

# Australia-Singapore Military Training Initiative Newsletter | April 2020

## A message from Commodore Jonathan Earley, Program Manager

As communities around the world deal with COVID-19, Defence is continuing to take appropriate measures to ensure business continuity for the Australia-Singapore Military Training Initiative (ASMTI). These are challenging times for many of us and we must seek alternate and more innovative ways to enable 'business as usual' practices and achieve our desired outcomes.

To that end, I am pleased to see a number of work packages being awarded and local businesses benefiting from the opportunities. Of the companies so far engaged for design and construction of the Shoalwater Bay Training Area expansion in Central Queensland, half are based in the Rockhampton or Livingstone Shire regions. In North Queensland, a Charters Towers-based company has been contracted for fencing and signage work, with many more work packages coming down the pipeline as the training area design matures.

Rolling out work packages to progress construction remains a priority for Defence. My team and I will keep you informed of work opportunities and the project's progress, and are here to answer any questions you may have.



## Program Manager visit to Central and North Queensland



Our progress in implementing the ASMTI has only been possible due to the assistance and commitment of the local community. I was pleased to visit Central and North Queensland recently and meet with Council and government representatives, Traditional Owners, local business leaders and other stakeholders who have, and continue to, work with us on the ASMTI. I was particularly appreciative of the insights offered to me, and remain sincerely grateful for their continued support.

While visiting Central Queensland, I took the opportunity to see the Shoalwater Bay Training Area expansion site and meet with some contractors already undertaking early work packages as part of the project. I was also fortunate to fly over the new training area being developed near Greenvale in North Queensland. Visits to both of these training areas again highlighted how the significant size and scope of the ASMTI will create enduring benefits for the Australian Defence Force, our Singaporean partners and local industry in regional Queensland for years to come.

## Celebrating the Darumbal people's office opening and one year since Indigenous Land Use Agreement signing

In February I was privileged to attend the opening of the Darumbal people's new office in Rockhampton, made possible by an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) registered as part of the expansion of the Shoalwater Bay Training Area.

This month also marks one year since the signing of this ILUA, which formalised the strong partnership between Defence and the Darumbal, and put in place mechanisms that will continue our collaboration on cultural heritage and future access to the Shoalwater Bay Training Area.

Defence is proud to have worked in partnership with the Darumbal people for over 20 years, and we look forward to continuing our collaboration over the years to come.



**Image left:** Commodore Earley on site at the Shoalwater Bay Training Area expansion with representatives from Managing Contractor Laing O'Rourke. **Image middle right:** Commodore Earley cuts the ribbon with Darumbal Elder Aunty Olive Donald at the official opening of the Darumbal office. **Image bottom right:** Defence representatives Melissa Felton and Chris Birrer with Darumbal representatives Warren Malone and Vanessa Ross signing the ILUA in April 2019.



## ASMTI Q&A

### Q: What is a Local Industry Capability Plan (LICP)?

A: Australian Government policy is to maximise opportunities for Australian industry to compete for and win work. Defence uses LICPs to maximise opportunities for local industry under construction contracts and seeks to maximise opportunities for local businesses to contribute to major capital projects in their region. The Shoalwater Bay Training Area Managing Contractor, Laing O'Rourke, has developed an LICP which details their approach to continually engaging with local industry throughout the project and maximising opportunities in the local region. In North Queensland, a Managing Contractor will be appointed later this year and will be required to develop and implement an LICP.

### Q: How does an LICP affect me?

Laing O'Rourke has committed to sourcing in the order of 80 per cent of the value of sub-contracted works from the Central Queensland region. In order to achieve this, sub-contractor packages are being shaped to maximise local engagement. It doesn't guarantee every service will be sourced locally. Companies will need to demonstrate capability, capacity and value for money.

### Q: How can I get involved?

In Central Queensland, submit an Expression of Interest to [ASMTI@laingorourke.com.au](mailto:ASMTI@laingorourke.com.au) at any time and look out for future package releases advertised via local newspapers and industry bodies. In North Queensland, download and submit a Capability Statement and Market Sounding response form via the [ASMTI website](#).

## Treaty signing reaffirms Australia and Singapore's commitment to the ASMTI

On 23 March, Prime Minister of Australia, the Honourable Scott Morrison MP, and Prime Minister of Singapore, His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, witnessed the signing of a Treaty on military training and training area development via video conference.

The Treaty builds on 30 years of Singapore's military training in Australia and underpins Singapore's \$2.25 billion investment in, and commitment to, the ASMTI.

It also provides greater certainty of the ASMTI's long-term future and viability, and the local economic opportunities and benefits that will be delivered across the Initiative's full lifespan.

## ASMTI a game changer for locals: CQG Consulting

Local business owner Patrice Brown has encouraged local businesses to bid for works under the ASMTI.

It's expected up to 200 sub-contractor packages will be procured over the next five years in Central Queensland as part of the ASMTI.

Ms Brown's environmental consultancy firm, CQG Consulting, was awarded a package for environmental works, while Indigenous business Tunuba Pty Ltd, a joint venture between CQG Consulting and the Darumbal people, has been engaged to deliver consumables.

She says that while the process to tender for the work involved a significant effort, it has been a 'game changer' in fostering capacity building and collaboration among smaller local businesses.

"Although the Australian Defence Force has been training at Shoalwater Bay Training Area for over 25 years, the ASMTI is providing more opportunities for local businesses and Darumbal people to deliver services to Defence than ever before," she said.

Ms Brown has employed ten more staff off the back of the ASMTI, some of whom are from the region and others who have relocated their families back to Central Queensland.

She supported further engagement with local businesses by Defence to ensure businesses know what they need to do and how they'll be assessed.

For information on packages being released as part of the Shoalwater Bay Training Area expansion, contact [ASMTI@laingorourke.com.au](mailto:ASMTI@laingorourke.com.au)

### Do you have a question or comment?

Contact Sean Hawkins, ASMTI Defence Liaison Officer:  
P: 0429 901 465

Contact Mick Reilly, Business Community Liaison:  
P: 0417 614 865

Visit the ASMTI website or send us an email:

W: [www.defence.gov.au/Initiatives/ASMTI](http://www.defence.gov.au/Initiatives/ASMTI)

E: [ASMTI.Local@defence.gov.au](mailto:ASMTI.Local@defence.gov.au)