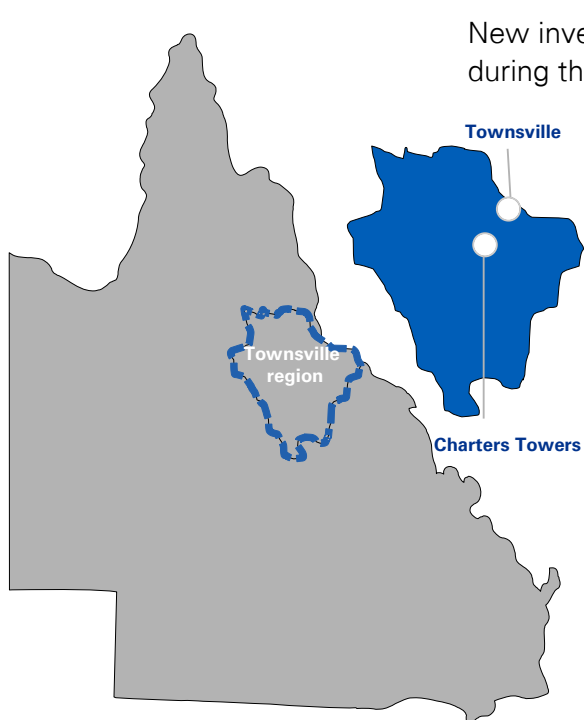


# Townsville Region Impact Factsheet

## Factsheet on the impacts of the Australia-Singapore Military Training Initiative in the Townsville Statistical Region, drawn from KPMG's Socio Economic Impact Assessment



New investment of around **\$1 billion** into the Townsville region during the development of the training facilities could lead to:



A net increase of up to **\$26.3 million** in annual income and support up to **264 new jobs** in the Townsville region during development.



A net increase of up to **\$10.7 million** in annual income, and support up to **74 new jobs** across the region when the new training facilities are fully operational.

## Major findings

### Economic

The KPMG study has found that the Australia-Singapore Military Training Initiative (the Initiative), which will result in around **\$2 billion** invested in Queensland, could create up to **264 new jobs** for the Townsville region during the development phase and support up to **74 new jobs** when the facilities are up and running.

The Initiative is estimated to provide an annual income boost to the Townsville region of up to **\$26.3 million** per year during the development phase and an ongoing economic benefit of up to **\$10.7 million** a year once the facilities are operational.<sup>1</sup> These net benefits account for any negative impact to the industries, including to the agricultural sector, in the Townsville region.

### Community Sentiment

There are mixed views of the Initiative in the Townsville region. In Townsville there is recognition that ASMTI could deliver significant employment opportunities for many local workers and businesses, particularly in construction and tourism. In contrast, in Charter Towers there is uncertainty with respect to the flow-on effects for local economies, smaller communities and businesses from a reduction in key agriculture and supporting activities and there is doubt that any benefit will be gained locally.

## What is the ASMTI?

The Initiative will provide increased access to Australian military training areas for the Singapore Armed Forces, building on Australia and Singapore's existing Defence cooperation.

## What is the Socio-Economic Impact Assessment?

The Socio-Economic Impact Assessment is a study conducted by KPMG to understand the potential social and economic impacts of enhancing Defence training areas in the Fitzroy<sup>2</sup> and Townsville regions as part of the Initiative.<sup>3</sup>

## Why was it conducted?

The Socio-Economic Impact Assessment is an important input for Defence's planning, particularly as it develops options to enhance the training area in Central and North Queensland under the Initiative. The insights gained from the study will allow Defence to make informed and considered planning decisions.

## Where can I read the full report?

It is available at: [www.defence.gov.au/Initiatives/ASMTI](http://www.defence.gov.au/Initiatives/ASMTI)

**Contact:** Singapore.Training@defence.gov.au

<sup>1</sup>As measured by gross state product (GSP).

<sup>2</sup> The Fitzroy Statistical Region is an Australian Bureau of Statistics SA4 level region, which includes Livingstone, Marlborough, Stanage Bay, Central Highlands, Rockhampton, Banana and Gladstone.

<sup>3</sup> This analysis was conducted independently, using data provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Department of Defence. KPMG utilised a whole-of-economy model, which captures all industries in the local regions, increased investment and construction activity, increased expenditure relating to the additional troop training activity and a loss of agricultural production.