



Australian Government

Department of Defence

Defence Support and Reform Group

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DGCFI-ID/OUT/2014/AF17771602

Mrs Karen Andrews MP

Chair

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

Parliament House

CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mrs Andrews

AIR9000 PHASE 5C – REPLACEMENT CHINOOKS FACILITIES PROJECT

This letter is to inform the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC) about the nature and extent of community consultations undertaken as part of the AIR9000 Phase 5C Replacement Chinook Facilities Project (RCF Project). In addition, this letter advises of some minor amendments to the Defence Statement of Evidence, as submitted on 25 March 2014.

In general, no significant issues have been identified throughout Defence's comprehensive and wide spread community consultations. Generally, there is significant support from the community as the RCF Project will generate employment for small to medium sized local businesses.

Throughout the consultation process, Defence discussed the potential issue of traffic congestion as a result of construction. The local community, businesses and local members of parliament appear to be satisfied that Defence, with the assistance of the Department of Transport and Main Roads, will provide appropriate mitigation strategies at the Ingham Road and Duckworth Street intersection throughout the construction period to ensure no adverse impacts on local traffic.

The location of the RCF Project is within RAAF Base Townsville in the suburb of Garbutt, Townsville. Garbutt is largely an industrial suburb which also accommodates the Townsville Airport and the Townsville Bureau of Meteorology within the RAAF Base Townsville Boundary.

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

- ensuring that the community was informed about the project using effective, proven communication channels; and

- ensuring that the community had every opportunity to raise issues of concern so that wherever feasible, they could be addressed by Defence in its program of works.

Five main activities were undertaken under the RCF Project consultation plan, namely:

- stakeholder briefings (listed in Annex A);
- advertisements in the local newspapers;
- a community information session conducted on 10 April 2014 (1700-2000hrs at the Mercure Inn Hotel, Townsville;
- meetings with local, state and federal political representatives (see Annex B); and
- a registration of interest industry briefing.

Although comments and feedback have been overwhelmingly supportive of the project, some concerns were expressed, which are briefly outlined below:

- A local subcontractor attended the community consultation information night, and expressed concerns that he had not been paid for works conducted at 5th Aviation Regiment for the MRH 90 Simulator Facilities Project. This matter has been raised with the responsible body within Defence for resolution.
- The Mayor of Townsville raised concerns regarding the real economic benefit the project would bring to the local community, and how local contractors and sub-contractors may miss out on employment opportunities from interstate construction companies due to a lack of Building Code 2013 compliance. In order to address these concerns Defence conducted an industry briefing session to highlight the compliance requirements that contractors and sub-contractors are required to achieve in order to tender for the works.

Defence is satisfied that it has taken all reasonable steps to inform the community about the RCF project and to provide opportunities to raise any concerns they may have.

A table summarising the issues raised by stakeholders and how these have been addressed by Defence is provided for your reference at Attachment 1.

As noted above, I also wish to advise the Committee of some minor amendments to the Defence Statement of Evidence as submitted on 25 March 2014. These are outlined at Attachment 2.

Yours sincerely,

D.S NAUMANN

Brigadier

Director General

Capital Facilities and Infrastructure

12 May 2014

Annex:

- A. List of Stakeholders Consulted
- B. Local, State and Federal members Consulted

Attachment:

- 1. Summary of Issues Table
- 2. Amendment to the Statement of Evidence

**ANNEX A
TO AIR9000 PHASE 5C
REPLACEMENT CHINOOKS FACILITIES PROJECT
MAY 14**

LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED

The following is a list of stakeholders consulted by the RCF Project Team:

Internal stakeholders

Capability Development Group (Aviation)
Army (Headquarters)
Air Force
Defence Support and Reform Group Infrastructure Division
Defence Support and Reform Group – Defence Support Organisation
Defence Materiel Organisation
Defence Security Authority
Chief Information Officer Group

External stakeholders

Townsville City Council
Ergon Energy, Electricity provider
Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads
Air Services Australia
Queensland Fire and Rescue Service
Townsville Airport Pty Ltd

**ANNEX B
TO AIR9000 PHASE 5C
REPLACEMENT CHINOOKS FACILITIES PROJECT**

MAY 14

LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL MEMBERS CONSULTED

Townsville, Queensland:

Local: Jenny Hill, Mayor, Townsville City Council

State: Mr John Hathaway MP, Member for Townsville

Federal: Mr Ewen Jones MP, Federal Member for Herbert

**ATTACHMENT 1
TO AIR9000 PHASE 5C
REPLACEMENT CHINOOKS FACILITIES PROJECT
MAY 14**

SUMMARY OF ISSUES TABLE		
Issues raised that have been addressed during the consultation period		
Issue:	Discussed with:	How each issue has been addressed:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns about unpaid subcontractors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member of local community – Sub-Contractor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A local sub-contractor raised a current issue with the MRH-90 simulator project with regards to monies claimed to be owing for unpaid work. The RCF project team has passed the subcontractor's concerns to the MRH 90 Helicopter Facilities Project team within the Defence Material Organisation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns regarding noise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member of local community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defence advised that the new Chinooks will not cause any additional noise than what is currently being experienced. This is due to the same engines and rotor blades being used, and no planned increase to flying hours.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local industry winning work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mayor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In recognition of the economic benefits the RCF project could provide the community, Defence advertised on both Aus Tender and the local newspaper, and presented an industry briefing session to prospective companies interested in procuring work on the project. The Industry brief covered not just the proposal, but how to become Building Code 2013 compliant and submit a conforming tender to Defence. The Industry Briefing was conducted on 10 April 2014 at 1730hrs pm and was well attended by 16 construction companies, both local and interstate.

Issues raised by local external stakeholders and Local, State or Federal members		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk of flooding on RAAF Base Townsville 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mayor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defence has conducted an investigation into the current and projected flood modelling, and has confirmed that the 5th Aviation Regiment facilities precinct is clear of any flooding.
Potential issues of rust on capability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mayor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defence advised there are dehumidifiers in the helicopter storage shelters to assist in rust prevention.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effect on traffic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member of DTMR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defence advised to DTMR that the project proposal was to use the Duckworth Street Gate with an expected 1500hrs departure peak. DTMR requested, once the project is approved, that the awarded Head Contractor, provide their Traffic Management Plan and liaise with DTMR for programming of the Duckworth Street and Ingham Road intersection lights to reduce traffic congestion if experienced.

**ATTACHMENT 2
TO AIR9000 PHASE 5C
REPLACEMENT CHINOOKS FACILITIES PROJECT
MAY 14**

Amendment 1 to the Statement of Evidence

The following amendments to the Statement of Evidence (SOE), referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Public works (PWC) on 25 March 2014, are below on Table 1:

Table 1: Amendments to the referred Statement of Evidence

Serial	Type	Details	Location
1.0	Typographical Error	Replace the word ' <i>Hanger</i> ', with ' <i>Hangar</i> '	Statement of Evidence, paragraphs: 9; 10; 20.f; 25.a; and 60.
1.1	Typographical Error	Replace the words ' <i>Advanced Mission Planning System</i> ', with ' <i>Aviation Mission Planning System</i> '	'Identified Need' Paragraph 4.c
1.2	Typographical Error	Replace ' <i>Energex</i> ', with ' <i>Ergon</i> '	'Consultation with Stakeholders' Paragraph 40.e
2.0	Incorrect representation of the RAAF Base Townsville Boundary	Replace SOE Attachment 1 with new Attachment 1, enclosed.	Attachment 1

Annex 1
To Attachment 1



ATTACHMENT 1 – RAAF BASE TOWNSVILLE LOCATION PLAN