



**Australian Government**

**Department of Defence**  
Defence Support and Reform Group

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**Mr Graham Perrett MP**

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

Dear Mr Perrett,

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT FOR THE AIR 7000 PHASE 2B -  
MARITIME PATROL AIRCRAFT REPLACEMENT CAPABILITY FACILITIES  
PROJECT**

This letter is to inform the Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Works (PWC) of the nature and extent of community consultation undertaken as part of the AIR 7000 Phase 2B - Maritime Patrol Aircraft Replacement Capability Facilities Project (the Project).

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

- ensuring that the Community was informed about the Project using effective and proven communication channels; and
- ensuring that the Community had every opportunity to raise issues of concern or seek further information so that wherever feasible, they could be addressed by Defence in its program of works.

Multiple activities were undertaken under the Project Consultation Plan, namely:

- Provision of a project specific website hosted by Defence (<http://www.defence.gov.au/id/Air7000Phase2B/Default.asp>).

Provision of a project specific email address to receive community feedback ([AIR7000.facilities@defence.gov.au](mailto:AIR7000.facilities@defence.gov.au)).

- A Stakeholder Briefing Program (provided at annex A), where Local, State and Federal members and authorities were provided with direct email correspondence, and if requested, individual briefings.
- A Letter Box Drop at the following sites, where there are residents in the immediate surrounding areas:

- RAAF Base Edinburgh, South Australia;
- RAAF Base Townsville, Queensland; and
- RAAF Base Darwin, Northern Territory.
- Targeted 'Door Knocking' in areas surrounding RAAF Base Edinburgh, due to the potential impact of the proposed runway extension and a possible road closure.
- Public Information Sessions, where members of the public could ask questions and obtain further information were held at:
  - the Bagster Road Community Centre, Salisbury North, South Australia on 20 November 2014;
  - the Elizabeth Shopping Centre, Elizabeth, South Australia on 22 November 2014;
  - the Rockingham Shopping Centre, Rockingham, Western Australia on 24 November 2014;
  - the Chequers Golf Club, Bullsbrook, Western Australia on 24 November 2014;
  - the Rydges Darwin Airport Resort, Marrara, Northern Territory on 25 November 2014; and
  - the Mercure Townsville, Townsville, Queensland on 27 November 2014.

A table summarising the key issues and other concerns raised by the Community, and how these have been or will be addressed by Defence is provided at annex B.

In general, the following questions were the most common asked at the various Public Information Sessions:

- what is the potential for an increase in noise during aircraft take-off and landing;
- what is the potential for an increase in the frequency of flight activity levels;
- what is the expected level of night-time noise; and
- what are the construction employment opportunities.

In response to these questions, Project representatives explained the following:

- The new P-8A is not expected to increase the maximum noise levels that are currently experienced during normal AP-3C operations.
- The new P-8A can achieve a greater rate of climb on departure than the AP-3C, which will reduce the amount of prolonged noise at lower altitudes.
- Noise emanating from parking aprons is anticipated to be lower, as the Auxiliary Power Unit (APU) on the new P-8A is significantly quieter than the APU on the current AP-3C;

- Patterns of aircraft movements will not significantly change with the introduction of the new P-8A. Flights at most RAAF bases will continue to be conducted mostly during daylight hours. However during military exercises, night flight training for pilots and aircrew can be expected. Also, during operational taskings, operational tempo may increase and this may include night flights.
- Where possible, the RAAF will notify communities around military bases if there are to be any night operations, and every effort will be made to minimise any inconvenience to the local community.
- Defence estimates that a construction workforce of approximately 700 personnel will be employed during peak times on construction activities associated with this project.

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

Yours sincerely,



**N.F. BEUTEL**  
Brigadier  
Director General Capital Facilities and Infrastructure

**19** January 2015

**Annexes:**

- A. List of Stakeholders Consulted
- B. Community Consultations - Key Issues and Other Concerns

## ANNEX A

### LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED

The following is a list of Local, State and Federal stakeholders and authorities consulted by the Project Team:

- **RAAF Base Edinburgh, South Australia:**
  - The Hon. Martin Hamilton Smith, Minister for Defence Industries
  - Mr Nick Champion, Federal Member for Wakefield
  - Mrs Leesa Vlahos MP, State Member for Taylor
  - CR Gillian Aldridge, City of Salisbury Mayor
  - Cr Alex Coates JP, Outgoing City of Salisbury Deputy Mayor, Councillor – North Ward
  - Cr Graham Reynolds, Incoming Councillor – North Ward
  - Cr Linda Caruso, City of Salisbury - North Ward
  - Mr Glenn Docherty, City of Playford Mayor
  - Cr Geoff Boundy, Outgoing City of Playford – Ward 1
  - Cr Peter Rentoulis, Incoming City of Playford – Ward 1
  - Cr Dino Musolino, City of Playford – Ward 1
  - Cr Julie Norris, Outgoing City of Playford – Ward 1
  - Cr Carol Muzyk, Incoming City of Playford – Ward 1
  - John Harry, Chief Executive Officer, City of Salisbury Council
  - Tim Jackson, Chief Executive Officer, City of Playford Council
  - Rob Stobbe, Chief Executive Officer, SA Power Networks
  - John Ringham, Chief Executive, SA Water
  - Michael Deegan, Chief Executive, Department of Planning Transport and Infrastructure
- **RAAF Base Townsville, Queensland:**
  - The Hon. Campbell Newman MP, Premier of Queensland;
  - Mr Ewen Jones, Federal Member of Herbert;
  - Mr John Hathaway, State Member for Townsville
  - Cr Jenny Hill, Townsville City Council Mayor
  - Cr Vern Veitch, Deputy Mayor, Townsville City Council

- Ray Burton, Chief Executive Officer, Townsville City Council
- Ian McLeod, Ergon Energy
- David Baltic, Aviation Manager, Townsville Airport Pty Ltd
- **RAAF Base Darwin, Northern Territory:**
  - Mrs Natasha Griggs MP, Federal Member for Solomon
  - The Hon. Adam Giles MP, Chief Minister and Minister for Defence Industries and Strategic Defence Liaison
  - The Hon. David Tollner MLA, Member for Fong Lim
  - Cr Katrina Fong Lim, City of Darwin - Lord Mayor
  - Alderman Gary Haslett, City of Darwin - Waters Ward
  - Alderman Allan Mitchell, City of Darwin - Waters Ward
  - Clare Gardiner-Barnes, Chief Executive, Department of Transport
  - Brendan Dowd, City of Darwin Council
  - John Baskerville, Northern Territory Power and Water Corporation
  - Airport Management Centre, Darwin International Airport
- **RAAF Base Pearce & HMAS Stirling, Western Australia**
  - Mr Gary Gray MP, Federal Member for Brand
  - The Hon. Christian Porter MP, Federal Member for Pearce
  - Mr Mark McGowan MP, State Member for Rockingham
  - Mr Francesco Alban MLA, State Member for Swan Hills
  - Cr Charlie Zannino, City of Swan Mayor
  - Cr Kevin Bailey, City of Swan - North Ward
  - Mike Foley, Chief Executive Officer, City of Swan Council
  - Andrew Hammond, Chief Executive Officer, Rockingham City Council
  - Paul Italiano, Chief Executive Officer, Western Power
  - Water Corporation of WA

## ANNEX B

### COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS - KEY ISSUES AND OTHER CONCERNS

RAAF BASE EDINBURGH		
<b>Location Specific Feedback / Comments:</b> At the two Community Consultation sessions held for RAAF Base Edinburgh, there was general interest in the Project, with many local residents either in support of or neutral in their opinions and feedback. Several issues and comments were raised by members of the public specific to RAAF Base Edinburgh, as a result of the Door Knocking and Public Information Sessions conducted, and were addressed by Project representatives as listed below.		
Issue	Discussed with:	How each item has been addressed:
<i>Night-time noise in relation to engine maintenance and training gunfire</i>	Members of the public	The P-8A is not expected to increase the maximum noise levels that are currently experienced during AP-3C engine maintenance. This project is unrelated to any activity involving training gunfire.
<i>Operational aircraft noise</i>	Members of the public	The purchase of two high-fidelity Operational Flight Trainers (OFTs) will reduce the number of aircraft hours allocated to aircraft training at RAAF Base Edinburgh.
<i>Potential Penfield Road changes as a result of Northern runway extension</i>	Members of the public	Residents were divided in their views to the potential closure of Penfield Road. Some residents felt the road closure of a public road would be an inconvenience and lead to an increase in security and rubbish dumping issues. Other residents felt the road closure would help alleviate current dust, traffic and speeding issues generated by traffic on Penfield road. Although road closure remains an option, Defence does not currently plan to seek closure of Penfield road. Instead, a solution involving a jet blast wall is proposed by Defence.
<i>Impact on local vegetation, crops, and animals during flying operations due to noise and vibration from</i>	Members of the public	Patterns of aircraft movements will not significantly change with the introduction of the P-8A at RAAF Base Edinburgh. With the provision of two OFTs, overall aircraft flying time allocated to aircraft training is

<i>aircraft</i>		expected to reduce.
<i>Queries about the northern end of the runway extension</i>	Members of the public	Some residents queried the impact on vegetation, fence lines, location and impact of approach lighting, and impacts on local water, telecommunication and electricity services located close to the proposed extension of the runway. The Project will have no impact on local water, telecommunication and electricity services. The proposed approach lighting, and any altered fence lines, will be on Defence owned land. These issues will be managed through the detailed design process.
<i>Impact on local rezoning and site development opportunities</i>	Members of the public	Some residents north of the base, queried the zoning of their land, and their ability to subdivide. Subdivision of the areas immediately to the north of the base is not permitted, due to the proximity to the base. The project does not change this in any way.
<i>Opportunity for the RAAF base to acquire residents' land North of the base</i>	Members of the public	Earlier proposals for an extension to the take-off distance relied upon the acquisition of parcels of privately owned land. The current proposal does not require any land acquisition.
<i>Heat, smell and nuisance from aircraft exhaust</i>	Member of the public	One resident believed they had previously experienced nuisance from aircraft exhaust fumes, including impact on crops. The P-8A engine complies with contemporary environmental regulations and will be significantly cleaner than the exhaust from the AP-3C.
<b>HMAS STIRLING</b>		
<b>Location Specific Feedback / Comments:</b> Members of the public who viewed the display at Rockingham Shopping Centre on 24 November 2015 were generally in strong support of a local Defence presence and an effective border protection capability. There were several site specific queries that were raised regarding current operations at HMAS Stirling, however they were not in relation to this project.		
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Discussed with:</b>	<b>How each item has been addressed:</b>
<i>The sale and closure of Palm</i>	Members of the public	This project is unrelated to any proposed works at the existing Palm

<i>Cove Caravan Park</i>		Cove Caravan Park.
<i>The perceived lack of Living In Accommodation at RAAF Bases for family members living away from home</i>	Members of the public	This project is unrelated to any Living In Accommodation at any RAAF Base.
<b>RAAF BASE PEARCE</b>		
<b>Location Specific Feedback / Comments:</b> Community members were mostly concerned with operational issues such as noise and vibration of the new aircraft and airport upgrade. These queries were answered by Project representatives from 92 Wing, who advised that the P-8A is not expected to increase the maximum noise levels that are currently experienced during normal AP-3C operations.		
<b>RAAF BASE DARWIN</b>		
<b>Location Specific Feedback / Comments:</b> There was overall interest in the project, with community members generally accepting of the activities associated with living near an airport.		
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Discussed with:</b>	<b>How each item has been addressed:</b>
<i>Project's proposed solution to storm water management</i>	Members of the Public	Defence is undertaking a flood mitigation project to improve the management of storm water at RAAF Base Darwin. Given associated works, this project includes a funding allocation to the flood mitigation project.
<i>Night-time engine run-up practices</i>	Members of the Public	Due to the high ambient temperatures in Darwin, engine testing associated with the AP-3C is, from time to time, conducted in the evening. This practice is expected to continue with P-8A operations however impact is lesser as engines fitted to the P-8A rely extensively on computer based maintenance. This will result in a significant reduction in engine runs as 'limit and efficiency tests' are conducted and tested via a computer with an engine at idle.
<i>Noise impact to adjoining residences at The Narrows</i>	Members of the Public	Construction traffic entering and leaving the site will be routed via Bombing Road to keep it away from the residences at The Narrows.



		<b>RAAF BASE TOWNSVILLE</b>	
<b>Location Specific Feedback / Comments:</b> This Consultation session was attended by three people out of interest in the project or seeking information on potential employment opportunities only. There were no other site specific queries raised.			