delivered in support of the new Triton aircraft to be based at RAAF Tindal.

This session will provide the community with information about the proposed works and an opportunity to ask questions with Defence representatives.

Community Information Session Details
Date: Wednesday 15 June 2022
Time: 4:00PM to 8:00PM
Venue: Katherine Town Council Chambers

If you are unable to attend the information session you can email questions to AIR70001BCommunityInfo@Jacobs.com by 6:00pm on 15 June 2022 or call the Katherine Town Council Chambers room on 0460 856 647 while the session is running.

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY BRIEFING

 **Australian Government**
Defence

RAAF Base Edinburgh - AIR7000 Phase 1B MQ-4C Triton Remotely Piloted Aircraft System Facilities Project

The Department of Defence is offering the community the opportunity to be briefed on the proposed facilities to be delivered at RAAF Base Edinburgh in support of the new Triton aircraft.

This will provide the community with information about the proposed works and an opportunity to ask questions with Defence representatives.

The briefings will be held online at agreed times.

To request a briefing, please email AIR70001BCommunityInfo@Jacobs.com or ring 0460 856 647 before 7 September 2022.

Information on the project is also available on the Public Works Committee web page at https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Public_Works/AIR7000Phase1B, where submissions can also be made.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION RESOURCES (INFORMATION BOARDS)



Australian Government
Defence

AIR7000 Phase 1B

Remotely Piloted Aircraft System
Facilities Project

The MQ-4C Triton is a high altitude long endurance remotely piloted aerial system which will complement the P- 8A Poseidon maritime aircraft acquired under AIR 7000 Phase 2 as a 'family of systems'

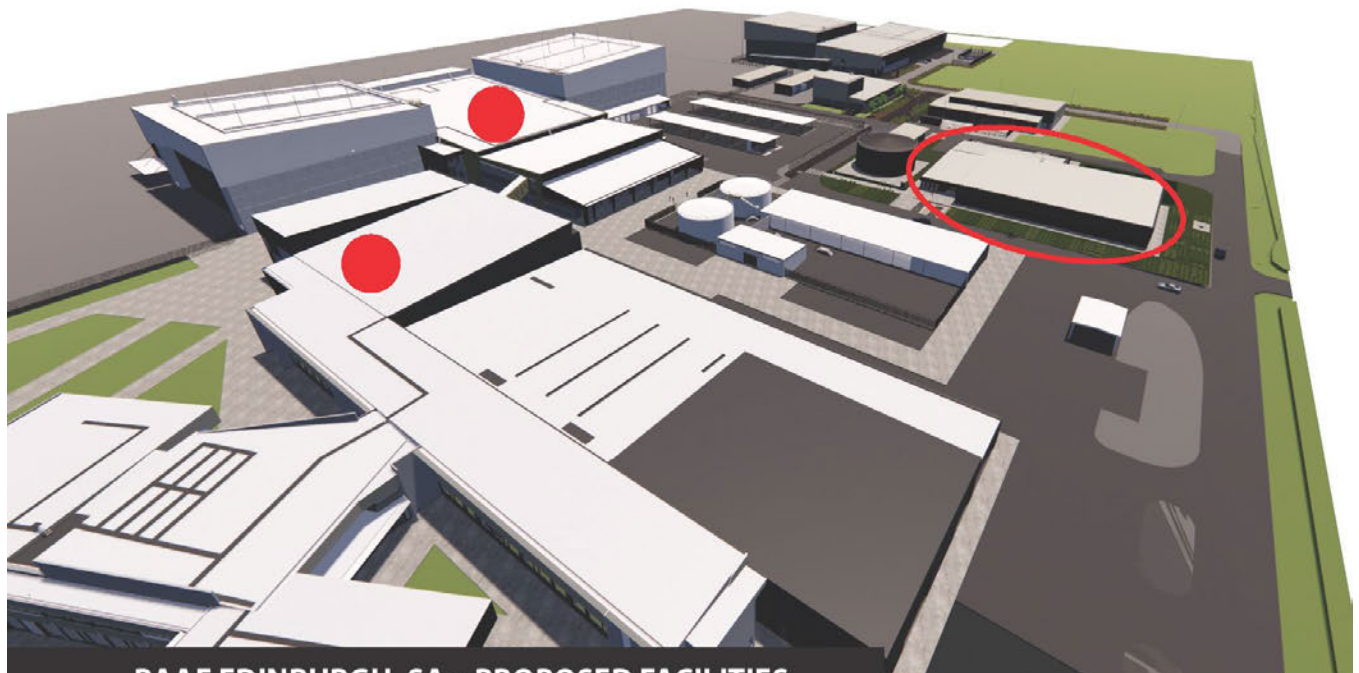
PROPOSED PROJECT DETAILS

RAAF Base Tindal, NT:

- Working accommodation
- Operating facilities
- Maintenance facilities
- Aircraft hangars and pavements

RAAF Base Edinburgh, SA:

- Working accommodation
- Squadron Headquarters
- Operating facilities
- Triton Training Facilities



RAAF EDINBURGH, SA – PROPOSED FACILITIES

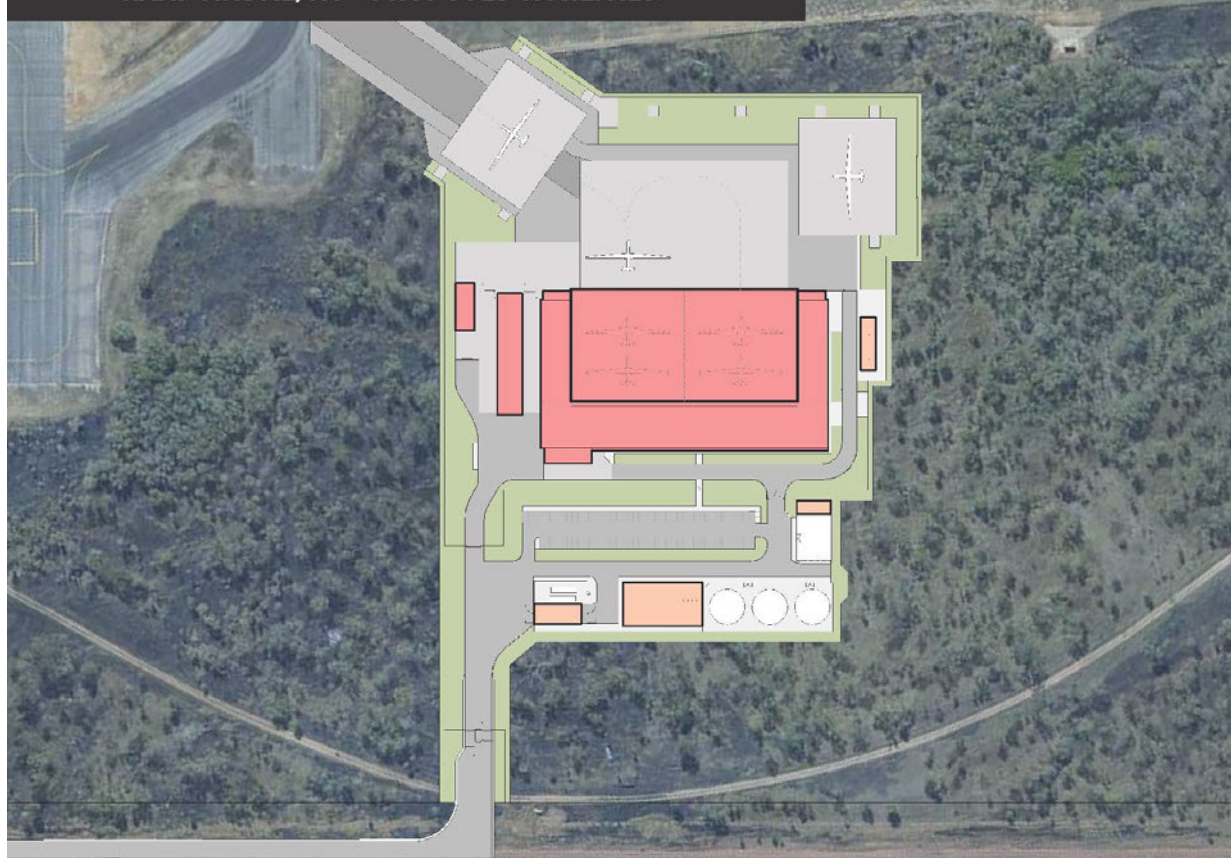
COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION RESOURCES (INFORMATION BOARDS)



AIR7000 Phase 1B Remotely Piloted Aircraft System Facilities Project



RAAF TINDAL, NT – PROPOSED FACILITIES



COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION RESOURCES (INFORMATION BOARDS)



Australian Government

Defence

AIR7000 Phase 1B

Remotely Piloted Aircraft System
Facilities Project

Where do I make a comment or ask questions?

- If you have a comment or question today, please approach the representatives at this forum
- If you have a comment or question after the forum, please contact the project team at: Air70001bCommunityInfo@Jacobs.com
- Once the proposed project has been referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works you will be able to find further information and make a submission at the Inquiries page:

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Public_Works

- The Committee's Inquiry into the project is expected to undertake a public hearing. The location, date and time of the hearing is to be confirmed.



IMAGERY COURTESY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE (AUSTRALIA)

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION RESOURCES (INFORMATION BOARDS)



AIR7000 Phase 1B Remotely Piloted Aircraft System Facilities Project



Community Issues

- Indigenous Heritage:
 - o The Project will comply with Defence's Heritage Management Plans for the project sites.
 - o The Project directly engages with the Kaurna traditional landowners in Adelaide and the surrounding region regarding respectful conduct of construction operations and the management of Indigenous heritage matters that may arise during construction.
 - o The Project has confirmed no impact on sacred sites at RAAF Tindal and has obtained AAPA permits.
- Environment and Heritage:
 - o Defence has assessed the proposed works and no significant impacts on the environment, or Indigenous or European heritage are anticipated.
 - o The works are expected to be managed via Defence Environmental Clearance Certificates.
- Indigenous Industry Participation:
 - o The Managing Contractor for delivery of the works at RAAF Edinburgh has an Indigenous Participation Plan that forecasts a minimum of 4% of the Contract value will be awarded to Indigenous enterprises.
 - o The successful Head Contractor for delivery of the works at RAAF Tindal will tender their target for Indigenous employment or sub-contracts which forms part of the Commonwealth's assessment of Value for Money.
 - o The value of works by Indigenous enterprises for the Head Contract at RAAF Tindal is expected to be in the range of \$8 to \$10 million (GST exclusive)

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION RESOURCES (INFORMATION BOARDS)



Australian Government

Defence

AIR7000 Phase 1B

Remotely Piloted Aircraft System
Facilities Project

PROJECT CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

RAAF Base Tindal - by Head Contract Delivery - 2023-2025

RAAF Base Edinburgh by Managing Contractor Delivery - 2023-2024

Local Industry Capability Planning - Opportunities for local Indigenous businesses and workers

- Construction of the proposed works requires contractors to adhere to Commonwealth policies that seek to maximise local industry and indigenous enterprise participation. Contractors must develop then deliver their services in accordance with a:
 - o Local Industry Capability Plan
 - o Indigenous Participation Plan
- RAAF Tindal works:
 - o The works are proposed to be delivered via a Head Contract to construct in accordance with a fully documented design by Defence's design services consultants
 - o Potential total inducted workforce of up to 550 over the project life
 - o A high proportion of local industry involvement is anticipated
- RAAF Edinburgh works:
 - o The works are proposed to be delivered as an additional work package under an extant Managing Contract for a related facilities project
 - o Opportunities for local subcontractors and suppliers will be promulgated
 - o Potential total inducted workforce of approximately 600 over the project life
 - o Potential for approximately 80% local industry involvement to be achieved based on similar projects

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION ATTENDANCE AND SUMMARY

Details

- 15 June 2022, 4pm to 8pm
- Forum Room, Katherine Town Council, Council Chambers, Lot 1865 Stuart Highway, Katherine (NT), postcode 0850

Resources

- Materials on display included the information boards shown at [Annex B](#)
- Defence consultation team in attendance included members from:
 - Defence's Project delivery team
 - Defence's Project sponsor
 - Defence's consultant Project management team
 - Key stakeholders from RAAF Base Tindal

Attendance

Number of attendees	Interest group	Suburb / postcode
03	Local residents	Katherine 0850
02	NT Government	Darwin 0800
Total: 05		

Key points raised and Defence's responses are detailed at [Annex F](#).

- lack of affordable housing
- lack of housing
- lack of investment in social infrastructure
- the impact the Project would have on the community
- challenge of Defence being able to attract and retain a suitable workforce

PERSONAL BRIEFING INVITATION TO KEY STAKEHOLDERS



Australian Government
Defence

Wing Commander Melissa Mailler
Project Director Air Projects
Capital Facilities and Infrastructure Branch

Brindabella Business Park (BP26)
PO Box 7923
CANBERRA ACT 2610

Tel: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

Elisabeth Clark
Mayor, Katherine Town Council, NT
PO Box 1071, Katherine, NT 0851
[REDACTED]

AIR7000 Phase 1B MQ-4C Triton Remotely Piloted Aircraft System Facilities Project

Dear Ms Clark

On behalf of the Department of Defence, I would like to inform you of works proposed at RAAF Base Tindal under the AIR7000 Phase 1B MQ-4C Triton Remotely Piloted Aircraft System Facilities Project. These works are subject to Parliamentary Approval.

I am writing to you in your capacity as Mayor, Katherine Town Council, to offer you a personal briefing on the proposed works.

The Department of Defence is seeking a referral of the project to the Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Public Works (the PWC) for consideration early in the term of the 47th Parliament.

The aim of the project is to provide facilities and infrastructure to support the introduction into service of the MQ-4C Triton aircraft that will provide the Australian Defence Force with a new Airborne Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance capability. Facilities are proposed to be delivered at RAAF Base Edinburgh, SA and RAAF Base Tindal, NT.

The proposed works include the construction of operational, maintenance and airfield facilities, and associated engineering services. If approved, the proposed works will be wholly situated on Defence managed land, with the works proposed to commence in early 2023.

Like other major Defence infrastructure projects, this project will generate employment opportunities in the construction and related support sectors of the local area.

If you or your staff would like to accept this invitation for a personal briefing on the proposed works, please contact me via email at AIR70001BCommunityInfo@Jacobs.com.

Following referral of the project to the PWC we expect that the Committee will arrange for a Public Hearing. Once known, the details will be advised by the PWC via the media.

Yours sincerely

melissa.mailler Digitally signed by melissa.mailler
Date: 2022.05.31 08:37:33 +10'00'

Wing Commander Melissa Mailler
Project Director Air Projects

STATUS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS

ORGANISATION AND MEMBER	NOTES
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	
Ms Marion Scrymgour MP Federal Member for Lingiari (NT)	27 May 2022 – Defence hand delivered a letter to Ms Scrymgour’s electorate office in Coolalinga, providing Project information, contact details and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing. A response has not been received to date.
Mr Matt Burnell MP Member for Spence (SA)	21 June 2022 – Defence emailed a letter to Mr Burnell, providing Project information, contact details and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing. 20 July 2022 – A briefing was conducted virtually. The briefing was appreciated and no concerns were raised.
Mr Tony Zappia MP Member for Makin (SA)	9 August 2022 - Defence emailed a letter to Mr Zappia, providing Project information, contact details and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing. A response has not been received to date.
STATE/TERRITORY GOVERNMENT	
Peter Malinauskas Premier South Australia	1 June 2022 – Defence emailed a letter to Mr Malinauskas, providing Project information, contact details and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing. A response has not been received to date.
Hon Natasha Fyles, MLA Chief Minister (NT)	1 June 2022 – Defence emailed a letter to Natasha Fyles, providing Project information, contact details and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing. 15 June 2022 - Representatives of Natasha Fyles attended the Community Information Session in Katherine. See Annex F for concerns raised.
Mr Nick Champion Member for Taylor (SA)	1 June 2022 – Defence emailed a letter to Mr Champion, providing Project information, contact details and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing. 20 July 2022 – A briefing was conducted virtually. The briefing was appreciated and no concerns were raised.
Mrs Jo Hersey MLA, Member for Katherine (NT)	1 June 2022 – Defence emailed a letter to Mrs Hersey, providing Project information, contact details and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing. Mrs Hersey elected to not be personally briefed.

Annex E

Selena Uiibo MP, Member for Arnhem (NT)	20 June 2022 – Defence emailed a letter to Selena Uiibo, providing Project information, contact details and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing. 20 July 2022 – A briefing was conducted virtually. See Annex F for questions and concerns raised.
LOCAL GOVERNMENT	
Gillian Aldridge OAM, Mayor of City of Salisbury (SA)	1 June 2022 – Defence emailed a letter to Gillian Aldridge, providing Project information, contact details and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing. 20 July 2022 – A briefing was conducted virtually. See Annex F for questions raised by representative.
Elisabeth Clark Mayor, Katherine Town Council (NT)	1 June 2022 – Defence emailed a letter to Elisabeth Clark, providing Project information, contact details and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing. 14 June 2022 – A briefing was conducted in-person. See Annex F for questions and concerns raised.
COMMUNITY GROUPS	
Les Wanganeen Chairperson Kurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation (SA)	6 June 2022 – Defence emailed a letter to Les Wanganeen, providing Project information, contact details and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing. A response has not been received to date.
Mr Greg Ireland CEO NT Chamber of Commerce (NT)	1 June 2022 – Defence emailed a letter to Greg Ireland, providing Project information, contact details and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing. A response has not been received to date.
Mr Martin Haese CEO, Business (SA), Chamber of Commerce and Industry	1 June 2022 – Defence emailed a letter to Martin Haese, providing Project information, contact details and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing. A response has not been received to date.

SUMMARY OF TOPICS AND KEY ISSUES RAISED DURING CONSULTATION

Theme	Raised by	Defence's Response
Lack of accommodation and lack of affordable accommodation in Katherine	- Katherine Town Council - NT Government representatives of NT Chief Minister - Selina Uiibo – NT Member for Arnhem	Defence is aware of the significant accommodation issues in Katherine and has budgeted for the Head Contractor to provide their own accommodation. Defence is not in a position to undertake physical interventions and will rely on the Head Contractor to manage.
Lack of investment in social infrastructure in Katherine significantly impacting the ability to attract a long-term skilled work force to live there	- Katherine Town Council	Defence is aware of these issues. However, Defence is restricted to only spending funds on the approved capability requirements, and is not able to undertake any expenditure on town facilities.
Katherine Town Council's desire for larger aircraft to be able to use the shared Taxiway E. Council is undertaking planning and seeking grants to fund upgrades.	- Katherine Town Council	Defence is not undertaking upgrades to Taxiway E to provide for larger aircraft. However, Defence will work with the Katherine Town Council on any plans they have to ensure all taxiway works are complementary.
Katherine Town Council Lease changes update	- Katherine Town Council	Defence's Property Management Branch is working collaboratively with Katherine Town Council to update the lease to reflect minor boundary changes.
Request to use specific resources that connect Indigenous contractors to potential Indigenous staff and businesses	- John Harry, CEO City of Salisbury (SA) - Selina Uiibo – NT Member for Arnhem	Defence will inform contractors of these resources and encourage them to use the available resources to meet Indigenous participation targets.
Local employment opportunities resulting from the Project	- John Harry, CEO City of Salisbury, SA - Katherine Town Council	There will be ongoing employment of additional uniformed staff and civilians at both RAAF Bases Edinburgh and Tindal, including a skilled workforce for the conduct of intelligence, reconnaissance and surveillance operations and supporting personnel conducting aircraft maintenance and logistics.