Briefing Pack
for
Williamtown Community Reference Group

RAAF Base Williamtown

- Major Capital Facilities Projects
- New Air Combat Capability (NACC) Facilities Project
- NACC Stormwater Management
- Regional Flooding
Defence’s Submissions to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for each of these projects can be found at the following links:


NACC Stormwater Management

• As part of the overall design process undertaken for the NACC Facilities Project at RAAF Base Williamtown, extensive modelling was completed on the proposed stormwater design to ensure flooding downstream of the Base would not be exacerbated.

• The stormwater design is based on detaining water on base and then slowly releasing this water into existing drains over the following days as the water subsides.

• The stormwater design also accounts for up to 100 year storm events, which are larger than the most recent rains.

• The stormwater design was developed in consultation with, and agreed to by the Port Stephens Council.

• Defence has also provided funds to the Port Stephens Council to upgrade stormwater infrastructure downstream of the Base to remove a bottleneck and assist with the flow of water out of Moors Drain.

• This work has been completed by the Port Stephens Council.

• Construction of the on base stormwater detention infrastructure is leading the construction of other on base works in order to ensure that flooding is not exacerbated during the construction period.

• The two largest, of the six, on base stormwater detention basins have been completed.
Note that Basin No’s 5 and 6 are located vicinity the NW and SE Runway work areas.
NACC Precinct Overland Flow Path Route
Regional Flooding

*Have the Base works increased flooding in the surrounding areas?*

- Defence is of the opinion that Base works have not increased flooding in the surrounding areas for the following reasons:
  - RAAF Base Williamtown is a 986 hectare site comprising seven major water catchment areas, which channels surface and storm water runoff from the Base, inclusive of Newcastle Airport into six off base drains – Dawsons Drains 1 and 2 (Northwest of the Base), Nelson Bay Road Drain (Southeast of the Base), and Moors Drains 1, 2 and 3 (East of the Base).
  - As part of the overall design process undertaken for the NACC Facilities Project at RAAF Base Williamtown, extensive modelling was completed on the proposed stormwater design to ensure flooding downstream of the Base (via Dawsons Drain 1 and Moors Drains 2 and 3) would not be exacerbated. Construction of the on base stormwater detention infrastructure is also leading the construction of other on base works in order to ensure that flooding is not exacerbated during the construction period.
  - The overall design for the RAAF Base Williamtown Stage 2 Redevelopment Project is to also ensure that there is no increase in storm water runoff between the pre-development and post-development stages of the Project. This means that works will not place any additional burden upon the existing storm water drainage systems external to the site nor will there be any increase in peak flows into adjoining or existing properties downstream of RAAF Base Williamtown. It is also noted that as part of this project Defence will demolish approximately 20 redundant facilities, which will have the effect of reducing overall storm water runoff.
- Although RAAF Base Williamtown’s surface and storm water runoff feeds into the Dawsons, Nelson Bay Road and Moors Drains, the Port Stephens Council and the NSW Government are jointly responsible for the management and maintenance of these drains.
- As a stakeholder in the Williamtown community, Defence is represented on the Port Stephen’s Council’s Williamtown and Salt Ash Flooding Reference Group, and as part of this group, is assisting in reviewing the Region’s Flood Risk Mitigation Plan, inclusive of undertaking its own investigation into the current design and state of the Moors Drains.