



**Australian Government**  
**Defence**

Brigadier Matthew Quinn  
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**Mr Tony Zappia MP**  
Chair  
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Zappia

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT**  
**BLAMEY BARRACKS, KAPOOKA, REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

1. The Blamey Barracks, Kapooka, Redevelopment Project (the project) was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on 2 September 2025. The project proposes to deliver facilities and infrastructure at Blamey Barracks, Kapooka, New South Wales. To maximise construction and cost efficiencies the project will be delivered under a combined program with the Albury Wodonga Military Area Redevelopment Project and the RAAF Base Wagga Redevelopment Project.

2. This letter is to inform the Committee of the nature and extent of community consultation 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 project details through effective communication channels
- b. provided opportunity to seek further information on the project and to raise any concerns or issues

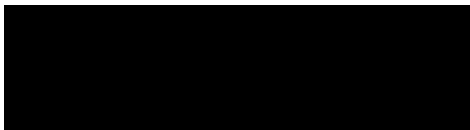
This then provides Defence with the opportunity to review and consider raised issues or concerns within the proposed works.

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

- a. community information sessions were advertised in local newspapers and on social media in Wagga Wagga. The project established a webpage, email address and phone number to receive questions about the project. These details are included in the advertisements examples shown in **Annex A**
- b. letter box drops were conducted between 22 and 26 November 2023, 26 and 28 April 2024, and 25 and 28 July 2025. Details of the letter box drops are provided in **Annex B**

- c. six community information sessions were held in Wagga Wagga. Two sessions on 5 December 2023, two sessions on 16 May 2024, and two sessions on 6 August 2025. The information Defence presented to the public is provided in **Annex C**, and the level of attendance is provided in **Annex D**
4. Key stakeholders, including Federal, State and Local Members of Government, and local community members were offered a personal briefing on the project. An example of the invitation that was sent is in **Annex E**. A list of all stakeholders engaged by the project, including the status of each engagement, is provided in **Annex F**.
5. Information about the proposed works was generally well received at the community information sessions. Feedback for the project has been predominately supportive to date. Defence has not been made aware of any objections to the proposed works.
6. Comments raised by members of the community focused on:
  - a. stormwater and Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) contamination impacts in the neighbouring San Isidore community
  - b. opportunities for local industry participation in the proposed work
  - c. opportunities for training
  - d. concerns surrounding local market's capacity to support the proposed works
7. A summary of topics and key issues raised during community information sessions is provided in **Annex G**.
8. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works's webpage did not receive any public submissions by closing date 15 October 2025. 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,



**MJ Quinn, CSC**  
Brigadier  
Director General Capital Facilities and Infrastructure

**Annexes:**

- A. Advertising
- B. Letter Box Drops Materials And Distribution Areas
- C. Examples of Community Information Session Resources
- D. Community Information Session Attendance and Summary
- E. Example of Letter of Invitation to Key Stakeholders
- F. Status of Key Stakeholder Communications
- G. Summary of Topics and Key Issues Raised during Community Information Session

## NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS

**Table 1**

| Location    | Publication                       | Dates Published                     |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Wagga Wagga | The Daily Advertiser (print ad)   | 29 November 2023<br>2 December 2023 |
| Wagga Wagga | The Daily Advertiser (digital ad) | 23 November to 3 December 2023      |
| Wagga Wagga | The Daily Advertiser (print ad)   | 4 May 2024<br>8 May 2024            |
| Wagga Wagga | The Daily Advertiser (digital ad) | 3 May 2024                          |
| Wagga Wagga | The Daily Advertiser (print ad)   | 26 July 2025                        |
| Wagga Wagga | The Daily Advertiser (print ad)   | 1 August 2025                       |

## EXAMPLE OF NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT



**Australian Government**  
**Defence**

### NOTICE OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT Blamey Barracks Kapooka, Wagga Wagga Community Consultation August 2025

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The Department of Defence is delivering a program of works across three sites in the Riverina, Murray and Hume Regions – the Albury Wodonga Military Area (Wodonga), Blamey Barracks (Kapooka) and RAAF Base Wagga (Wagga Wagga).

Members of the public are invited to attend community consultation sessions as follows:

**Blamey Barracks, Kapooka**

- Wednesday, 06 August 2025**  
**Times:** 12:00 - 2.00pm and 5.00pm - 7.00pm  
**Location:** Regent Room, Mercure Wagga, 1 Morgan Street, Wagga Wagga

The Albury Wodonga Military Area and RAAF Base Wagga Redevelopment Projects were approved by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC) in July 2024 and commenced construction in mid-2025. Defence will refer the Blamey Barracks, Kapooka Redevelopment to the PWC in Q3 2025 having obtained environmental approval in December 2024. If approved, construction is expected to commence at Blamey Barracks, Kapooka in mid-2026.

The Blamey Barracks Kapooka Redevelopment Project will:

- Create fit-for-purpose facilities to live, work and train for the Australian Army
- Enable opportunities for local employment, training and delivery of supplies and services
- Support long term growth in the Hume, Riverina and Murray regions.

For further information on the community consultation sessions, refer to our website: [www.defence.gov.au/riverina-redevelopment-program](http://www.defence.gov.au/riverina-redevelopment-program) or you can contact us via email: [RRP.enquiries@jacobs.com](mailto:RRP.enquiries@jacobs.com). You are welcome to attend any session within the advertised timeframes.

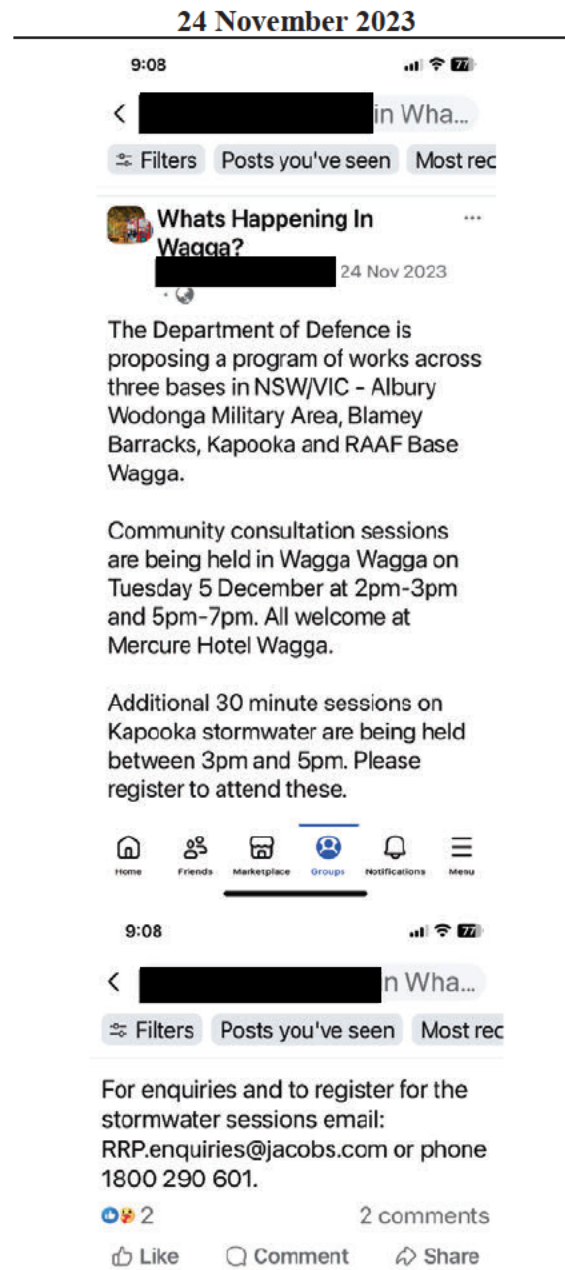
**Annex A-2**

**SOCIAL MEDIA ADVERTISING**

Notices were placed on local Facebook community pages to raise awareness of the project's Community Information Sessions run from 2023 until 2025.

Across the events, engagement was low with minimal or no interactions and comments on the Wagga Wagga Facebook pages during the most recent stage of consultation.

**FACEBOOK POSTS November 2023)**





**Annex A-3**

**FACEBOOK POSTS – April and May 2024**

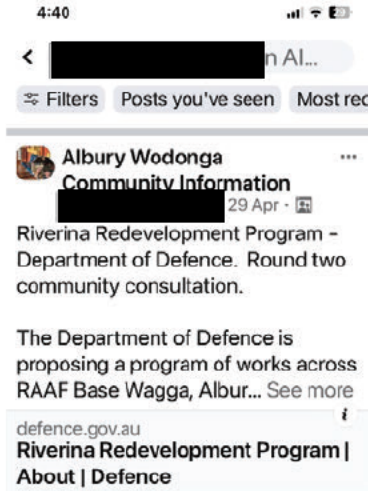
Posts placed on the following pages:

- What's Happening in Wagga?
- Wagga Wagga Community Notice Board
- Albury Wodonga Community Information Page

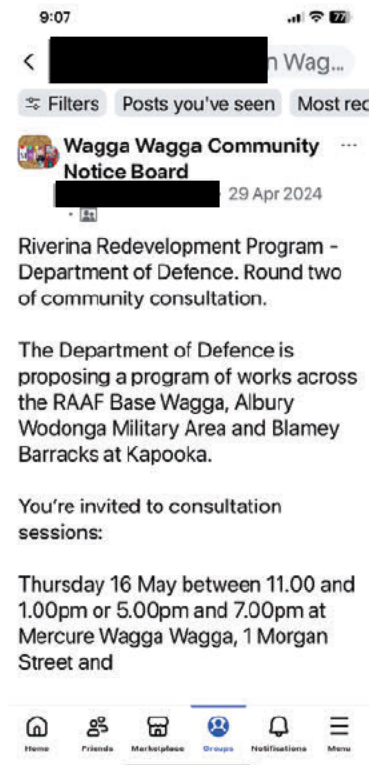
**29 April 2024**



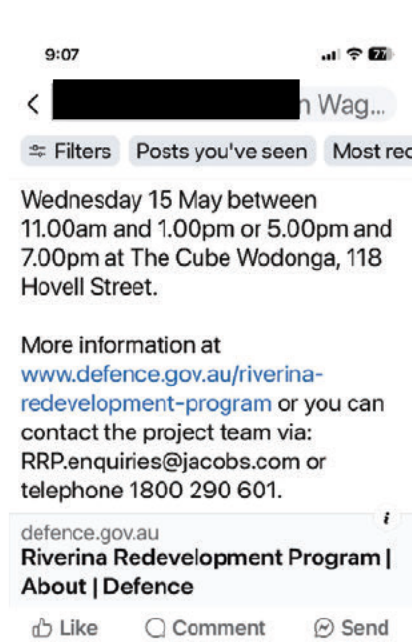
**29 April 2024**



**29 April 2024**



**14 May 2024**

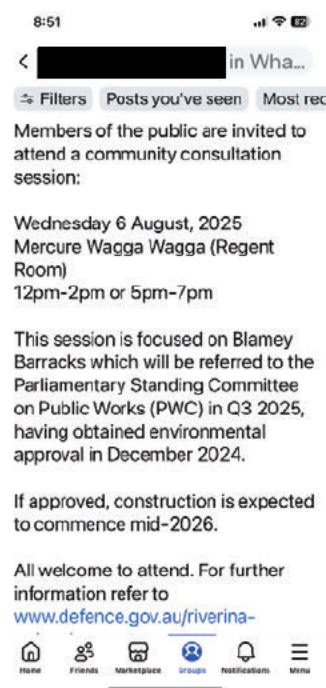
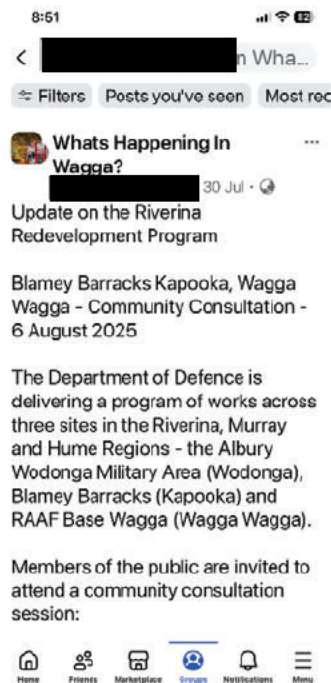


## FACEBOOK POSTS - July and August 2025

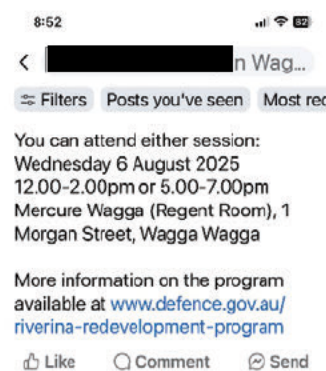
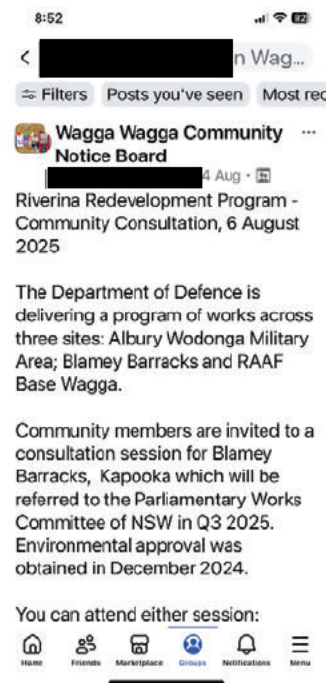
Facebook posts were placed on:

- What's Happening in Wagga?
- Wagga Wagga Community Notice Board
- Albury Wodonga Community Information Page

30 July 2025

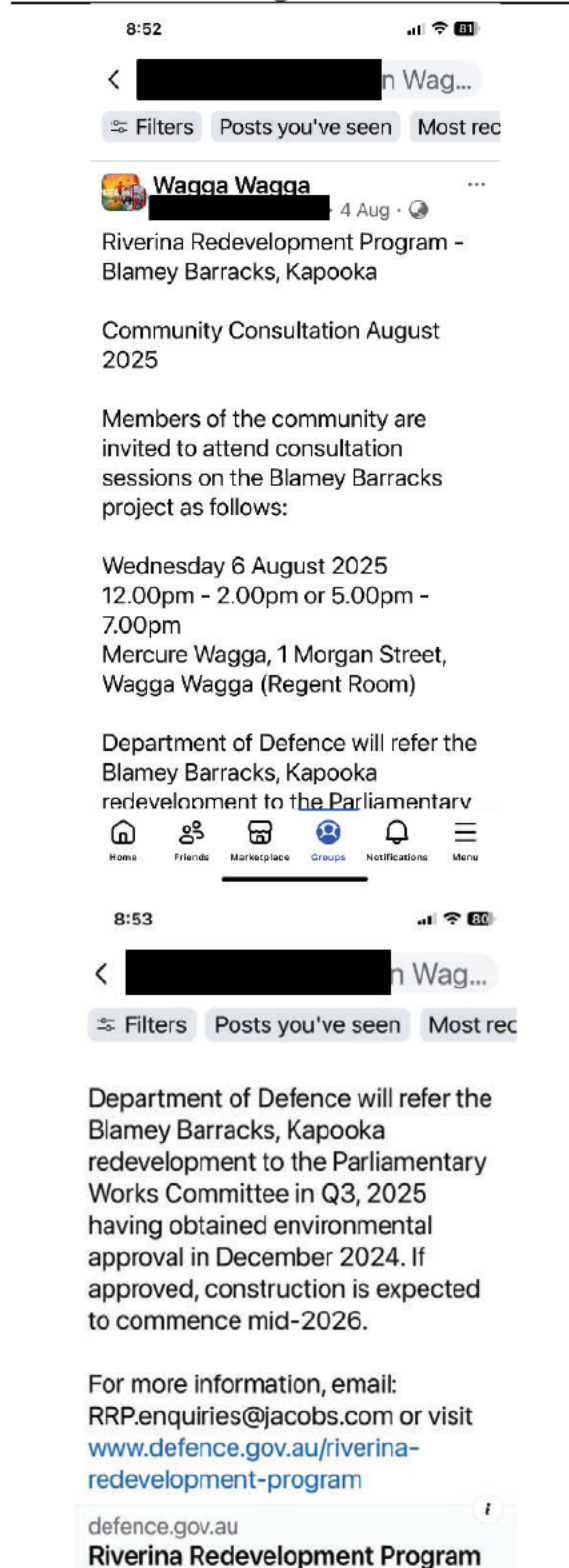


04 August 2025



**Annex A-5**

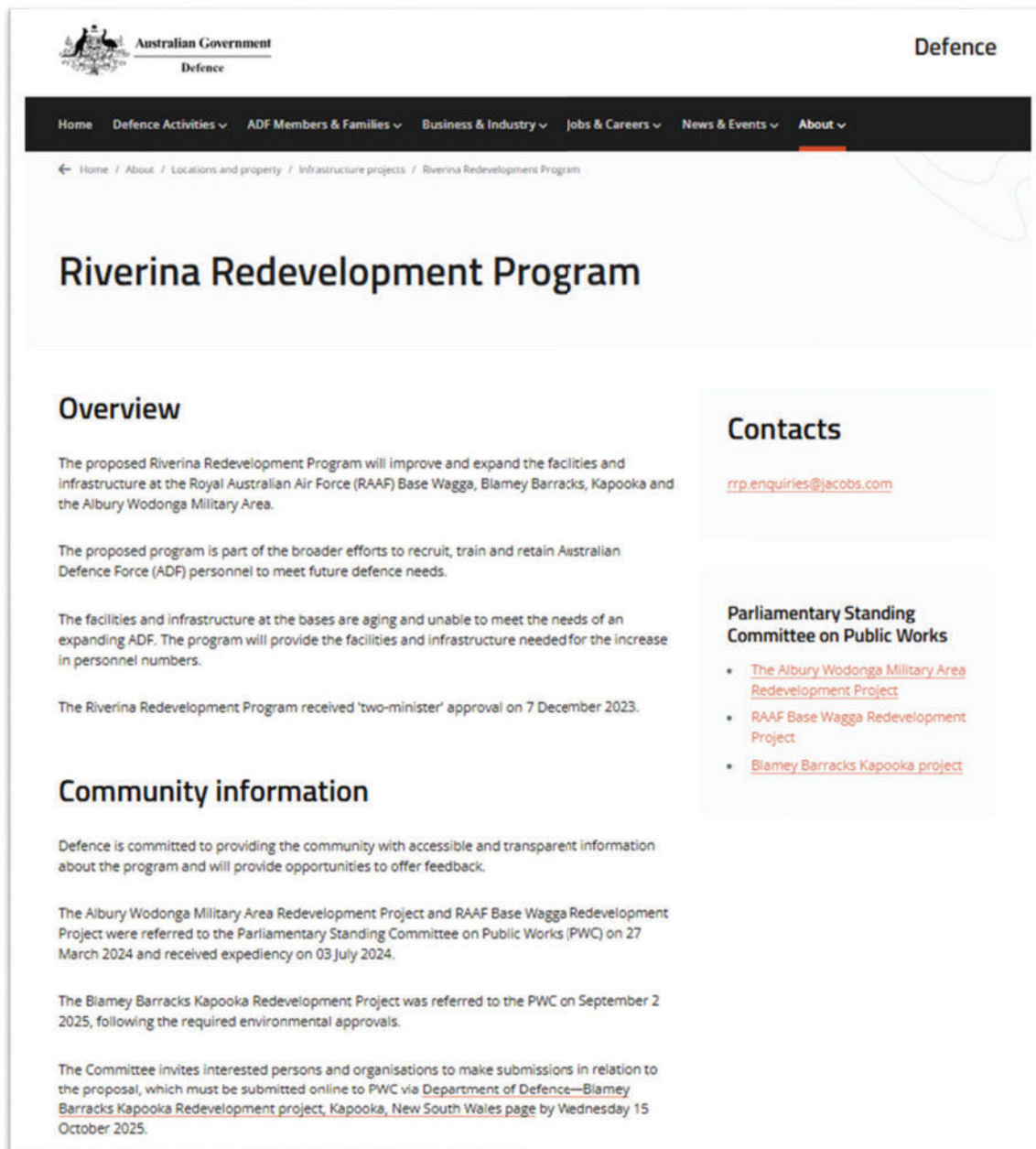
**04 August 2025**



## PROGRAM WEBSITE

A webpage for the Riverina Redevelopment Program was established on the Department of Defence website. The webpage is available at <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/infrastructure-projects/riverina-redevelopment-program>. The webpage provides an overview of the Program, a Program timeline, information regarding local industry engagement and the details for the community information sessions in Wagga Wagga. This webpage will be progressively updated to keep community members informed.

## SCREENSHOT OF PROGRAM WEBSITE



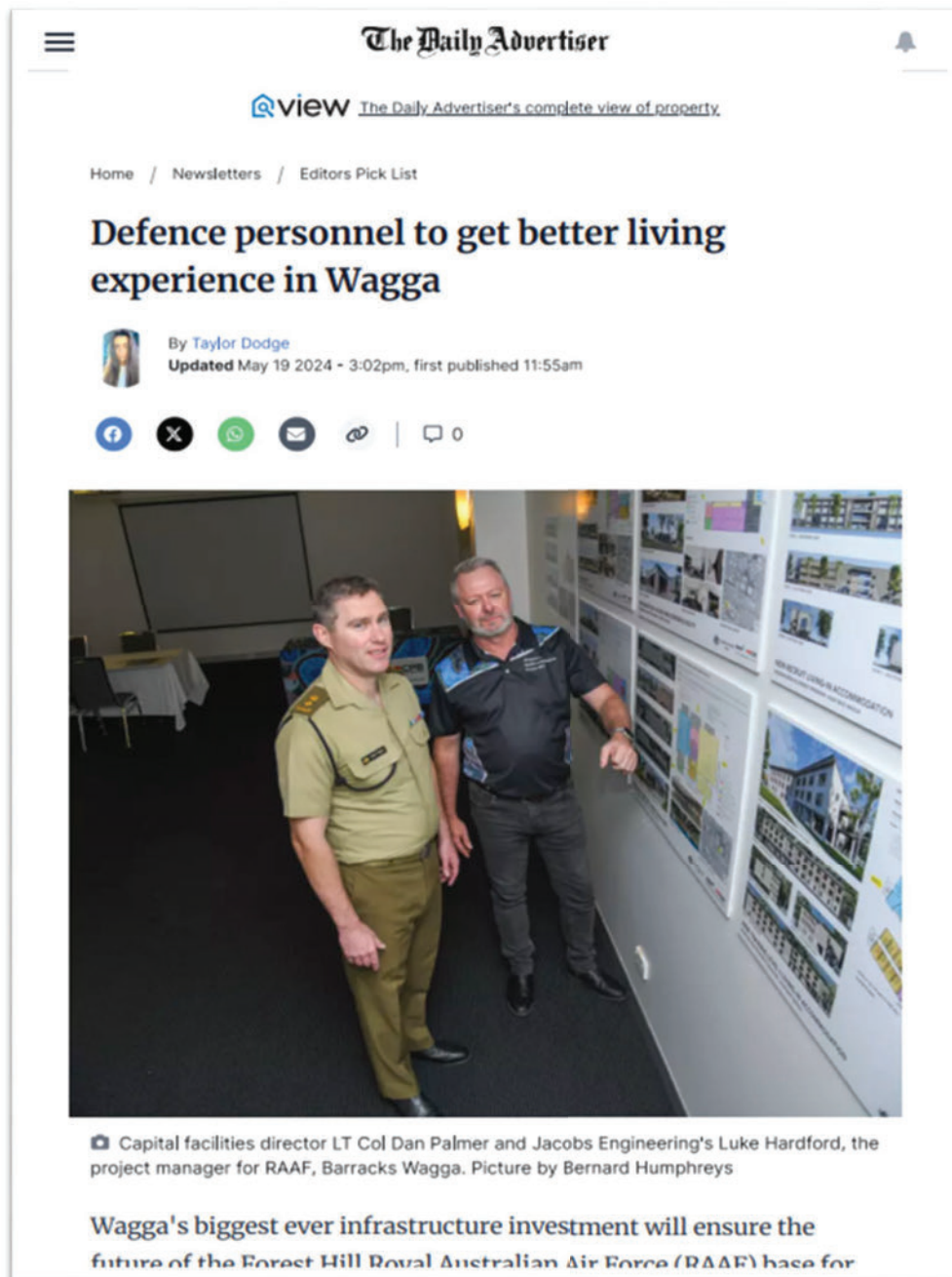


## MEDIA RESPONSE

The Daily Advertiser (Wagga Wagga) published two articles:

- 17 May 2024 'Wagga's 'largest ever' \$800 million defence upgrades up to a year behind'
  - 19 May 2024 'Defence personnel to get better living experience in Wagga.'
- (See below)

The articles were published in response to the community information session on 16 May 2024.





## Annex A-8

On 16 May 2024, in response to the community information session WIN News Wagga Wagga and Riverina ran a news reel. This news covered positive sentiment from local residents regarding economic opportunities for the community. The news reel included negative sentiment from a San Isidore resident regarding PFAS contamination in Kapooka Creek and impacts to livestock.

### EXAMPLES OF WAGGA WAGGA MEDIA RESPONSE



## LETTER BOX DROP MATERIALS AND DISTRIBUTION AREAS

The local communities and stakeholders were notified of all three rounds of community consultation for the project via a letter box drop to targeted areas of Wagga Wagga.

### EXAMPLES OF NOTIFICATIONS



Australian Government  
Defence

#### Community Consultation Sessions

##### Notice of Proposed Development

##### Riverina Redevelopment Program

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**About the Riverina Redevelopment Program:**

The Department of Defence is investing in the growth, retention and training of Australian Defence Force personnel. The construction, upgrade and replacement of facilities and infrastructure at the three bases will better meet the needs of Defence. At Blamey Barracks, Kapooka, the Riverina Redevelopment Program will provide fit-for-purpose facilities for Australian Army personnel to live, work and train.

**Timeline:**

The Blamey Barracks Kapooka Redevelopment Program is still subject to Government approvals. The Albury Wodonga Military Area and RAAF Base Wagga Redevelopment Projects were approved by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC) in July 2024 and commenced construction in mid 2025. Defence will refer the Blamey Barracks, Kapooka Redevelopment Project to the PWC in Q3 2025 having achieved environmental approval in December 2024. If approved, construction is expected to commence at Blamey Barracks, Kapooka in mid 2026.

**Benefits:**

The Riverina Redevelopment Program will:

- Create fit-for-purpose facilities to live, work and train for the Australian Defence Force
- Enable opportunities for local employment, training and delivery of supplies and services
- Support long term growth in the Hume, Riverina and Murray regions.

Defence is committed to providing the community with accessible and transparent information about the Riverina Redevelopment Program and will provide opportunities for the community to give feedback. For further information on the community consultation sessions, refer to our website: <https://www.defence.gov.au/riverina-redevelopment-program>

Cefending Australia and its National Interests  
[www.defence.gov.au](http://www.defence.gov.au)





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#### Community Consultation Sessions

##### Notice of Proposed Development

##### Riverina Redevelopment Program

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The Department of Defence is proposing a program of works across Blamey Barracks (Kapooka), RAAF Base Wagga (Wagga Wagga) and the Albury Wodonga Military Area (Albury), through the the delivery of the Riverina Redevelopment Program.

At Blamey Barracks, Kapooka, the Riverina Redevelopment Program will see new, upgraded and/or the replacement of ageing facilities and infrastructure. The Department of Defence is holding community consultation sessions in Wagga Wagga to provide further information about the proposed works. The sessions are an opportunity for members of the community to ask questions and provide feedback.

#### Community Walk-In Sessions

You are welcome to attend within the times listed below.

**Date:** Wednesday 6 August 2025

**Venue:** Mercure Wagga, 1 Morgan Street, Wagga Wagga

**Times:** 12.00pm to 2.00pm and 5.00pm - 7.00pm

**Email:** [RRP.enquiries@jacobs.com](mailto:RRP.enquiries@jacobs.com)

Light refreshments to be provided.

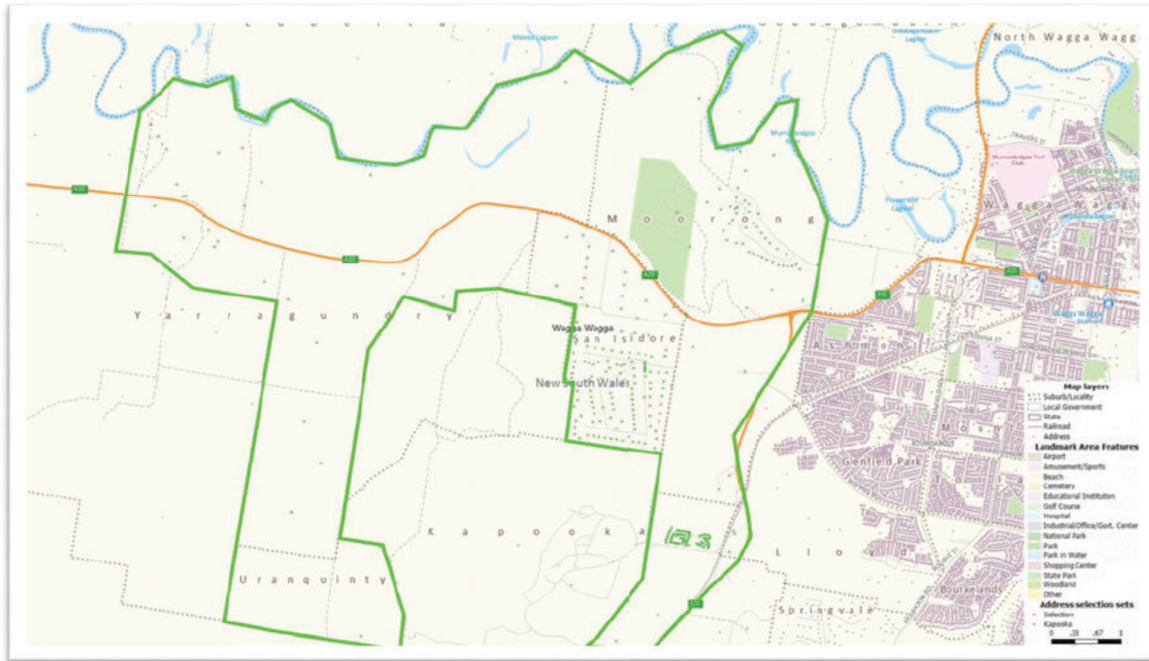
Cefending Australia and its National Interests  
[www.defence.gov.au](http://www.defence.gov.au)



## Annex B-2

### LETTERBOX DROP DISTRIBUTION AREA

Community information session notifications were distributed to residences in the vicinity of Blamey Barracks, Kapooka. Area demonstrated within the green border line below.



**Table 2: Number of notifications distributed**

| Location                    | Distributed Numbers |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Wagga Wagga – November 2023 | 1891                |
| Wagga Wagga – April 2024    | 1891                |
| Wagga Wagga – July 2025     | 355                 |

## EXAMPLES OF COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION RESOURCES

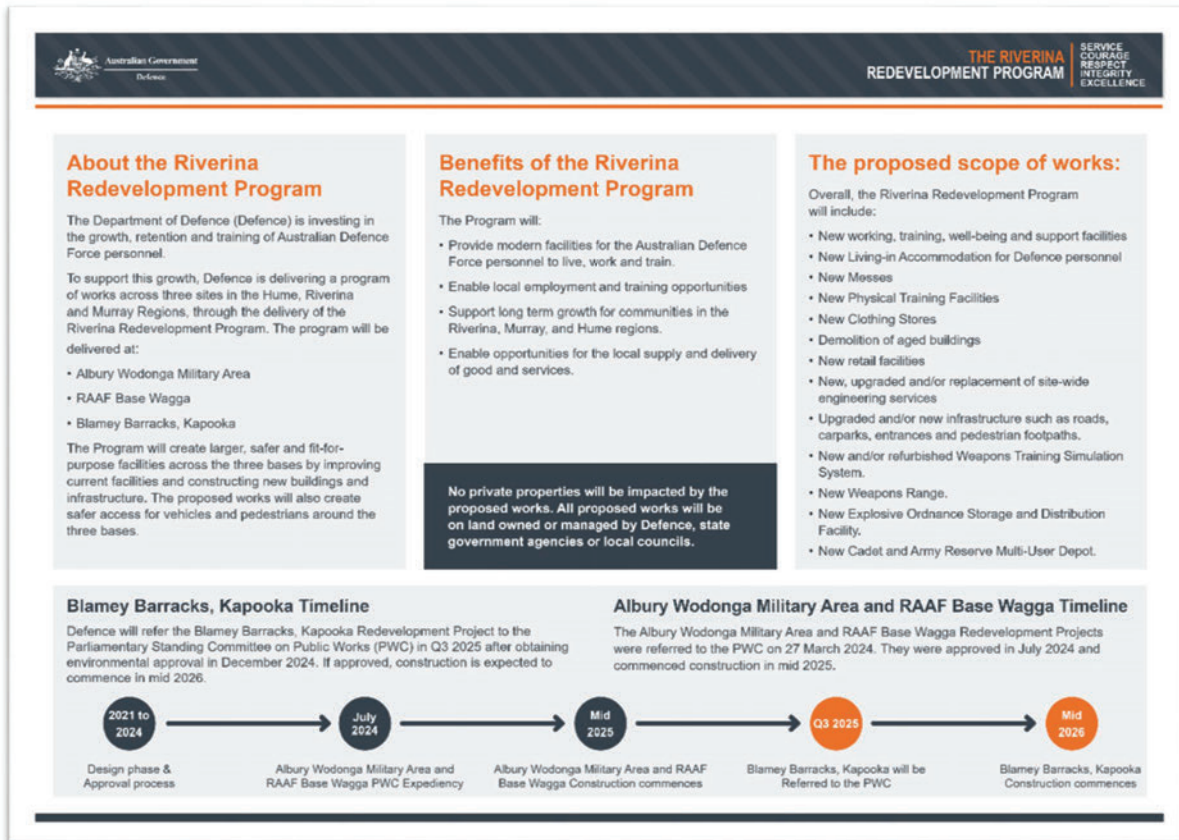
### POSTERS

Wall posters were displayed at all community sessions to provide community members with information about the Program.

The following posters were displayed:

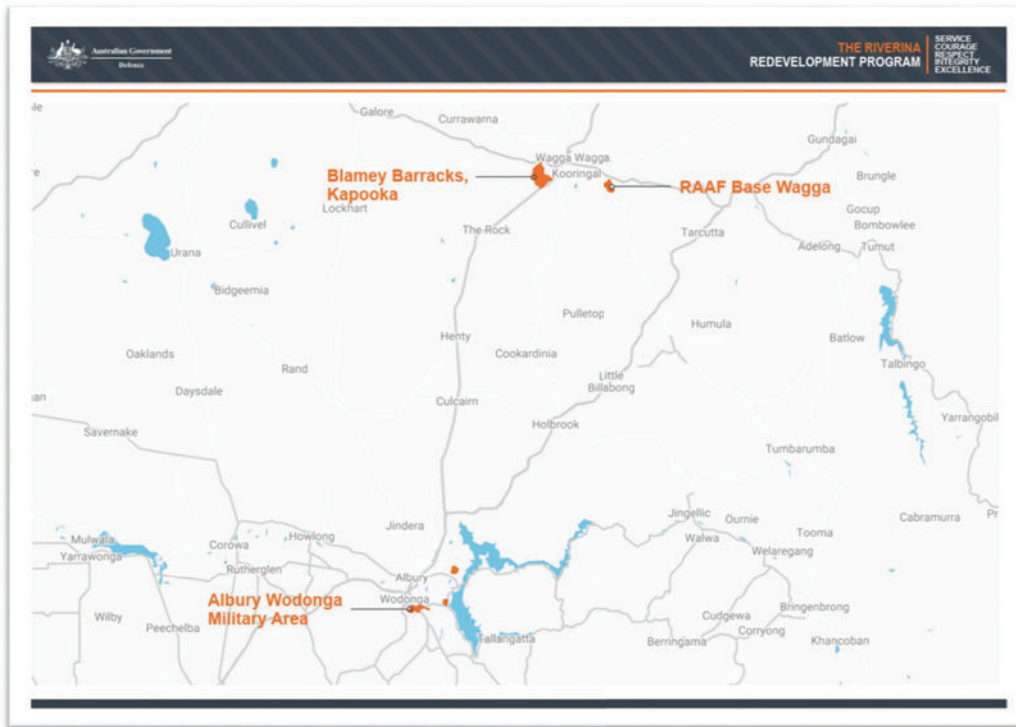
- Riverina Redevelopment Program overview
- Riverina Redevelopment Program map
- Artists impressions and proposed designs

#### Poster 1

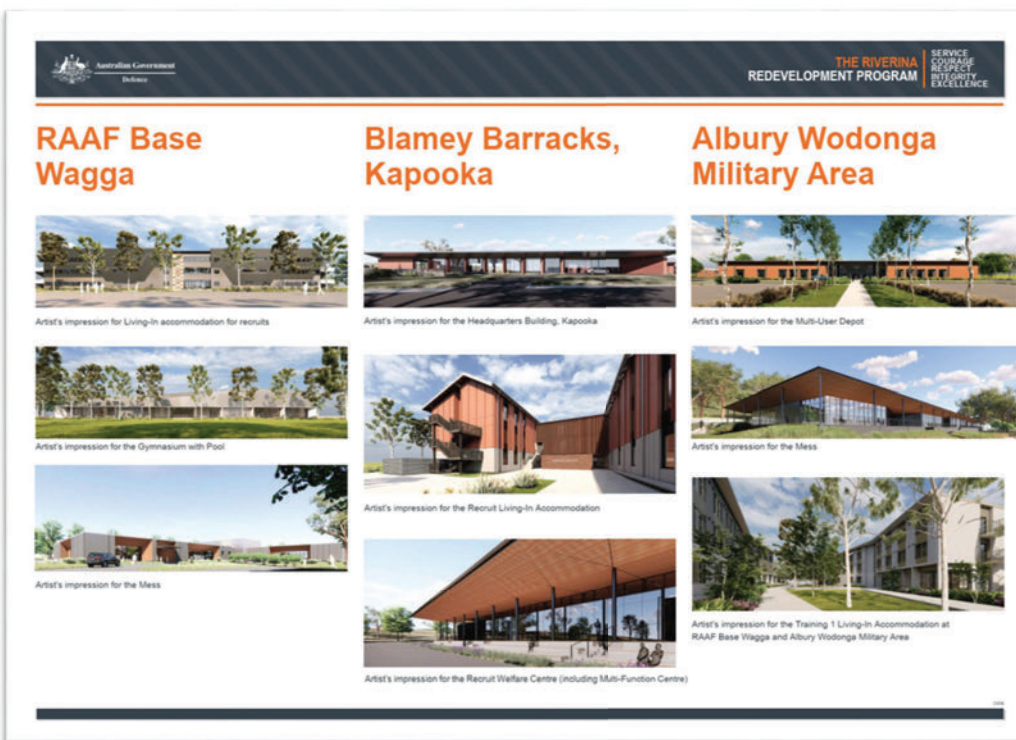




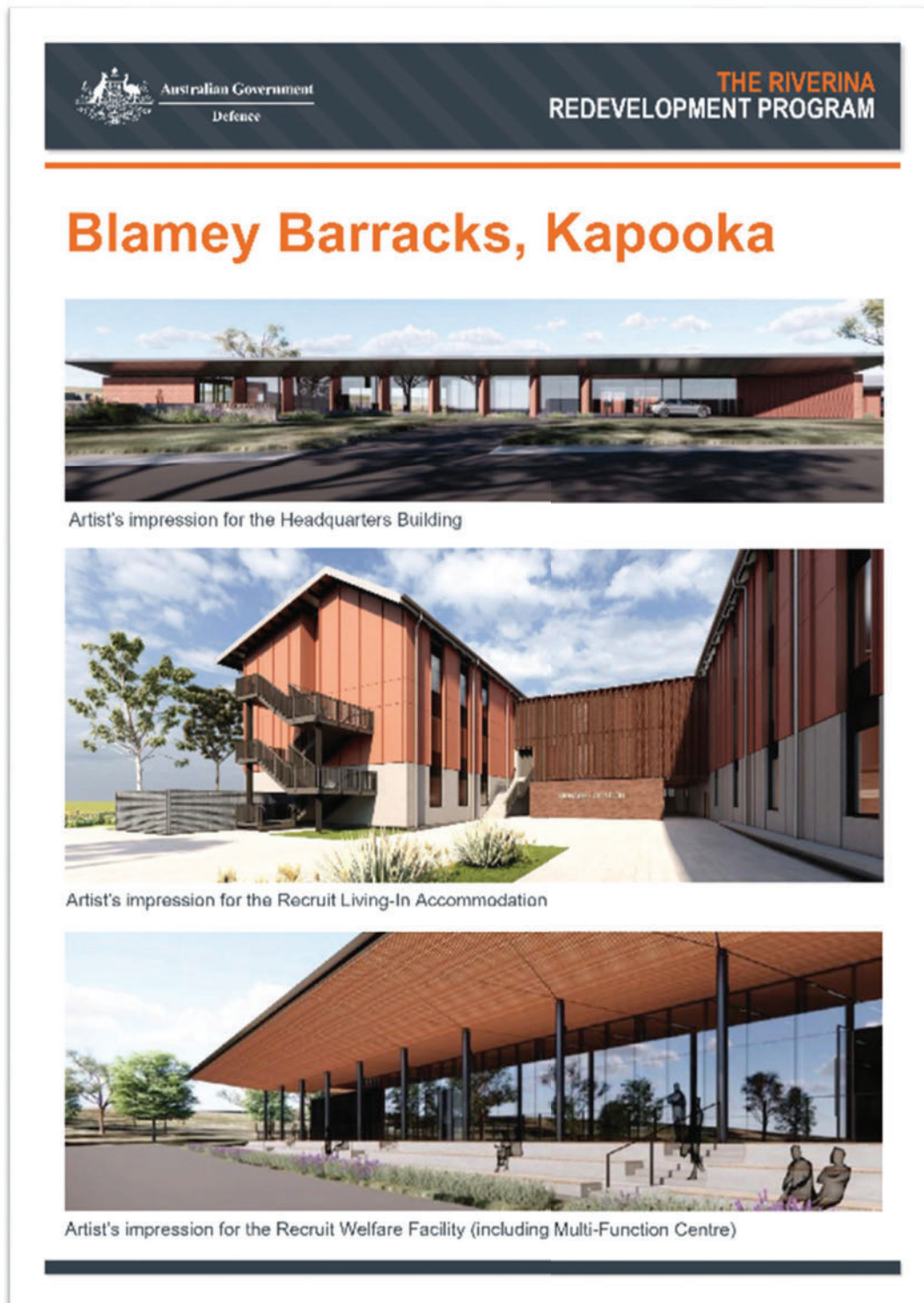
Poster 2



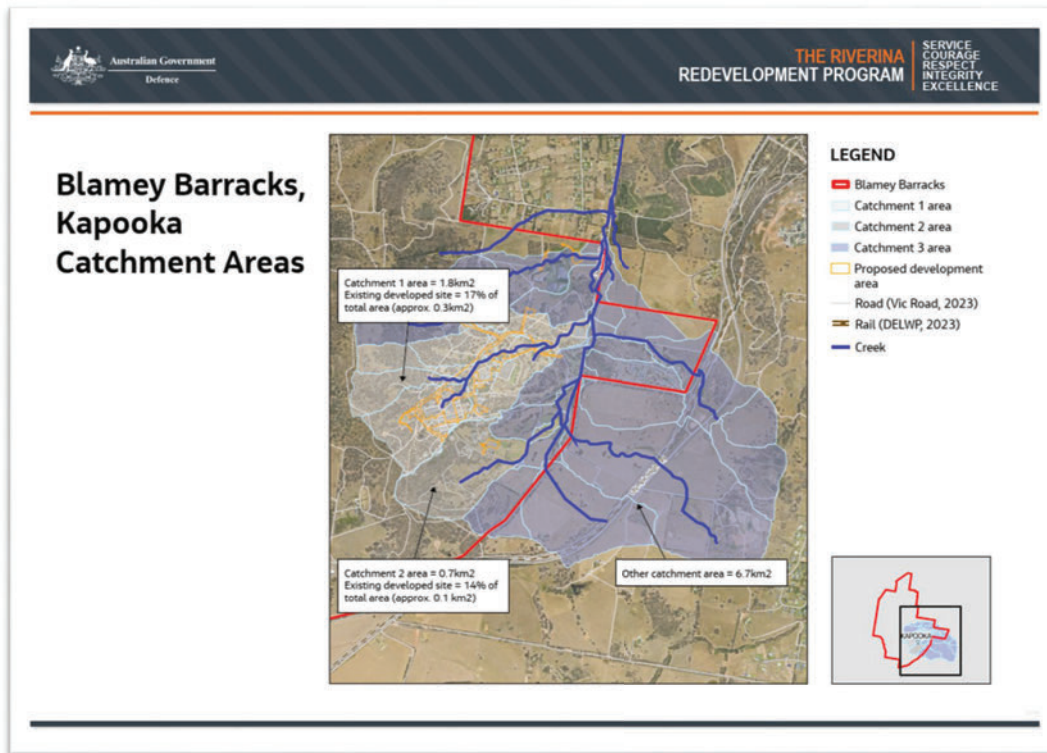
Poster 3



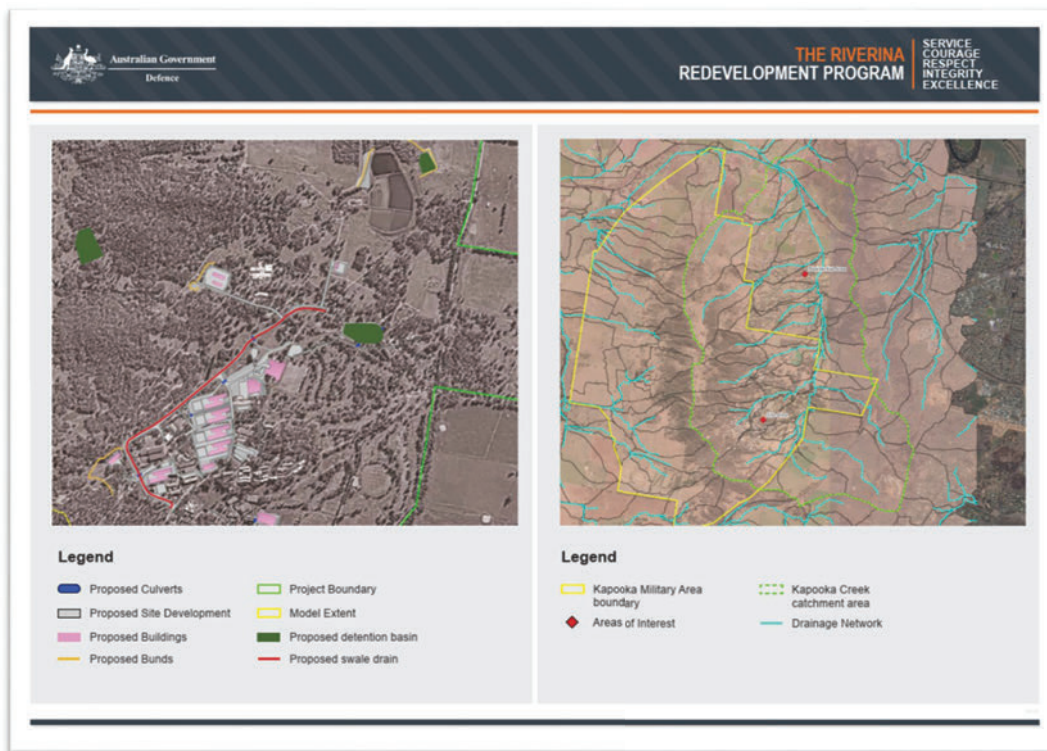
Poster 4



Poster 5



Poster 6





Poster 7



Poster 8





## INFORMATION FLYERS AND CONTACT CARDS

Information flyers were printed and handed out to community members at all community information sessions.

These flyers provided useful information for attendees to ‘take home’. Attendees were supplied with relevant links to the webpage and contact details.

The following flyers were produced:

1. Riverina Redevelopment Program Overview
2. Blamey Barracks Stormwater Management
3. Blamey Barracks, Kapooka.

Contact cards for the Riverina Redevelopment Program, presented in business card style, were presented to attendees to provide opportunities to contact the project team.

## EXAMPLE OF CONTACT CARD



## Flyer 1



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**THE RIVERINA**  
**REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

SERVICE  
COURAGE  
RESPECT  
INTEGRITY  
EXCELLENCE

# The Riverina Redevelopment Program at Blamey Barracks, Kapooka

Updated May 2024



Figure 1: Artist's impression for the Recruit Welfare Facility (Multi-Function Centre)

The Department of Defence (Defence) is proposing a program of works across three sites in the regional area of Hume, Riverina, and Murray, through the delivery of the Riverina Redevelopment Program. The Riverina Redevelopment Program will provide fit-for-purpose facilities for Australian Defence Force personnel to live, work and train.

Blamey Barracks is located approximately 9.5kms west of Wagga Wagga and is one of a handful of Defence bases which supports the recruitment and training of Australian Defence Force personnel for the Army, Air Force and some specialisations in the Navy. The Riverina Redevelopment Program will deliver new, improved and safer facilities for Defence personnel who live, work and train at Blamey Barracks.

The Riverina Redevelopment Program is currently in the design phase. In mid 2024, it will likely be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works as part of the approval process. If approved, construction is expected to commence in early 2025.

### What works are proposed to occur at Blamey Barracks?

The Riverina Redevelopment Program is proposing to deliver the following works at Blamey Barracks:

- Headquarters building
- Living-in Accommodation, training, wellbeing and support facilities
- Recruit Welfare Facility (Multi-Function Centre)
- Infrastructure including a ring road, car parking and pedestrian footpaths
- Kapooka Heritage Trail
- Expanded Chaplaincy & recruit well-being facilities
- Contractor's Precinct with land management compound
- Clothing store
- Explosive ordnance storage facilities
- Weapons range
- Upgrade and/or replacement of site-wide engineering services

## Flyer 2



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# THE RIVERINA REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

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### The benefits of the Riverina Redevelopment Program:

- The Riverina Redevelopment Program will prioritise hiring locals and using local businesses in the Hume, Riverina and Murray regions during the construction phase.
- The proposed works will enable long-term growth in the Hume, Riverina, and Murray regions.
- The developments and upgrades at Blamey Barracks will result in fit-for-purpose living, working and training facilities to improve the efficiency of the recruit program.
- Defence appreciates the heritage significance of several buildings at Blamey Barracks and is proposing to create a heritage walk to the new Recruit Welfare Facility (Multi-Function Centre) and to establish a heritage display at the new building.
- Defence's design process has taken a Designing with Country approach to ensure the inclusion and integration of First Nation voices.
- The works proposed by the Riverina Redevelopment Program at Blamey Barracks will reduce peak flow rates of stormwater downstream from Blamey Barracks. Defence's proposed stormwater improvements exceed Wagga Wagga City Council's minimum stormwater management requirements.

### Blamey Barracks and PFAS

The Riverina Redevelopment Program team is working closely with PFAS Investigation and Management Branch of Defence to support their efforts to manage PFAS contamination on and around Blamey Barracks.



For further information regarding PFAS contamination at Blamey Barracks, Kapooka see Defence's website: <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/pfas/pfas-management-sites/blamey-barracks-kapooka-military-area>

You can also call 1800 333 362 or email [pfas.enquiry@defence.gov.au](mailto:pfas.enquiry@defence.gov.au)

### Managing and mitigating potential impacts

All the proposed works will occur on land owned or managed by Defence, Council and State Government agencies. No residential properties will be impacted by the proposed works at Blamey Barracks. As part of the design process, the team is considering any potential environmental, historical, cultural or social impacts of the Program and will work to minimise these.

### Community consultation and further information

Defence is committed to providing the community with accessible and transparent information about the Riverina Redevelopment Program and will provide opportunities for the community to ask questions and give feedback.

Further information about the Riverina Redevelopment Program is available on Defence's website included below.

If you have any questions or feedback about the Riverina Redevelopment Program you can speak to the team:

Phone: 1800 290 601

Email: [rrp.enquiries@jacobs.com](mailto:rrp.enquiries@jacobs.com)

Website: <https://www.defence.gov.au/riverina-redevelopment-program>





## Flyer 3



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THE RIVERINA

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## The Riverina Redevelopment Program

### Blamey Barracks Stormwater Management

Updated May 2024

The Riverina Redevelopment Program will provide fit-for- purpose facilities for Australian Defence Force personnel to live, work and train. At Blamey Barracks, Kapooka, the scope of works includes the construction of new working, learning and training facilities, living-in accommodation for Defence personnel, recruit welfare facilities (including a multi-function centre) and new, upgraded and/or replacement of services infrastructure. A new ring road within the base will improve pedestrian safety by diverting traffic around the recruit training and working precinct.

Understanding stormwater at Blamey Barracks

Defence recognises San Isidore community's concerns regarding stormwater runoff entering Kapooka Creek. The contractor for the Riverina Redevelopment Program commissioned an independent consultant to prepare a Hydrology Report including detailed flood models.

Secondly, the hydrology study utilised flood estimation computer software to develop models of the Kapooka Creek catchment in order to understand expected flood conditions during various storm events up to and including a 1% annual exceedance probability (AEP) flood.

AEP is a term used to describe the size of a flood and to explain how likely a flood is going to occur in a given year. It is measured in percentage. For example, a 1% AEP flood is a flood that has a 1% chance of occurring or being exceeded in any one year. It is commonly referred to as a '1 in 100-year flood' or '100-year flood'.

The digital flood models simulate expected flood conditions at Blamey Barracks during 1%, 2% and 10% AEP storm events. The model simulated these scenarios for the site in its current state (known as existing condition or pre-development) and also for the site as it will be after the proposed Riverina Redevelopment Program is delivered (known as post-development).

The before and after scenarios quantify the likely impacts that the proposed development will have upon flood conditions within the broader catchment.

Elements of the proposed works have been purposefully designed by Defence to reduce peak flow rates of stormwater discharging downstream from Blamey Barracks. These proposed improvements were also assessed in the report.

The Hydrology Report and flood modelling results have been shared with Wagga Wagga City Council.

**What is hydrology?**



Hydrology is concerned with understanding water systems above and below the earth's surface.

**Local Context**

Blamey Barracks is located within a catchment (an area that holds or collects water) where the natural topography results in water flowing downwards through the site and into Kapooka Creek which then passes through San Isidore. Rainfall and waterways such as Kapooka Creek contribute to the flow of water in this area.

Blamey Barracks is largely an undeveloped site, with built form making up a small component of the total land area. The proposed redevelopment works will establish additional infrastructure but where this occurs, Defence will implement stormwater controls to mitigate any increase in flow rates discharging from Defence land so that the redevelopment is not making the current stormwater issues worse.

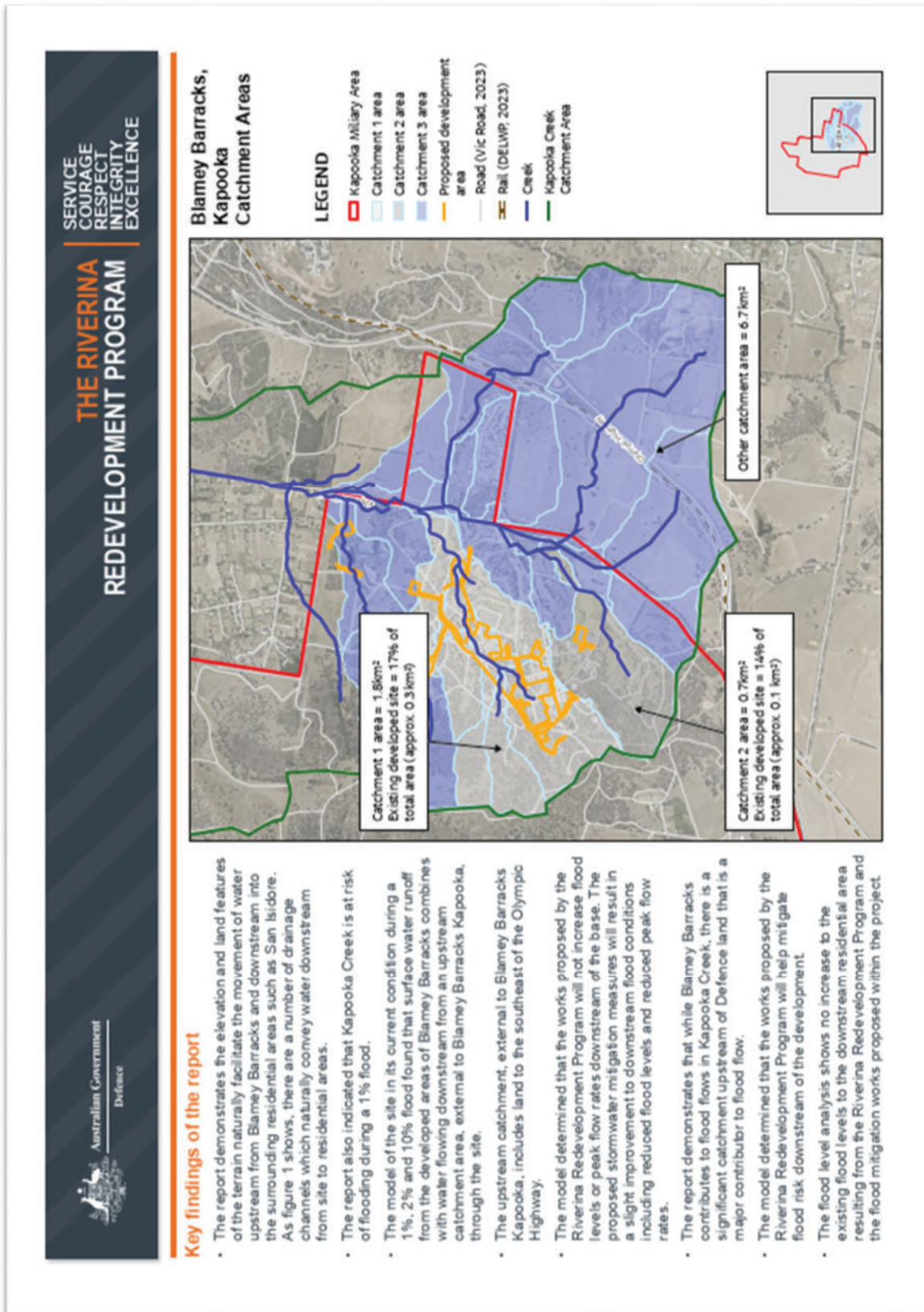
The approach of the hydrology report

The report provides estimated flood conditions including flood levels, depths and flow velocities at Blamey Barracks and the surrounding area (the site), by undertaking a thorough two-step approach. Firstly, a desktop review was undertaken of available flood studies in the area from Wagga Wagga City Council and the New South Wales (NSW) Flood Data Portal.

**Understanding Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP): understanding flood sizes and likelihood**

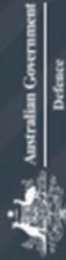
| AEP Flood percentage | Likelihood of occurring                             | Commonly referred to as |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1%                   | A flood that occurs on average once every 100 years | 1 in 100 years flood    |
| 2%                   | A flood that on average occurs once every 50 years  | 1 in 50 years flood     |
| 10%                  | A flood that on average occurs every 10 years       | 1 in 10 years flood     |

Flyer 4





Flyer 5



**THE RIVERINA**

**REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

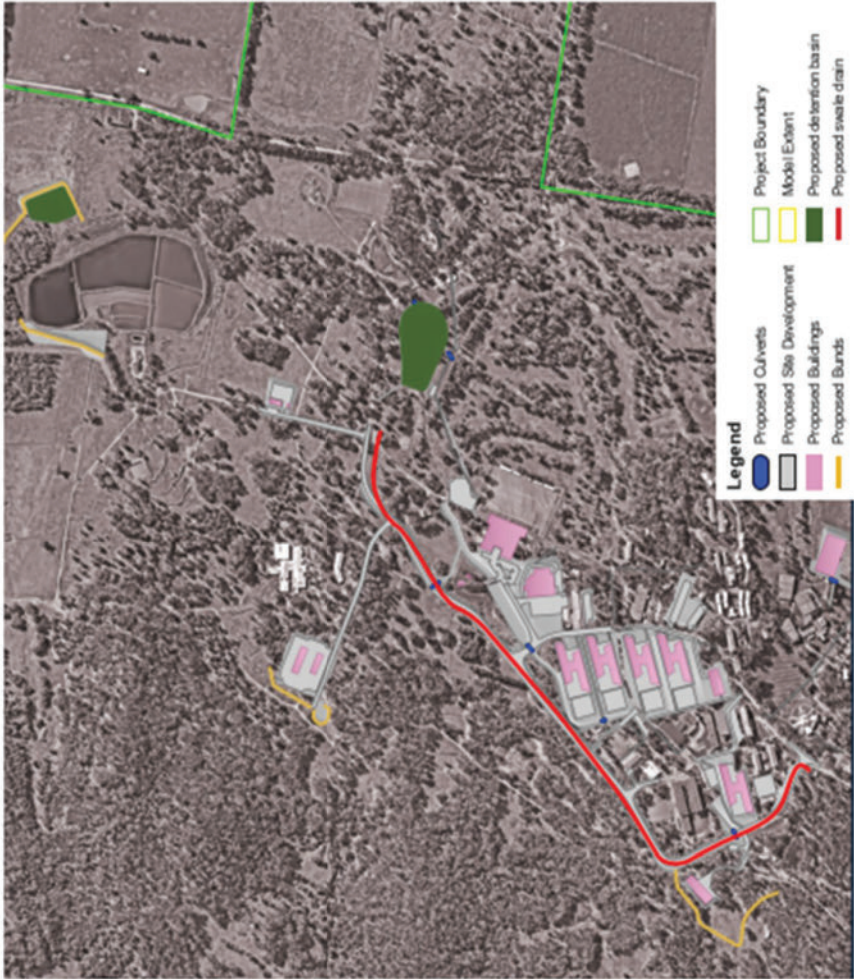
SERVICE  
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**What work is being undertaken to better manage stormwater runoff?**

The proposed works as part of the Program have been designed to improve management of stormwater runoff on base. The stormwater improvements proposed by the Riverina Redevelopment Program exceed Wagga Wagga City Council's standard stormwater management requirements for developers. They also exceed requirements of the Australian Government. The proposed works includes:

- A new ring road with an open roadside drain.
- The proposed construction of a 17,000m<sup>3</sup> detention basin, which is an excavated area of land used to temporarily store water during a flood. The water is then released through a smaller outlet to control and slow the flow of water downstream. Ultimately it means that flood water can be released in a controlled manner to help reduce peak flow rates and depths of flooding downstream.
- Construction of seven bunds across Blamey Barracks to mitigate flood risk. A bund is where soil is formed into an embankment to act as a barrier.
- Construction of an internal drainage channel including a series of culvert crossings which are raised channels, typically large concrete pipes. This will help move water to existing channels.

During the Planning Phase, Defence has worked closely with the Council on the management of stormwater from the Base.





## Flyer 6



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Defence

# THE RIVERINA REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

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### Blamey Barracks and PFAS

Stormwater quality improvement measures being implemented by the project include major diversion swales which reduce overland flow through the developed Base area. These measures are expected to lead to a significant reduction in pollutants migrating off the Base. Another mitigation is the implementation of major stormwater detention basins which will reduce water flow from the base, including associated pollutants, up to an including the 100 year storm event. The Riverina Redevelopment Program is also working closely with Defence's PFAS Investigation and Management Branch to support efforts to monitor and mitigate PFAS contamination on Blamey Barracks.



For further information regarding PFAS contamination at Blamey Barracks, Kapooka see Defence's website: <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/pfas/pfas-management-sites/blamey-barracks-kapooka-military-area>

You can also call 1800 333 362 or email [pfas.enquiry@defence.gov.au](mailto:pfas.enquiry@defence.gov.au)

### Community consultation and further information

Defence is committed to providing the community with accessible and transparent information about the Riverina Redevelopment Program and will provide opportunities for the community to ask questions and give feedback.

Further information about the Riverina Redevelopment Program is available on Defence's website included below.

If you have any questions or feedback about the Riverina Redevelopment Program you can speak to the team:

 Phone: 1800 290 601

 Email: [rrp.enquiries@jacobs.com](mailto:rrp.enquiries@jacobs.com)

 Website: <https://www.defence.gov.au/riverina-redevelopment-program>



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

### Details

Three rounds of community information sessions were held for the project at the Mercure, 1 Morgan Street, Wagga Wagga, NSW:

- **First round:** Tuesday, 5 December 2023.

Sessions ran from 2:00pm to 3:00pm and 5:00pm to 7:00pm, scheduled during and after business hours to suit different availability;

This earlier round of consultation was conducted for all three projects within the Riverina Redevelopment Program: the Albury Wodonga Military Area, RAAF Base Wagga, and Blamey Barracks Kapooka Redevelopment Projects. The event was held in Wagga Wagga, with a particular focus on the RAAF Base Wagga and Blamey Barracks Kapooka components. Two community sessions were offered to provide flexible attendance options: one from 2:00pm to 3:00pm, the second from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. In addition, dedicated small-group briefings were held with San Isidore residents to discuss local stormwater concerns and run-off from Blamey Barracks. Separate consultation sessions for the Albury Wodonga Military Area Redevelopment Project were held in Wodonga.

- **Second round:** Thursday, 16 May 2024.

This round of consultation was conducted for all three projects within the Riverina Redevelopment Program. The event was held in Wagga Wagga, with a focus on the RAAF Base Wagga Redevelopment Project in the lead-up to its referral to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works. Two community sessions were held to give people flexible options to attend: one from 11:00am to 1:00pm, the second from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. Separate consultation sessions for the Albury Wodonga Military Area Redevelopment Project were held in Wodonga.

- **Third round:** Wednesday, 6 August 2025.

This round of consultation focused only on the Blamey Barracks Kapooka Redevelopment Project in Wagga Wagga, which is yet to receive Parliamentary expediency. It followed the project's environmental approval in December 2024. Two community sessions were held to give people flexible options to attend; a session from 12:00pm to 2:00pm, and another from 5:00pm to 7:00pm.

### Resources

There were 24 posters on display including four information flyers and contact cards (see **Annex C**). The consultation team included the following members/groups:

- Defence's project Delivery Team
- Consultant project Management Team
- Consultant Communication Team
- Consultant Engineering Team
- Managing Contractor Design Team

## Annex D-2

- Managing Contractor Regional Development Team
- Defence's Base Management Team
- Representatives from the Australian Army (1st Recruit Training Battalion)

Defence's Service Delivery Team for New South Wales Riverina and Northern Victoria.

**Table 3 – Attendance**

| Date of Information Session                | Number of attendees | Interest Group   |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| <b>Wagga Wagga, NSW   05 December 2023</b> | 7                   | Local residents  |
|                                            | 11                  | Local businesses |
| <b>Wagga Wagga, NSW   16 May 2024</b>      | 4                   | Local residents  |
|                                            | 5                   | Local businesses |
| <b>Wagga Wagga, NSW   06 August 2025</b>   | 6                   | Local residents  |
|                                            | 0                   | Local businesses |
|                                            | <b>Total: 33</b>    |                  |

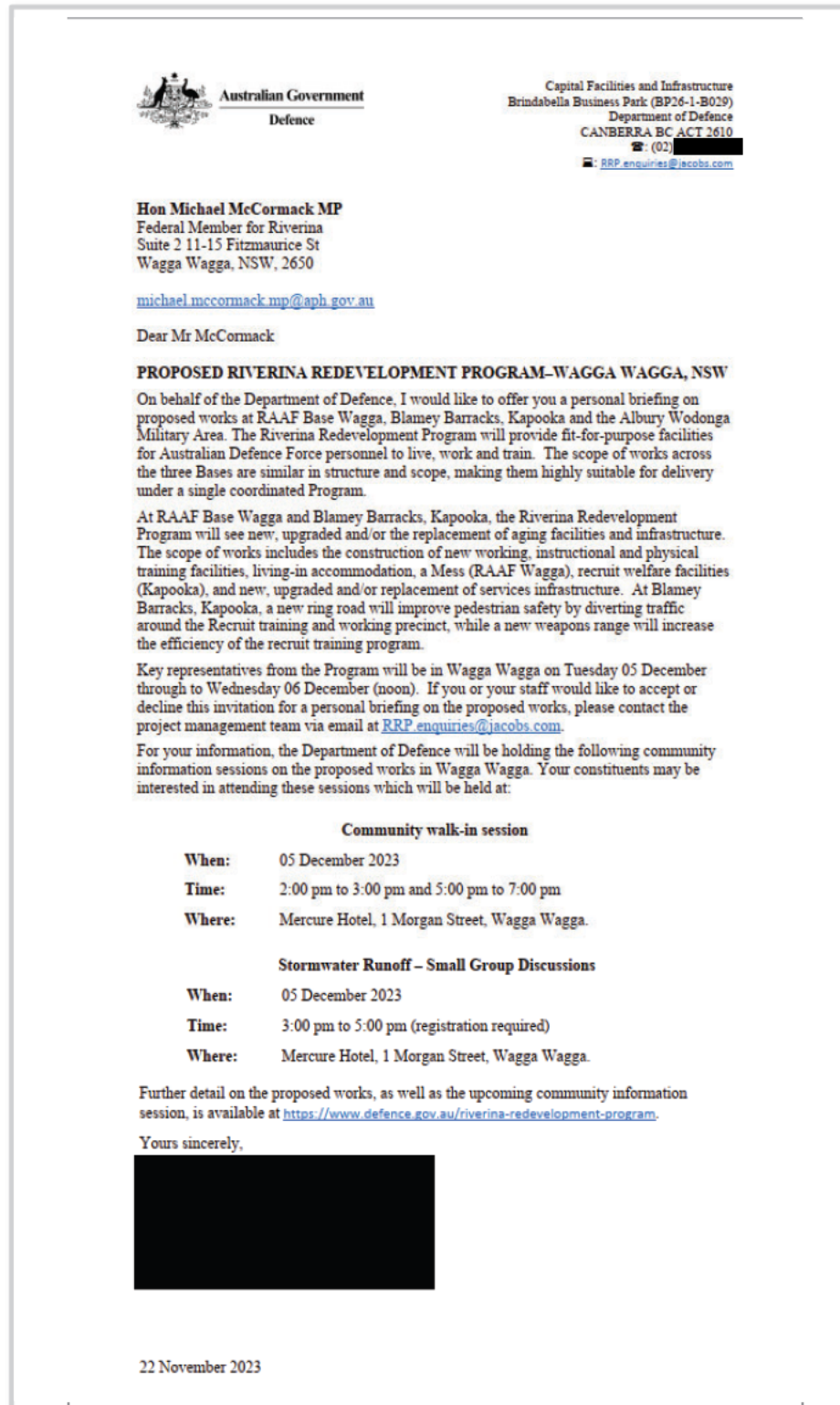
Key points raised during the community information sessions:

- Opportunities for supply and shipping lines of materials through key ports.
- Opportunities to use local products during construction.
- Questions around accessing and registering on the Industry Capability Network.
- General enquiries about the project and management of stormwater.
- Opportunities for local industry and business participation in the proposed works.
- Opportunities for local business to support the project through the supply of accommodation services.
- Interest in the solar and electrical vehicle potential as part of the project.
- Availability of accommodation and housing in Wagga Wagga.
- Interest in trade packages.
- Concerns about construction noise and dust, especially dust that is contaminated by Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).
- Impacts on workforce availability for local businesses.
- Questions regarding the provision of wellbeing services for veterans and ex-serving personnel.
- Concerns about PFAS, specifically the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements and human health concerns for workers managing soil in the area.
- Concerns around the workforce employed by the project and the diversion away from local contracts due to wage differences.
- Questions raised about Defence's PFAS project timeline and approach to stormwater and flooding management.



## LETTER OF INVITATION TO KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Provided below is an example invitation to key stakeholders for personal briefings. Invitations were sent to the Mayor, State Member and Federal Member in Wagga Wagga. A summary of Key Stakeholder briefings is provided in **Annex F**.



**Annex F1**

**DETAILS OF KEY STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS**

| ORGANISATION AND MEMBER                                 | NOTES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>FEDERAL GOVERNMENT</b>                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <p>Hon Michael McCormack MP<br/>Member for Riverina</p> | <p><b>23 November 2023.</b> Defence emailed a letter to the Hon Michael McCormack providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p><b>6 December 2023.</b> Defence briefed the Hon Michael McCormack’s advisor Paul Pfitzner in his electoral office in Wagga Wagga. Mr Pfitzner queried why the program of works were elongated and staggered. Mr Pfitzner asked if the labor resources will be local and if there will be minimum local requirements in the contracts. Mr Pfitzner enquired if there are heritage buildings at RAAF Base Wagga.</p> <p><b>30 April 2024.</b> Defence emailed the Hon Michael McCormack to inform him of the community information sessions on 16 May 2024 and the opportunity to receive an online briefing. There was no response.</p> <p>Mr McCormack shared details of the community drop in sessions through his own social media platforms.</p> <p><b>10 December 2024.</b> Defence emailed the Hon Michael McCormack to provide an updated on the project’s environmental approval.</p> <p><b>23 January 2025.</b> Defence briefed the Hon Michael McCormack on the Project. The project team advised the project had now succesfully obtained the environmental approval required and updated him on the estimated construction timeline.</p> |
| <p>Hon Kristy McBain MP<br/>Member for Eden-Monaro</p>  | <p><b>23 November 2023.</b> Defence emailed a letter to the Hon Kristy McBain providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p><b>31 January 2024.</b> Defence had not received a response so a follow up invitation was sent, offering a briefing in early March 2024. There was no reponse.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

STATE/TERRITORY GOVERNMENT

Dr Joe McGirr MP  
State Member for Wagga  
Wagga

**23 November 2023.** Defence emailed a letter to Dr Joe McGirr providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.

**6 December 2023.** Defence briefed Dr McGirr in his office in Wagga Wagga. He had previously been briefed by the Riverina Redevelopment Joint Venture and was interested in the following aspects:

- understanding the different organisations involved in the project
- the project's scope of work
- the driver for the longer schedule
- the long schedule's positive impact on the region
- the importance of welcoming families to the Base for parades
- parade access to the public
- the number of recruits that RAAF Base Wagga will accommodate
- the recruits' access to physical fitness facilities
- the living-in accommodation designs
- issues with market capacity in Wagga Wagga
- opportunities for local tier two companies
- locals' familiarity with Defence requirements
- opportunities to increase Indigenous participation
- the very low rental property vacancy rate for Wagga Wagga
- the additional stress the project will have on accommodation availability
- the project's peak workforce numbers.

**12 February 2024.** Defence briefed Dr McGirr in a follow up meeting that occurred in his office in Wagga Wagga. He was interested in short term accommodation supply and local market risks. He was also interested in the flooding issues in San Isidore. When the Project team briefed on the stormwater strategy and catchment area, Dr McGirr understood that Kapooka is not the sole contributor to flooding within San Isidore and the Project is meeting Defence and Council stormwater management requirements.

**30 April 2024.** Defence emailed Dr McGirr to inform him of the community information sessions on 16 May 2024 and the opportunity to receive an online briefing. He was in Sydney for Parliament and was unable to attend.



**Annex F-3**

| <b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT</b>                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Councillor Dallas Tout<br/>Mayor<br/>Wagga City Council</p> | <p><b>23 November 2023.</b> Defence emailed a letter to Mr Dallas Tout providing project information, contact details, a site link and an invitation to contact Defence for a personal briefing.</p> <p><b>6 December 2023.</b> Defence provided a briefing to Mr Dallas Tout and the Chief Operating Officer, Scott Gray at Council offices in Wagga Wagga. Mr Tout enquired whether funding had increased. Defence outlined the feedback, especially the issues of flooding in San Isidore, that had been discussed during the community information sessions on 5 December 2023. The following was discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Gray enquired whether PFAS contamination was raised at the community information sessions. Mr Gray asked about the project’s engagement with local Indigenous elders.</li> <li>• Mr Tout enquired about what load sizes will be involved during construction and whether there will be road closures. Mr Gray indicated the Council would provide assistance where possible in regards to accommodation, indicating one of the challenges facing Council is the approval through State Government.</li> <li>• Mr Tout asked if Defence could share their information to help inform State Government’s decisions regarding Council planning proposals.</li> <li>• Mr Tout noted that the New South Wales Department of Planning and Environment population expert is using different data that is not current about future growth in the area,. The Department is open to receiving more data from the Council. Mr Tout encouraged the project team to keep sharing information with the Department of Planning and the Environment. Mr Gray noted the positive economic benefits for the region coming from the project.</li> <li>• Mr Tout noted there is potential for land releases in the future and asked whether training such as trades and certificate courses will be delivered in-house.</li> </ul> <p><b>30 April 2024.</b> Defence emailed Mr Tout to inform him of the community information sessions on 16 May 2024 and the opportunity to receive an online briefing. He was unable to attend and did not require an additional briefing.</p> |

**Annex G1**

**SUMMARY OF TOPICS AND KEY ISSUES RAISED DURING COMMUNITY  
INFORMATION SESSIONS**

| <b>TOPIC</b>                                                          | <b>RAISED BY</b>                                                                                                     | <b>DEFENCE RESPONSE</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Elongation and staggering of project's scope of works                 | Representative for the Hon Michael McCormack MP<br><br>Dr Joe McGirr, State Member for Wagga                         | Defence has intentionally proposed an elongated and staggered project of works to reduce the impacts on the market and its capacity.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Workforce numbers required and competition with other major projects  | Dr Joe McGirr, State Member for Wagga<br><br>Local businesses                                                        | It is expected the proposed works at Kapooka are likely to need around 200-300 people at peak of construction.<br><br>The Riverina Redevelopment Team's Regional Development Team has engaged with other projects to inform workforce planning.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Concerns about market capacity and use of local labour by the project | Representative for the Hon Michael McCormack MP<br><br>Dr Joe McGirr, State Member for Wagga<br><br>Local businesses | Defence will use local labour and has local employment targets of 80-90% across two defined local regions to maximise local participation. Defence has received substantial interest from local businesses and is undertaking measures to identify supply and capacity levels in the local market. The packages of works will be designed to reflect the supply and capacity levels identified.<br><br>Defence recognises the need to ensure the proposed scope of work does not impact the local availability of trades.<br><br>Defence is undertaking monthly meetings with other major projects in the regions to manage the demands on resources across Victoria and New South Wales. |
| The use of tier two companies by the project                          | Dr Joe McGirr, State Member for Wagga                                                                                | Defence is expecting to work with tier two and tier three companies, and are designing various packages for different tiers of businesses to reduce the impact on local businesses and their cashflow but provide maximum opportunity for their participation in the project.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

**Annex G-2**

| <b>TOPIC</b>                                                                                      | <b>RAISED BY</b>                                        | <b>DEFENCE RESPONSE</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Concerns around local businesses and communities' lack of understanding of Defence's requirements | Dr Joe McGirr,<br>State Member for Wagga                | Blamey Barracks, Kapooka is well established in the community. Defence has long relied on local businesses and services to repair and develop the Base. There is a strong awareness among local businesses and community members of the requirement to be involved in construction and work programs on Defence sites.                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Procurement and the engagement of multiple contractors                                            | Representative for the<br>Hon Michael McCormack<br>MP   | Defence is intending to use subcontractors staffed by locals.<br><br>Defence's approach is not to overburden the market, local businesses and contractors. The work packages will be smaller to suit different sized businesses and the procurement design will reflect the supply chain.<br><br>The project has Indigenous procurement targets in place and there is strong interest in the regions from Indigenous businesses.                                                                                                 |
| Interest in increasing Indigenous procurement                                                     | Dr Joe McGirr,<br>State Member for Wagga                | Defence has been engaging with local Indigenous businesses to understand their interest in the project and to date, there is strong interest.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Indigenous engagement                                                                             | Chief Operating Officer,<br>Wagga Wagga City<br>Council | The Riverina Redevelopment Joint Venture's Regional Development Team has been engaging with elders throughout the regions to inform the design, and workforce opportunities. This includes through an advisory group that has been established to guide the planning.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Heritage buildings and recording their value                                                      | Representative for the<br>Hon Michael McCormack<br>MP   | There are heritage buildings at Blamey Barracks, Kapooka. Defence has a Heritage Management Plan which will be updated through engaging with local contacts and Defence's Environment team that will provide advice. The Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water has dealt with heritage through the EPBC Act referral process for Blamey Barracks Kapooka due to the demolition of 34 buildings with medium heritage value. Defence is proposing to establish a Heritage Trail at Blamey Barracks, Kapooka. |



**Annex G-3**

| TOPIC                                                                                          | RAISED BY                                                                                                                    | DEFENCE RESPONSE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Parade grounds open to the public                                                              | Dr Joe McGirr,<br>State Member for Wagga                                                                                     | The parade ground on the Base will be open to the public during parades.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Concern regarding impacts to local short term accommodation.                                   | Representative for the<br>Hon Michael McCormack<br>MP<br><br>Dr Joe McGirr,<br>State Member for Wagga<br><br>Local residents | Defence recognises the current pressures on the rental market and short term accommodation in Wagga Wagga. Defence is packaging the works to minimise the impacts on local communities. Defence is also exploring opportunities to minimise the need for the workforce to live in the community.<br><br>Defence has designed an accommodation strategy, and will work with developers to identify opportunities to upscale for accommodation needs in advance of construction. Some offsite manufacturing will occur outside of the region to minimise local impacts.<br><br>It is expected that the project is likely to generate investment opportunities and once the Parliamentary expediency is achieved, interested parties are more likely to have the certainty they need to invest. |
| The number of Defence personnel to be housed by the proposed works at Blamey Barracks Kapooka. | Dr Joe McGirr,<br>State Member for Wagga                                                                                     | The living-in accommodation at Blamey Barracks Kapooka will house 1800 recruits.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Organisations involved in the Riverina Redevelopment Program                                   | Dr Joe McGirr,<br>State Member for Wagga                                                                                     | Defence is supported by Jacobs who is delivering Project Management and Communication services. The RRJV is made up of CPB Contractors and Downer, supporting the planning and delivery phase of the Project.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Load size and road closures during construction                                                | Mayor, Wagga Wagga<br>City Council                                                                                           | The project will aim to minimise any road closures during construction.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Delivery of training such as trades and certificate                                            | Mayor, Wagga Wagga<br>City Council                                                                                           | Defence has agreements in place with Regional Training Organisations. There is sufficient capacity to provide the required training.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Opportunities for supply and shipping lines of materials through key ports                     | Local businesses                                                                                                             | Some supplies may pass through major ports. The RRJV's Regional Development Team will make contact in the future regarding shipping and ports.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

**Annex G-4**

| <b>TOPIC</b>                                                                                                                       | <b>RAISED BY</b> | <b>DEFENCE RESPONSE</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Opportunities to use local products during construction                                                                            | Local businesses | Defence has planned to ensure that during construction, the project prioritises the use of local businesses, local workforce and products whilst minimising impacts on the use of these markets locally (residential needs).                            |
| Questions around accessing and registering on the Industry Capability Network                                                      | Local businesses | The RRJV's Regional Development team will assist all interested local businesses with support with the Industry Capability Network.                                                                                                                     |
| Opportunities for local industry and business participation in the proposed works                                                  | Local businesses | The proposed project will prioritise the use of local industry and businesses. Defence has targets to use local businesses and services.                                                                                                                |
| Questions regarding the provision of wellbeing services for veterans and ex-serving personnel.                                     | Local residents  | This is outside the scope of works. However, the Department of Veterans Affairs provides support for ex-serving personnel.                                                                                                                              |
| Concern about construction noise and dust, especially dust that is contaminated by PFAS.                                           | Local residents  | All construction works will occur during normal working hours during the day. Only some out-of-hour works will occur such as services switches (power, water etc.). PFAS will be managed in accordance with Defence policy and environmental standards. |
| Questions and concerns regarding stormwater systems, water security (rainwater tanks), flooding and flooding management, and PFAS. | Local residents  | Questions were forwarded to the stormwater expert who explained the modelling and water flow in the area. PFAS will be managed in accordance with Defence policy.                                                                                       |