Factsheet: Sale of Pontville Small Arms Range Complex, Tasmania

Why is Defence selling the site?
Pontville Small Arms Range Complex (Pontville) occupies approximately 517 hectares of mainly rural land approximately 30 kilometres north of Hobart. Pontville is no longer needed for Defence training operations and as a result, Defence has decided to sell the site.

How the site be sold?
Defence intends to dispose of the site in two stages. Stage one is a 1.8 hectare portion on the western side of the Midland highway. Stage two is a 514 hectare lot on the eastern side of the highway containing former detention centre/Army camp and the rural land. On 11 December 2015, Defence signed the contract of sale for the Stage one of the Pontville property. Defence has engaged marketing agent Knight Frank to market stage two of the Pontville property. Marketing in the print media will occur in January 2016.

Where is the site?
Midland Highway, Pontville, Tasmania, 7030.
How does Defence sell its property?
Defence properties are sold in accordance with the *Commonwealth Property Disposals Policy*. This policy states that all surplus Commonwealth property is to be sold on the open market for full market rates.

If the site is sold on the open market, Defence will engage a marketing agent to sell the property. Methods of sale include auction, tender and private treaty sales.

Who is going to buy the site?
When sold on the open market, any party who is eligible to purchase property in Australia may bid for the site.

What can the new owner do with the site?
This is primarily a matter for the new owner of the property and the local and state governments in the context of the existing land planning framework. The Pontville Small Arms Range Complex occurs within Brighton municipality and is zoned Special Use.

Can the local council or state government buy the site?
The state government and local council could purchase the site through an open market process, or via direct sale.

The *Commonwealth Property Disposals Policy* allows for direct sales to local and state governments in some circumstances. These are known as ‘off-market sales’. Off-market sales require the approval of the Special Minister of State.

Is the Pontville site contaminated?
There is some contamination present at the site. Defence has assessed and considered contamination issues.

Is the Pontville site heritage listed?
The Pontville site is listed on the Commonwealth Heritage List. The listing relates the significant natural heritage values of the site, including remnant grassland and grassy woodland communities. It also relates to Pontville’s association with raising and training of the First Australian Imperial Force commencing in August 1914.

Defence has developed reports, including a Heritage Management Plan,, which will assist in the management of the sites heritage values. In addition, Defence has completed several terrestrial biodiversity monitoring plans, to ensure that Defence fulfils its legislative obligations to protect the ecological values on the site.

Threatened species and communities will continue to be protected under Tasmanian and Commonwealth legislation irrespective of the ownership of the land.