THE SENATE

FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE REFERENCES COMMITTEE

Management of Defence estate assets

PUBLIC HEARING
Friday 4 September 2026

Committee Room 2S3
Australia Parliament House, Canberra

Time	Witness
9.30 am	**Department of Defence** *(Submission 125)* Ms Celia Perkins, Deputy Secretary Security and Estate Mr Peter West, First Assistant Secretary Estate Transformation Mr Pat Sowry, First Assistant Secretary Infrastructure Ms Monique Hamilton PSM, First Assistant Secretary Defence Security and Chief Security Officer Ms Lee-Anne Monterosso, First Assistant Secretary Service Delivery

Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade public hearing for the Inquiry into the management of Defence estate assets 4 September 2026

Celia Perkins
Deputy Secretary Security and Estate
Department of Defence

Opening Statement

Thank you Chair for the opportunity to appear before this hearing of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Inquiry into the management of Defence estate assets.

The Defence Estate

The Defence estate is the Australian Government's largest landholding at over 3.8m hectares. It includes 70 major bases, 100-plus training ranges, over 1,000 owned and leased properties, and 30,000 built assets.

The Defence Estate is older than Federation, older than the Australian Defence Force. Our oldest site, Anglesea Barracks in Hobart, dates to 1811. The Defence Estate is a critical combat enabler for the Australian Defence force and treated as a capability domain.

Defence Strategic Estate Priorities

Defence plans for future estate requirements through the hierarchy of strategic planning activities that start with strategic guidance from the Government of the day.

The National Defence Strategy provides detailed directions on the requirements of the current and planned future estate.

It directs that Defence's domestic force posture requires:

- a resilient network of northern bases and infrastructure to enable the projection of combat power into our northern approaches; and
- a resilient network of southern bases and infrastructure to enable force generation, sustainment, health networks and logistics in order to support combat operations and force projection from northern Australia.

The National Defence Strategy is driving a significant shift in estate and infrastructure investment to uplift the Defence estate to increase readiness, preparedness, including across our northern bases. The investment decisions for the Estate – in line with the NDS are agreed by the Government in the Integrated Investment Program and include:

- $13-16 billion investment planned for Northern bases and training areas over the next decade.

- Priority infrastructure investment to support Submarine Rotational Force -West at HMAS Stirling; and
- Priority infrastructure for the Guided Weapons and Explosive Ordnance enterprise.

Estate Investment

Defence invests in new and upgraded facilities and infrastructure through three investment subprograms:

- The Enterprise Estate Investment Program
- The Estate Works Program and
- The Estate and Land Upkeep program

In 2026-27 Defence will invest $6.2 billion across these programs.

Defence has made significant progress to accelerate the delivery of facilities and infrastructure to support the National Defence Strategy. To provide the Committee with just a few examples:

- We recently completed a $1.6 billion program of works at RAAF Base Tindal.
- We are delivering a $747 million upgrade training areas in the Northern Territory (Bradshaw, Kangaroo Flats, Mount Bundey and Robertson Barracks CTA).
- We are on track to deliver the $2.3 billion priority infrastructure program at HMAS Stirling to support the Submarine Rotational Force -West Initial Operating Support milestone by end 2027.
- In December 2025 we delivered a $25 million facility at Port Wakefield in South Australia to assembly Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System missiles, the second facility in the world to produce these missiles outside Lockheed Martin's facility in Camden, Arkansas.
- We are delivering a $518 million program of work at RAAF Townsville to support new Apache helicopters,
- We have commenced a $662 million upgrade at RAAF Base Learmonth for completion in mid-2028.
- We are completing a $376 million investment at Edinburgh Defence Precinct to support the first phase of Army's Long Range Fires Capability.
- And the Riverina Redevelopment Program is delivering major upgrades across Defence's key training establishments, including $395 million at the Albury-Wodonga Military Area, $590 million at RAAF Base Wagga, and $889 million at Blamey Barracks, Kapooka.

Sustaining the Estate: Base Services

Defence's operations across the estate are sustained through a portfolio of national contracts that deliver services to support Defence living, working and training environments.

These services include accommodation, catering, transport, facilities maintenance, environmental and land management, firefighting, training area management, and customer service delivery. We maintain joint use agreements at 7 airfields and sustain 21 Defence-operated airfields.

We deliver 9.3 million meals annually across 150 Defence messes; more than 222,000 maintenance work orders are lodged per month; and around 1000 Estate Works Program projects are endorsed for delivery annually.

Each year we coordinate approximately 40,000 activities on training area, manage over 3000 requests for ADF ceremonial support to the community, and produce over 275,000 Defence Common Access Cards.

Defence Estate Audit progress

Chair, Defence is undertaking the most significant transformation of the estate in decades. We are delivering the investment directed by the National Defence Strategy to support the planned future ADF capabilities and the strategy of denial.

Estate reform, through the implementation of the recommendations of the Defence Estate Audit, is a key pillar of the Government's directions to ensure the estate is fit for purpose, resilient and capable of supporting Defence's mission now and into the future. And that the estate investment and sustainment budget is directed to the delivery of ADF capability.

Since Defence's last appearance before this Committee on 1 July 2026, we have continued to make good progress implementing the Government's response to the Defence Estate Audit.

Defence has hosted members of this committee for additional site visits to Fort Queenscliff, Launceston and Devonport.

Four sites have been sold by Defence. Ten additional sites are now vacated and ready for transfer to the Department of Finance for divestment. Personnel have transitioned from Carlton Training Depot to Mount Waverley Depot and cadets from Carlton Training Depot and Geelong Australian Air Force Cadets have moved to new facilities.

Ministers and Defence senior leaders have completed 26 community information sessions across the country, with more than 2,300 attendees. We have completed 59 formal consultations with more than 10,000 affected employees and cadets.

Defence is finalising a History and Heritage Plan in consultation with peak state and territory heritage bodies. Most recently, the Assistant Minister for Defence led roundtable discussions in both Melbourne and Sydney with key stakeholders and elected representatives.

I would note the announcement on 4 August by the Deputy Prime Minister to expand and enhance Public Access significant Defence heritage sites. The first event under this program ‘Beats at the Barracks’ will be held at Victoria Barracks Sydney on 12 September and we will shortly announce enhanced access at Victoria Barracks Melbourne and Fort Queenscliff.

Conclusion

Chair, in closing, I would note for the record that the Defence witnesses appearing before the Committee today are pleased to take your questions. But they do not consent to the reposting of their evidence to social media sites or the reproduction of their likenesses for purposes outside the framework of the Parliament and the transparent, public proceedings of this committee.

Thank you

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Talking Points

Select Committee hearing on Management of Defence estate assets

Canberra, 4 September 2026

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Defence Estate Audit

- The Government commissioned the independent Defence Estate Audit in response to a recommendation of the 2023 Defence Strategic Review to ensure Defence's estate is structured to meet contemporary operational and capability requirements.
- The Audit found that many Defence sites are no longer fit-for-purpose and are constraining Defence's ability to meet future requirements.
- Defence is committed to implementing the Government response through a careful and detailed change consultation process and management plan, to ensure our personnel have the necessary facilities to respond to the nation's strategic needs, and the financial resources required to sustain the Defence estate.

Independent Audit Process

- Led by two independent co-leads Ms Jan Mason, and Mr Jim Miller, the Audit assessed whether the estate meets Defence's contemporary operational and capability requirements, now and in the future.
- The Defence Estate Audit was conducted by independent Audit leads in accordance with the terms of reference published online.
- In developing their recommendations, the co-leads visited more than 70 Defence sites across all states and territories to identify common themes, trends and issues. Visits were conducted during business hours.
- The co-leads also had discussions with more than 50 senior Defence leaders, and held roundtables and discussions with industry partners, external assurance providers, and representatives from Commonwealth, state and territory governments and peak industry bodies.

- All relevant Conflict of Interest were declared and managed by appropriately in line with standard practice.
    - Ms Mason provided an initial conflict of interest declaration on 22 August 2023, and an updated declaration on 29 August 2023.
    - Mr Miller provided an initial conflict of interest declaration on 11 September 2023, and an updated declaration on 9 February 2024.

If asked: How much did the Audit cost the Government?

- Independent leads were engaged to undertake the Defence Estate Audit with costs met from within the Department's allocated budget.
- The total contract value for each co-lead to undertake the Audit was $297,000 (including GST).
- The contracts were published on AusTender on 14 September 2023.
- Both independent co-lead's contracts were extended to 30 June 2026 to support post report activities, with services provided on a pro-rata daily rate.
- Defence has paid the co-leads a total of $49,670.44 since the submission of the report, bringing the total remuneration to $632,244.90

If asked: Why is the Estate Audit referred to as an Audit and not a review?

- The 2023 Defence Strategic Review recommended that an enterprise-wide audit to baseline Defence estate and infrastructure, including protective security, be completed no later than the end of 2023.
- As the independent leads described in the Audit Report, it was not intended to be a traditional audit conducted to the accounting standards normally used to measure performance or financial results.
- The Audit was designed to provide an independent assessment of Defence's estate and infrastructure to ensure it was fit for purpose.

Government response

- The independent Defence Estate Audit report was delivered to Government in December 2023.
- The Government directed Defence to undertake further analysis to understand the impacts of the audit's findings and recommendations, particularly with respect to ADF personnel and capability.
- The Defence Estate Audit was considered by cabinet prior to the Government's announcement on the 4 February 2026.
- The Government released the Report on 4 February 2026 after considering the full range of impacts of the proposed findings and recommendations, including any impacts to Defence capability, Defence personnel and their families, and the local community.

Report recommendations

- The Government agreed or agreed-in-principle the Report's 20 recommendations.
- The Government Response accepts the Report's recommendation for a targeted consolidation, rationalisation and divestment program (Recommendations 1 & 3).
    - A total of 68 sites were identified for divestment by the Audit
    - Government has agreed to, wholly or partially, divest 67 sites – noting that on the basis of subsequent Defence capability analysis, one site (Pittwater Annex, NSW) will be retained, and three will be partially divested

        : HMAS Penguin
        : RAAF Williams – Laverton
        : Warradale Barracks.
- Divestment proceeds will be reinvested back into Defence, including investments and upgrades to strengthen Defence's network of northern bases.

- 18 of the 20 recommendations are non-divestment related. These recommendations are focused on strengthening the management and performance of the Defence estate.
    - They seek to improve governance, assurance, asset information, infrastructure planning and investment decision-making, while addressing maintenance and infrastructure risks.
- These reforms are intended to ensure the Defence estate remains resilient, fit-for-purpose and aligned with Defence's current and future capability needs.
- A copy of the public Defence Estate Audit, and the Government's Response, is available online on the Defence website.

Strategic rationale for the Audit

- The Audit's terms of reference required the Audit leads to identify parts of Defence's estate that did not support current or future operational and capability requirements as set out in the Defence Strategic Review 2023.
- The Audit identified that a number of sites are no longer fit-for-purpose and, in some cases, constraining Defence's ability to meet future operational requirements.
- These sites were recommended for divestment to enable Defence to consolidate and rationalise its estate, and invest in sites that better support current capability and workforce needs.
- Net proceeds from the divestment program will be reinvested in the Defence portfolio to meet National Defence Strategy priorities.

Public Interest Immunity Claims

- A Public Interest Immunity claim was made in relation to the Order for the Production of Documents seeking the unedited 'Independent Audit of the Defence Estate' as provided to the Government in December 2023.

- The Deputy Prime Minister wrote to Minister McAllister on 30 April 2026 claiming PII over releasing the complete unedited version of the Independent Audit of the Defence Estate.
- Minister McAllister sent the DPM's letter to the President of the Senate, Senator the Hon Sue Lines, on 1 May 2026.
- The PII claim was tabled 5 May 2026.

If asked: What were the reasons for the PII claim?

- Claims were raised on national security, future negotiation compromise, and legal professional privilege.

If asked: How would the release of the report damage national security?

- The report contains sensitive information about Defence bases and their importance to our Defence capability that, if made public, would reasonably be expected to cause damage to the security of the Commonwealth by making public Defence capability that is classified.

If asked: How would the release of the report affect future negotiations?

- Disclosure of this information may also compromise the Government's position in any future negotiations relating to the divestment or disposal of Defence estate sites.

If asked: Under what basis was legal professional privilege claimed?

- Specific material in the report contains legal advice provided to the Commonwealth in confidence for the dominant purpose of informing government decision-making.
- This would be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege.

If Asked: Why can Defence not provided a tiered list of sites based on criticality of capability generation (Ref IQ26-000127 and Chair letter)

- Defence is seeking to claim Public Interest Immunity over the tiered list of Defence sites and associated analysis in response to a Question on Notice from Senator Collins.
- Providing public information on the criticality of specific Defence sites would be used by adversaries and Foreign Intelligence Service to prioritise the targeting of critical sites and the people who work at them.

Divestments

- In total, the Government has agreed to - wholly or partially - divest 67 sites:
  - Four have already been divested:

Location	Date Sold	Sale Price $m	Sold To
89-93 Duckworth St Garbutt Qld	1 February 2024	$2.400	Endeavour Foundation
Former Amaroo Holiday Apartments Magnetic Island Qld	14 March 2025	$0.859	Private Family Trust
Former Army Training Depot Haberfield, NSW	27 March 2025	$44.545	Private residential buyers. Inner West Council purchased one lot for open parkland
Penrith Multi User Depot, Penrith, NSW	15 June 2026	$23.3	Urban Property Development Group

- Senator Katy Gallagher, the Minister for Finance, will lead divestment of 58 sites.
- Defence will continue with divestment of six sites for which the disposal process had commenced prior to the public announcement of the Audit:

Site	Size Hectares	Surplus Declaration	Status
Londonderry Transmitting Station, Sydney, NSW	63 ha	2014	Off-market sale. Settlement by end 2026
Pialligo South land, Canberra, ACT	287 ha	2012	Open market sale. Forecast sale completion by 2027
Stokes Hill Naval Fuel Installation, Darwin, NT	3.88 ha	2014	Open market sale. Forecast sale completion by 2027
Strathmuir land, Shoalwater Bay training Area, QLD	1,966 ha	2019	Open market sale. Forecast sale completion by 2027
Defence Site Maribyrnong, Melbourne, VIC	127 ha	2010	Open market sale. Forecast sale completion by late 2027

- Implementation of the Audit will occur over the next two years, individual site divestment timelines will vary by site due to commercial sensitivities, heritage, and environmental factors
- Under the Divestment process established by Government, Defence will prepare 58 of the Estate Audit sites for divestment by the Department of Finance
- Defence is responsible for transitioning capabilities and personnel, including any constructions required, and the security uplift of Defence sites adjacent to properties being divested.
- Once sites have been prepared for divestment Defence will transfer the sites to the Department of Finance who will dispose of the properties in accordance with the Commonwealth Property Disposal Policy.
- The Department of Finance is responsible for facilitating due diligence, remediation activities, and heritage obligations along with other divestment actions required.
- Future use of the Defence sites or disposal conditions will be a matter for the Department of Finance disposal process.

Partial Divestment

- Partial divestments occur where sites deliver essential capability that must be preserved, and replication and relocation was not cost effective.
- Partial divestments include surplus land that is no longer required to meet Australia's current or future security needs.
- These surplus areas can be divested without impacting Defence operations or future capability requirements.
- HMAS *Penguin*, initially identified for full divestment, provides critical capability for Navy clearance divers, underwater medicine and maritime geospatial training.

As a result, HMAS *Penguin* was re-scoped as a partial divestment to retain this capability.

- The exact boundaries of the partial divestment are currently being developed in consultation with Defence capability managers and other site stakeholders.

Housing

- Defence's priority in delivering the Future Estate is to allow Defence to focus its force posture efforts and resourcing on bases most appropriate to Australia's strategic circumstances.
- Future land use will be determined by the Department of Finance through the divestment process.

Community engagement

- Community consultation commenced on 7 April 2026 and has been undertaken across all states and territories.
  - This consultation will inform how surplus Defence land can best deliver benefits for communities in proximity to sites to be divested.
- Defence has held 29 community engagement sessions, with over 2,300 attendees to date.
- These sessions are a mix of town halls and flexile drop-in engagement to support one-one-one conversations and allow attendance outside the standard work hours.

If asked: What influence will the community have on decisions?

- Community engagement sessions are providing local communities with the opportunity to speak directly with Defence and the Department of Finance.
- Defence is capturing feedback from all sessions through feedback forms, documenting conversations, and meetings.
- This feedback is informing how the divestment process is occurring and is being shared with the Department of Finance.

If asked: How is Defence responding to community and veteran concerns about the loss of historically significant sites.

- Defence acknowledge that many Defence sites have served Australian proudly, hold great sentimental value and serve as a reminder of our past sacrifices and achievements.
- Defence and the Department of Finance are currently undertaking community consultations across the country to engage directly with members of the community, including veterans, about how best to preserve and expand public access to historically significant sites.

- Defence and the Department of Finance are engaging with veterans through the Department of Veteran Affairs Ex-Service Organisations Roundtable and undertaking extensive consultations with the Returned and Services League and their members as part of the national community engagement program.

How is Defence engaging with First Nations communities through the divestment process?

- Defence is undertaking targeted engagement with Traditional Owners, Land Councils, Elders and Aboriginal community organisations, including 1:1 meetings and stakeholder roundtables tailored to local cultural protocols.
- Engagement is focused on building relationships and shared understanding, with an emphasis on listening to community perspectives, recognising cultural authority, and respecting connection to Country.
- For example, Defence has engaged with the Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation in Darwin, bringing together Defence, Finance and Larrakia representatives to discuss cultural heritage, land use and future site considerations. Similar engagement has also been undertaken with the Kaurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation and Peramangk Aboriginal Corporation in South Australia, as well as Aboriginal organisations in Tasmania.

If asked: How is Defence engaging across Government to implement the Estate Audit?

- A regular SES Band 2 Divestment Program Steering Committee and SES Band 1 Working Group meet monthly and have representatives from Defence, Finance, Prime Minster and Cabinet, Treasury and the Department of Climate Change Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW).
- Defence and Finance are meeting weekly at the Band 1/1-Star level.

If asked: Has Defence engaged DCCEEW?

- DCCEEW attended a Government Stakeholder Roundtable with the Independent lead on 26 September 2023; three Interdepartmental Committee meetings on the report implementation in 2024, and the Divestment Program Steering Committee as outlined above.

Internal Engagement

- Defence's most important capability is its people.
- In response to the Audit, the Government has directed Defence to undertake a comprehensive program of engagement with all internal stakeholders, personnel, capability managers and broader business/community groups to shape divestment plans.
- 59 engagements has occurred with over 10,000 staff around the country.
- Town hall-style meetings for personnel at affected sites were held in February and March 2026.

Engagements	**Participants**
Face-to-face town halls	1,405
Virtual town halls	7,943
Total internal participants	**9,348**

- Defence has publicly released transition options for the relocation of personnel and capability from divested sites to alternative locations.
- These options will undergo further consultation with on-site personnel to ensure they meet operational and individual needs.
- Relocations will be coordinated with unit commanders, and personnel will receive clear timelines and support throughout the process.

- Defence will maintain regular communication with impacted personnel and support will be offered to assist with the transition.
- Defence will also ensure effective communication with Defence contractors and industry partners.
- Consultation with APS employees will be undertaken in accordance with the Defence Enterprise Collective Agreement.
- No ADF or Australian Public Service positions will be lost as a result of the Audit. Units will not relocate until an appropriate site is identified.

What support is available for Defence personnel impacted by these changes?

- Defence recognises that change can impact people differently and is prioritising wellbeing and workforce support throughout implementation.
- Support includes access to the Defence Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for ADF, APS and contractors, as well as direct support through commanders, managers and supervisors.
- Each affected site will have a dedicated change management plan, with clear points of contact to provide information, respond to concerns and support personnel through transition.
- Defence will continue to provide regular communication, engagement opportunities and tailored support, ensuring personnel understand what changes mean for them and how they will be supported.

If asked: What sites have started the transition?

- Transition progress across the 14 initial sites, with seven sites now vacated. Planning and delivery activities are advancing across the remaining seven sites.
- Occupants at Carlton Training Depot relocated to Mt Waverly on 26 June.

- We are also currently finalising the relocation of occupants from Edinburgh Parks in South Australia, and St Lucia Training Depot in Queensland.
    - Personnel from Edinburgh Parks are relocating to other Defence sites in Adelaide metropolitan area, while personnel from St Lucia Training Depot are relocating to Gallipoli Barracks in Brisbane.

Reserves and Cadets

Reserves

- 27 sites identified for divestment accommodate 30 Army Reserve units.
- A list of affected sites and number of affected personnel is located at Annex A.
- Defence is undertaking detailed relocation planning to ensure that Reserve units have appropriate alternative arrangements in place before vacating their current locations.
- No capability reductions have been authorised as part of the Defence Estate Audit implementation and all impacted Defence capability, including Reserves, will be moved to new sites.
- Reserve units and members will continue to deliver current capability from alternative locations including other Defence facilities, shared multi-user depots, or where required, suitable new or leased premises, consistent with Recommendation 3 of the Defence Estate Audit and the Government's response.
- Transition planning staff are working with Army, Navy, Air Force and affected units to ensure changes associated with site divestments are implemented in a way that supports reservists and minimises disruption.
- Site-specific implementation planning and consultation with affected personnel has informed relocation outcomes.

If asked: How will we lessen the impact on affected reservists?

- We acknowledge the impact that this will have on people who have dual careers and responsibilities.
- Defence will work with affected members of the ADF Reserve, together with the total workforce, on planned moves to other sites with their units, as well as locations for training.

If asked: What Reserve Units have been relocated?

- Two divestment sites have already been vacated by Reserve Units:
  - **Carlton Training Depot** (VIC) – Unit relocated to Mt Waverley Depot on 26 June 2026.
  - **Youngtown Depot** (TAS) – Unit relocated to Paterson Barracks following the discontinuation of planned maintenance at Youngtown.
- Defence has commenced Reserve relocation activities for the following sites:

Site	No. of Reserve personnel	Status
St Lucia Training Depot (QLD)	**50-100**	Working with Army HQ to enable transition while maintaining training continuity. Units will relocate to Gallipoli Barracks (11km) anticipated in October 2026

Cadets

- 27 divestment sites accommodate cadet programs and 45 cadet units will be relocated.
- A list of affected sites and number of affected cadets is located at Annex A.
- Defence is undertaking detailed relocation planning to ensure that cadet units have fit-for-purpose relocation arrangements in place before vacating their current locations.
- Transition planning staff are working in consultation with Navy, Army and Air Force to understand unit requirements to inform transition planning.
- Cadet Site selection prioritises locations within a 15km radius, with a preference to retain units within their local community to minimise disruption.
- In assessing cadet location options, Defence takes into account maintaining a local presence and accessibility for cadets, including travel distance.
- Input has been sought from all cadet units through their chain of command to inform alternative locations and until requirements as part of the transition planning process.

If asked: How will Defence provide assurance that the Cadet Youth Program will continue beyond the implementation of the Defence Estate Audit?

- Defence is committed to supporting cadet opportunities for young Australians, ensuring participation and continuity of activities while working closely with individual units to identify suitable new locations. Cadet units will transition only when a fit-for-purpose site is secured within their local area and community.

If asked: What engagement has occurred to identify alternative locations for Cadets?

- Defence has identified and engaged more than 45 potential alternative locations across Tasmania and South Australia, including schools, councils and community facilities.
- Defence is engaging State Education Departments and other stakeholders, including private school governing bodies, TAFE, Universities and local governments to identify additional relocation options.
- Additional information and briefing materials will be distributed by end September 2026 to all affected units to support engagement with cadets, volunteers and families regarding upcoming relocations.

If asked: What Cadet Units have been relocated?

- Three cadet units have been relocated to date.
    - Training Ship *Barwon* (Geelong, VIC): Unit relocated to Newland Barracks in June 2026 as an interim arrangement, pending development of a Geelong Multi User Depot.
    - Youngtown Depot (TAS): Unit relocated to Paterson Barracks in December 2025 following the discontinuation of planned maintenance at Youngtown.
    - Geelong AAFC (VIC): Cadet Units relocated to Newland Barracks in December 2025 pending development of a Geelong Multi User Depot.

- Defence has commenced Cadet relocation activities for the following sites:

Site	No. of Cadets	Status
Woodside Barracks (SA)	**117**	Working with all stakeholders to enable transition while maintaining parading continuity. Cadets will relocate to Oak Bank School (6 km) anticipated in October 2026
Scottsdale (TAS)	**17**	Working with all stakeholders to enable transition while maintaining parading continuity. Cadets will relocate to Dorset Trade Training Centre (>1km) anticipated in October 2026

If asked: Why were the Geelong Air Force Cadets relocated to a divestment site that is not fit-for purpose?

- The proposed final Cadet solution for the Greater Geelong region is a new multi-user depot.
- Newland Barracks has been identified as a fit for purpose interim solution, subsequently co-locating all Cadets in the Geelong region.
- Newland Barracks provides sufficient equipment storage, parading space and classroom facilities.
- The Geelong Air Force Cadets were relocated to Newland Barracks on 24 June 2026.

If asked: When were the Geelong Air Force Cadets consulted?

- Consultation with Air Force Cadets was undertaken on 27 May 2026.

If asked: Future use of TS Argonaut site

- Training Ship (TS) Argonaut, St Helens, in Tasmania is a leased site located on land leased from Break O'Day Council. The onsite Navy Cadet Clubroom is owned by Defence.

- Defence will not be retaining the site or any of the site facilities, and will be transitioning all cadets off the site.
- Any future use of the site will be a matter for the Break O'Day Council, which owns the site.
- CEO of RSL Tasmania, Mr John Hardy, wrote to the Assistant Minister for Defence about the end of lease at St Helens – Training Ship Argonaut in Tasmania on 20 July 2026 with a proposal from the RSL.

If asked: Future use of TS* Sheean *(*Mersey*) site

- Training Ship (TS) *Sheean*, Devonport, in Tasmania operates from premises leased by Defence from the Navy League of Australia, with associated foreshore access leased separately from the Tasmanian Government.
- Defence's current lease arrangements expire on 30 November 2026, and Defence is seeking to progress a six-month holdover of both leases.
- Defence has considered a proposal from the Navy League to retain TS *Sheean* as a multi-user cadet depot accommodating Navy, Army and Air Force Cadet units, but will not be progressing the proposal.
- Defence has engaged with the Navy League on this matter on multiple occasions, including a meeting between the Federal President of the Navy League, Mr Mark Schweikert, and FAS ET on 14 April 2026.
- Defence is working to identify a suitable facility in Devonport to support the future delivery of Australian Defence Force Cadets activities.

History and Heritage

- Defence takes its heritage stewardship responsibilities seriously. We recognise that many sites included in the divestment program have heritage values.
- The Audit highlighted that sites with heritage value are often not accessible to the public, and that current heritage obligations can outweigh the primary purpose of bases in supporting capability.
- The divestment process will remain compliant will all relevant legislative obligations to protect heritage values, including those under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act).
- Defence and Finance will ensure that the heritage values of divestment sites included in the Commonwealth Heritage List will have ongoing protection by new and subsequent owners following divestment from Commonwealth ownership.
- Defence and Finance are working together on options to ensure the ongoing protection of Commonwealth Heritage values, such as nominating places to state and territory heritage registers and including heritage covenants in sales contracts.
- Defence will work with local governments and other stakeholders to identify conservation and management options for significant divestment sites.
- Some sites included in the divestment programs have museums and collections. For those collections owned by Defence, we will look to consolidate elsewhere on the Defence estate.

History and Heritage Plan

- The Department of Defence, in consultation with the Department of Finance, is developing an overarching History and Heritage Plan to guide the divestment process where history and heritage considerations are present.
- To support the development of the Plan, the Assistant Minister for Defence hosted a roundtable with peak national history and heritage organisations on 20 April 2026.
- The Assistant Minister for Defence also hosted state-specific history and heritage roundtables in Victoria and NSW on 26 and 28 August 2026.
- Defence, in collaboration with the Department of Finance, will develop site-specific plans as part of the broader Plan for sites with significant history and heritage considerations to guide divestment requirements, including disposal options and any conditions of sale.

If asked: How many sites are considered significant?

- Defence has a good understanding of history and heritage considerations on Defence sites.
- There are 17 significant heritage sites in the divestment program, two of which, Pialligo South and Defence Site Maribyrnong, are currently undergoing divestment. The remaining sites are:
  - Victoria Barracks Brisbane
  - Lancer Barracks
  - RAAF Base Point Cook
  - RAAF Williams Laverton
  - Victoria Barracks Sydney
  - Victoria Barracks Melbourne (including 310 St Kilda Road)
  - Fort Queenscliff

- Irwin Barracks
- HMAS *Penguin*
- HMAS *Cerberus*
- Randwick Barracks (CHL outside divestment area)
- Spectacle Island
- Kokoda Barracks
- St Kilda Training Depot
- Swan Island

- There are also two leased sites that are within larger World and National Heritage places: Karratha/Dampier Rifle Range in Western Australia and Wangetti Rifle Range in Queensland.
- The requirements of other sites will addressed as part of the broader History and Heritage Plan.

If asked: What will happen to properties currently in the Commonwealth Heritage List?

- Under the EPBC Act, heritage places in the Commonwealth Heritage List must be protected as part of the sale of the property.
    - The EPBC Act preferences providing this protection in the form of a covenant on the contract of sale, unless there are other means of protecting those values.
    - Some properties may be transferred to state heritage lists so they are protected and managed under state heritage arrangements.
    - Some places, particularly in Victoria, are already on state or local government heritage registers.
- The place is removed from the Commonwealth Heritage List once the property is no longer owned or controlled by the Commonwealth.

- Places with National Heritage values will continue to have protection under the EPBC Act.
- Defence, in consultation with Finance, is developing an overarching plan to inform the divestment process where history and heritage considerations are present.
- The best approach to protect these places will be determined as part of the divestment process, in consultation with relevant government agencies.
- Where there is a heritage protection requirement involving a state, territory or local heritage regime, engagement will occur with the relevant government agencies to ensure the divestment process complies with heritage protection requirements.

If asked: How will on-selling be managed for heritage protection?

- National Heritage values are independent of Commonwealth ownership and these requirements would transfer to any downstream purchaser.
- Where a state or territory regime is applied, the relevant government agency will enforce these conditions.
- Binding covenants or alternate measures such as land title covenants, separate and additional to sale contract terms, may also be used to ensure ongoing heritage protection requirements.

If asked: Can anyone nominate places to the National Heritage List?

- Any person can nominate places to the National Heritage List. The nomination must outline the outstanding heritage values of the place nominated. The nomination must also highlight how the place meets one or more of the criteria for listing.

- The criteria for nominating is outlined in the EPBC Regulations (10.01A).

- The Minister for the Environment calls for nominations to the National Heritage List each year. This is managed through DCCEEW.
- Nominations would then be considered through DCCEEW process with the Australian Heritage Council.
- Some state and territory heritage regimes also allow nominations for state or territory heritage lists.

If asked: How will environmental values be managed following sale?

- There are nine Matters of National Environmental Significance protected under the EPBC Act, including listed national threatened species and ecological communities (for example the Angophora Forest at HMAS Penguin).
- Following a sale, any state and locally listed species and ecological communities have protections under relevant state legislation and/or local planning instruments.
- Future owners are subject to the EPBC Act if they propose to undertake an activity that is likely to have a significant impact on a Matter of National Environmental Significance.
- A significant impact could include actions that may impact on nationally threatened species, or the release of soil or water contamination into the environment from a former Defence site.
- Defence has undertaken contamination and ecological assessment at number of sites.

- That information can inform a future divestment strategy that considers all environmental values present on a site.

If asked: How will Defence manage sites that are contaminated?

- Defence manages a number of sites that are contaminated as a result of past industrial and military activities and practises.
- Defence will work through these matters site-by-site with the Department of Finance and expert input as part of the divestment process and options for future land use.
- Defence may undertake contamination remediation on some sites to reduce risk and support divestment.

If asked: How will government address the gap in heritage protection following divestment from Commonwealth ownership?

- Defence and Finance will work with DCCEEW, as well as state and territory governments, to ensure there will be no gap in heritage protection through the divestment process.

If asked: Why isn't a heritage plan being developed for every site?

- The overarching History and Heritage Plan will inform Defence's approach to sensitively managing significant heritage places and collections. Future management options for those divestment sites with considerable history and heritage implications will vary depending on multiple factors; community feedback, accessibility to the public, and the condition of places and collections.
- Individual site plans will include more detailed and tailored approaches where required, but the process Defence is currently undertaking in partnership with

Finance and subject matter experts will ensure that all heritage and history considerations are appropriately addressed.

If asked: Will more sites be given to government agencies like the Harbour Trust?

- Future use of divestment sites will be a matter for the Department of Finance divestment process, which will be undertaken in accordance with the *Lands Acquisition Act 1989* and the Commonwealth Property Disposal Policy.
- Defence and the Department of Finance are consulting with the Harbour Trust as part of the divestment process to identify any lessons-learned from the establishment of the trust that can inform the current divestment process.

If asked: What sites does the Harbour Trust manage?

- The Harbour Trust was established in 2001 under the *Sydney Harbour Federation Trust Act 2001* to rehabilitate prominent former Defence sites on Sydney Harbour and open them for public access, it has since taken on surplus sites from some other Commonwealth agencies.
- The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust manages;
  - Cockatoo Island
  - North Head Sanctuary, Manly
  - Headland Park, Mosman
    - Chowder Bay
    - Georges Heights
    - Middle Head
  - Sub Base Platypus, Neutral Bay
  - Woolwich Dock and Parklands
  - Former Marine Biological Station, Watsons Bay
  - Macquarie Lightstation, Vaucluse

- The Harbour Trust is an Australian Government statutory agency reporting to the Minister for the Environment and Water.

If asked: Will Defence Heritage Management Plans (HMPs) be made available to the public?

- Defence is responsible for maintaining Heritage Management Plans for Commonwealth Heritage Listed places.
- Heritage Management Plans are internal operational documents. These documents guide Defence in maintaining the properties, but they also typically include sensitive information.
- Government is considering how best to provide further information about sites while managing the necessity to protect sensitive information, including security and cultural heritage information.
- Consultation is required on aspects of Heritage Management Plans before they can be released. This includes release under FOI.

If asked: Why are Defence Heritage Management Plans not registered under the EPBC Act already?

- Defence takes its responsibilities to manage its heritage seriously.
- Heritage management plans have been prepared for most Defence properties listed on the National or Commonwealth Heritage List.
- Defence has commenced a process to review all Heritage Management Plans for heritage listed places to ensure they are compliant with the EPBC Act.

If asked: How does Defence manage its heritage?

- As a Commonwealth agency, Defence is responsible for protecting the heritage values of places on the Defence estate.

- The Defence Estate Heritage Strategy sets out how we deliver our heritage management responsibilities. This is underpinned by policies and guidance, including the recently updated Defence Environment Manual.
- Defence has a central estate heritage management team that maintains our heritage management policies and oversees the development of Heritage Management Plans for all Commonwealth Heritage Listed properties on the estate.
- Defence prioritises the continued use of the heritage buildings and places where possible. Many historic heritage values include the ongoing use of the place as part of the value.
- The Estate Works Program use Heritage Management Plans to guide actions needed to ensure the ongoing management of heritage buildings.
- Defence also seeks to adaptively reuse heritage buildings where appropriate, to maintain heritage value and support ongoing capability needs.

If asked: What will happen to the Fort Queenscliff Museum?

- The Fort Queenscliff Museum is recognised as a valued community and tourism asset. Defence will continue to steward the site during transition and maintain existing access and functions.
- Defence and the Department of Finance is considering options such as supporting a future museum operator at the site through a loan arrangement with the Australian Army History Unit.

If asked: Will the Fort Queenscliff Heritage Management Plan (HMP) be made available to the public?

- Government recognises the strong interest in the community in this significant site.
- Government is considering how best to provide broader access to Heritage Management Plans for all significant heritage properties.
- A redacted version of the Fort Queenscliff Heritage Management Plan was released to a private individual under the Freedom of Information Act in June 2026.

If asked: When was the decision made not to repair the Signal Tower at Fort Queenscliff? (EC26-005594 to Kerri Erler, President of Queenscliff Maritime Museum refers)

- Defence values the interest and commitment shown by the Queenscliff Maritime Museum in preserving the heritage values of Fort Queenscliff, including the Signal Station and Building 46.
- At this stage, additional works are not required to meet heritage requirements or safety obligations and work planned prior to the Government decision to divest Fort Queenscliff will not proceed.
- Longer-term protection and management of the site's heritage values will be addressed as part of the site Divestment process.
- Defence will continue to monitor and maintain the site, meeting our heritage, safety and statutory obligations while the divestment process occurs.
- We will also work closely with the Department of Finance to ensure that the site's history and heritage is protected as part of the divestment process in accordance with our obligations under the EPBC Act.

- The design work undertaken by Aurecon will also be provided to the Department of Finance.

If asked: What engagement has occurred with the Queenscliff Golf Club?

- First Assistant Secretary Peter West wrote to Mr Brad Teal, President of Queenscliff Golf Club, on 6 February.
- A community Town Hall was held on 29 April hosted by the Assistant Minister for Defence. Queenscliff Golf Club was in attendance.
- The Queenscliff Golf Club wrote to the Office of the Assistant Minister for Defence on 15 July 2026 seeking timeline guidance on the process and price guidance.

If asked: "preserving and enhancing public access to historically significant sites and collections"

- Defence and Finance in consultation with DCCEEW are developing plans to identify options for divestment of heritage places, museums and collections for enhanced public access and ensure these places are conserved and maintained for current and future generations.

Enhanced Public Access

- The Government directed Defence deliver an Enhanced Public Access Program to improve community access to significant Defence heritage sites.
- Under this program, the public will be able to access to some of our most significant military heritage sites through a dedicated program of events in 2026 and 2027.
- This creates opportunities for communities to connect with our nation's proud military history by providing greater access to heritage buildings on Defence divestment sites, including Victoria Barracks Melbourne, Victoria Barracks Sydney and Fort Queenscliff.

  Events and activities will be delivered in partnership with local governments, community organisations and commercial vendors.
- The first event of this program is Beats at the Barracks, which will take place at Victoria Barracks Sydney next Saturday, 12 September. The event will bring together music, community and military heritage at the Barracks, while raising funds for Soldier On.
- Public activities at the Victoria Barracks Melbourne and Fort Queenscliff are under development, in collaboration with the city and local councils.

If asked: Why is the Government promoting events at Victoria Barracks Sydney when you are selling it?

- The Australian Government is enhancing access to Defence heritage sites, like Victoria Barracks Sydney, so that more Australians can share in our proud military history.
- Offering events like the one planned on 12 September will provide public access to Victoria Barracks Sydney, enabling visitors to experience the site's heritage value, which is typically inaccessible due to Defence activities.

- Events like the one to be held on 12 September at Victoria Barracks will also help the community experience how access to these sites could be achieved after it has been divested.

Sustaining the Estate

Base Services Contracts

- Base Services contracts deliver estate sustainment services to approximately 800 Defence sites nationally to enable working, living, operational and training environments.
- 13 Base Services contracts, across 15 individual service packages, deliver estate maintenance, base security, cleaning, land management, accommodation management, catering, resource recovery and waste management, transportation and project delivery.
- The Base Services contracts represent a budgetary commitment by Defence of approximately $2.14 billion per annum, or $12.87 billion (GST exclusive) over the initial six-year team (up until 2032).

Base Services Transformation

If asked: How were the contracts procured?

- The procurement activity was a competitive two-stage process.
- Stage 1, Request for Proposal (RFP) was released to market on 05 October 2022. Industry participants were notified of the outcome on 05 May 2023.
- Shortlisted entities from Stage 1 were invited to participate in co-design activities and Stage 2 Requests for Tender (RFT).
- Stage 2 RFT, evaluations, negotiations and contract executions were completed over 4 tranches.
- The final tranche of Base Services contracts transitioned into operation from 01 February 2026.

If asked: How much does it cost to deliver services at XX site?

- The delivery of base services across the estate is managed on a contract portfolio basis as our providers deliver services across a number of sites and regions.
- Defence does not track precise sustainment costs for a particular site, noting that sites may aggregate for cost and delivery efficiency, and corporate overhead fees.

ACCC Cartel Allegations

If asked: why did Defence award contracts to Spotless and Ventia who are alleged by the ACCC to have participated in cartel like behaviour under the previous Base Services contracts.

- Defence became aware on 11 December 2024, that the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) had commenced civil cartel proceedings against two companies, Spotless Facility Services Pty Ltd and Ventia Australia Pty Ltd who currently deliver services for Defence.
- The ACCC allege price fixing relating to estate maintenance and operational services for Defence on three separate occasions between April 2019 and August 2022.
- Defence takes these allegations very seriously and sought and received assurances from Spotless and Ventia that the alleged conduct is not ongoing and is isolated, and that they will continue to prioritise compliance with their regulatory obligations.
- In relation to the recently finalised Base Services procurement, Defence has undertaken a thorough and robust procurement process in accordance with the Commonwealth Procurement Rules. During the entirety of this process, Defence

has reinforced with all relevant suppliers (including Spotless and Ventia) the ongoing requirement for compliance with laws and Commonwealth policies.

- The ACCC notified Defence as an affected party as is usual practice. As this matter remains before the courts, Defence will not be making any further comment.

Support to Defence

- For Exercise Pitch Black (20 July 2026 - 7 August 2026), we produced over 2,700 Defence Common Access Cards to support access by visiting military personnel, and delivered over 62,900 meals to exercise participants at Defence Accommodation Precinct - Darwin Mess.
- We established and maintained accommodation and catering support at both Bandiana and Puckapunyal to support 145 emergency services personnel during the Victorian bushfire response in January 2026.
- We provided critical accommodation and messing support for approximately 80 Victorian Police members during the manhunt for Desi Freeman in September 2026.
- Information Access Unit releases approximately 40,000 service records for current and former ADF members, through the myServiceRecord.
- Senators serving on this committee met with the Director of this unit recently at Fort Queenscliff, where the team has recently completed digitising archived ADF service and health records, and now offer a fast digital service to members and veterans in support of an important recommendation of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran's Suicide.

Defence estimates of costs to operate sites

- Defence does not track sustainment costs by site, as sustainment services are delivered across a number of products and contracts and regional groupings of sites.
- Since 2020-21, Defence has spent on average $2 billion per year sustaining buildings and land.
- Defence has also spent on average $550 million per year delivering services across the estate that support the day to day operations, including security, clearing and catering.
- Defence developed estimates of future sustainment costs and investment to inform the Government's consideration of the Defence Estate Audit recommendations.
- Making public specific financial information, including running costs, for individual divestment sites would also diminish the Commonwealth's commercial advantage in achieving best market value for each site.
- Defence land disposals are normally conducted on an 'as is, where is' basis to maximum the Commonwealth's potential disposal revenue and minimise disposal costs.

If asked: Savings from divestments.

- The Estate Audit estimated that Defence would save approximately $100 million per annum in sustainment costs across divestment sites – 5 percent of the sustainment budget, and an overall savings of more than $2 billion in sustainment over the next 25 years.

If asked: Market valuations.

- Providing more detailed financial information for each divestment site would diminish the Commonwealth's commercial advantage when negotiating best market value for each site.
- To support the independent Defence Estate Audit, new market valuations of significant sites such as Victoria Barracks Brisbane, Victoria Barracks Sydney, and Victoria Barracks Melbourne, were undertaken,

- Sites valuations took into account Heritage values.

If asked: Cost comparison of VBS and DPS

- Making public specific financial information, including running costs, for individual divestment sites would diminish the Commonwealth's commercial advantage in achieving best market value for each site.
- The contract value for Defence Plaza Sydney and Defence Plaza Melbourne is published publicly by the Commonwealth.

	DPS	**DPM**
Date	15 February 2023	16 November 2021
Length	10 years	10 years
Contract Value	$231,369,632.89	$132,480,316.99
Contract Number	CN3990844	CN3947500

If asked: How many people occupy Defence Plaza Melbourne and Defence Plaza Sydney?

	DPS	**DPM**
Area	18,034 square metres	19,026 square metres
Workpoints	1,056	1,114
Current occupancy, based on daily average attendees	40% workpoint usage	55% workpoint usage (previously reported at 46% in May)
Potential capacity (based on 8:10 workstation to staff ratio)	1,267	1,336

If asked: Divestment of leased sites

- Defence has sustainment obligations in relation to leased properties until the lease is concluded or surrendered.
- Options for the divestment of leased sites will be developed on a site-by-site basis in consultation with the Department of Finance.
- Obligations in relation to Defence's move off leased divestment sites would depend on the conditions of the lease and how the lease was concluded.

If asked: Tasmanian Multi-User Depot

- Defence has commenced work on a new facility at North Launceston that is being delivered by Shape Construction.
- The Austender notice is AZ6318. The project consists of three work packages totalling $46m.
- Work Package 3 relates to the New ADF Cadets Multi-User Depot Facility. This includes a new tri-service Cadet Multi User Depot, services and in-ground infrastructure.
- Defence is developing options for a second facility in north-west Tasmania.

If Asked: Facilities Investment in Derwent Barracks

- $16.6 million was invested at Derwent Barracks in 2021-22 as part of the approved LAND 121 Phase 5B Facilities Project, which delivered facilities and infrastructure to support the introduction and sustainment of the Army's new wheeled vehicle fleet.
- Second Pass Government approval for the project was obtained in June 2018, reflecting Defence's force disposition and estate requirements at that time.
- The project scope, including the Derwent Barracks works, was subsequently endorsed by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on 18 June 2020.

- At the time of approval, Joint Logistics Unit Victoria (Tasmania) at Derwent Barracks had an ongoing requirement to operate, maintain and support LAND 121 vehicles and equipment.
- The existing workshop facilities at Derwent Barracks were undersized, non-compliant and unsuitable for maintaining the new LAND 121 vehicle fleet.
- The new facilities were designed to support long-term maintenance, sustainment and training functions for units operating in Tasmania. This included new vehicle workshops, vehicle hardstands and associated supporting infrastructure.
- Construction commenced in June 2021 and was completed in October 2022.

Security

Counter-terrorism

If asked: Impact of divestments on Counter-terrorism capabilities

- The Audit recommendations, including each site proposed for divestment, were assessed against Defence's current and projected capability requirements in consultation with a senior 2 Star/Band 2 steering group with representatives from all Defence Groups and Services.
- This included the analysis of ability to generate capability at alternate sites to a divestment site.
- The ADF plans for and can provide counter-terrorism support from sites across Australia.
- It would be inappropriate to go into the details of ADF counter-terrorism planning or requirements for security reasons.
- Following the audit divestment Defence will still have sites in all States and Territories including all capital city regions.

If asked: Impact of Victoria Barrack Sydney divestment on Counter-terrorism operations

- No significant counter terrorism operations or event support in the last 20 years has used Victoria Barracks Sydney as the primary operational site.

Counter Uncrewed Systems

- Defence employs layered security measures to protect its personnel, facilities, operations and assets.
- Defence takes unauthorised drone activity around Defence establishments very seriously.
- The increasing use of drone technology presents a growing security and safety challenge for Defence and governments around the world.

- Defence has a range of authorities and capabilities available to respond to unauthorised drone activity at Defence sites.
- Defence works closely with Commonwealth, State and Territory agencies, including the Australian Federal Police, State and Territory police services and the Civil Aviation Safety Authority, to respond to unauthorised drone activity.
- Defence will employ Counter Uncrewed Systems services and capabilities at Defence bases where it is necessary to do so for security or safety purposes. It is not appropriate to comment specifically regarding where such services and capabilities are or may be employed.
- Defence has progressed Defence Amendment (Counter-UXS Measures) Regulations, which came into effect from 13 December 2025.
- Defence is progressing broader legislative reforms through the Defence Act 1903, due to be presented to Government in 2026.
- Defence continually reviews its capabilities, procedures and legislative framework to ensure they remain fit for purpose.
- Drone sightings on or near Defence Bases reported by Financial Year 2022-2023 to 2025-2026:

Financial Year	Reported Drone Sightings
2022-2023	19
2023-2024	56
2024-2025	141
2025-2026	204

Project LAND 156 – Counter Small Uncrewed Aerial Systems (CsUAS)

- Army is the lead for project LAND 156.
- The Government approved LAND 156 – Counter Small Uncrewed Aerial Systems in February 2025 to deliver a CsUAS capability that can protect ADF elements from the continuously evolving small UAS threat.
- Under project LAND 156 Defence has a range of counter drone sensors and effectors that may be utilised to protect domestic Defence areas, where legislation allows.
- Project LAND 156 has also established an industry panel of counter-drone providers that enable Defence and other Government agencies to procure counter-drone services for domestic security.

Advanced Strategic Capabilities Accelerator and CsUAS

- Defence has previously invested over $80 million into research and innovation activities to inform the acquisition and use cases for CsUAS operations.
- Defence's Advanced Strategic Capabilities Accelerator (ASCA), through Mission Syracuse, is developing CsUAS swarm and counter medium sized UAS technology.
- Defence has awarded a total of over $37.4 million to three Australian companies, AIM Defence, SYPAQ Systems and Electro Optic Systems, for next-generation counter-drone platforms.

Annex A – Reserve and Cadet Sites

Site	State	Reserves	Cadets
Bathurst Stores Depot	NSW	30-40	-
Bridgewater Training Depot	TAS	-	10-50
Burnie Training Depot	TAS	10–50	10–50
Banksmeadow Training Depot	NSW	<10	-
Carlton Training Depot	VIC	100-150	-
Derwent Barracks	TAS	200-250	50-100
Devonport Training Depot	VIC	10–50	50–100
DSTG Scottsdale	TAS	-	10-50
Fort Queenscliff	VIC	<10	10-50
Geelong AAFC	VIC	-	150–200
Hampstead Barracks	SA	100-250	200-250
Irwin Barracks	WA	1100-1150	200-250
Lancer Barracks	NSW	100-150	100-150
Latchford Barracks	VIC	10-50	-
Leeuwin Barracks	WA	100-150	200-250
Milne Bay Training Depot	QLD	50-100	200-250
Newland Barracks	VIC	50-100	50-100
RAAF Glenbrook	NSW	100-150	100-150
RAAF Williams - Laverton	VIC	10-50	-
RAAF Williams - Point Cook	VIC	150-200	350-400
Sandringham Training Depot	VIC	50-100	100-150

St Kilda Training Depot	VIC	100-150	-
St Lucia Training Depot	QLD	50-100	-
Timor Barracks	NSW	100-150	200-250
Training Ship Argonaut	TAS	-	10-50
Training Ship Barwon	TAS	-	10-50
Training Ship Derwent	TAS	-	10-50
Training Ship Emu	TAS	-	10-50
Training Ship Sheehan (Mersey)	TAS	-	10-50
Training Ship Tamar	TAS	-	10-50
Training Ship York	TAS	-	10-50
Victoria Barracks Sydney	NSW	150-200	50-100
Woodside Barracks	SA	-	100-150
Youngtown Training Depot	TAS	10-50	10-50

Australian Government
Department of Defence
Security and Estate Group

SEG Questions on Notice and Senate Orders to Produce Documents status at 3 September 2026

Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade References – Management of Defence Estate Assets

Inquiry Question topic	Status	PII Claim
Question 23- Tiered list of sites	• Request to revisit response from the Committee Chair 30 June 2026. • Interim response from the Secretary 07 August 2026	'After revisiting the question to review the answer, Defence has recommended the Minister consider a PII claim and that decision is being actively considered'.
Question 22 – Information provided to the PWC	• Request from the Chair to be revisited 30 June 2026. • Interim response from the Secretary 07 August 2026 • Defence are progressing a draft the Secretary to respond.	No. We have been advised by the PWC Clerk that the unauthorised release of documents specifically created for submission to the Public Works Committee (i.e., Medium Works Notifications, Change Notifications and associated correspondence) or documents sent by the Committee to Defence (approval letters and associated correspondence) may constitute contempt of Parliament and an offense under Section 13 of the *Parliamentary Privileges Act 1987* and Subsection 23(5) of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*. These documents are Committee documents that attract parliamentary privilege under the Parliamentary Privileges Act and disclosure of such confidential documents must be expressly authorised by the Committee prior to any release.

Senate Order to Produce Documents

Item	Status	PII Claim
04 March 2026 - Order to Produce Document 368 (Senators Shoebridge/Lambie) – unaltered version of Defence Estate Audit.	• Letter transmitted to the Senate Clerk Interim response 23 March 2026 • Final Response provided 05 May 2026	Yes. DPM made a PII claim on 30 April 2026 over material that requires protection to safeguard national security, preserve confidential legal advice and maintain commercial in confidence arrangements.
02 July 2026 – Order to Produce Document 552 (Senator Collins) Base Services Contracts and tender packages	• Interim response provided 30 July 2026	Interim response sought an extension Partial PII claim being considered by the Minister.

Senate Estimates

Item	Status	PII Claim
09 October 2025 – 2025-26 Supplementary Budget Estimates (Senator Shoebridge) Copy of the Defence Estate Audit.	• Answered	Yes. DPM made a PII claim on 30 April 2026 over material that requires protection to safeguard national security, preserve confidential legal advice and maintain commercial in confidence arrangements.