

F-35A 'Lightning II'

Australia's Next Generation Air Combat Aircraft

Williamtown Consultative Forum



AIR FORCE
EVOLUTION

Group Captain Mick Brown
Director - In Service Support
Joint Strike Fighter Division
17 November 2014

UNCLASSIFIED

New Air Combat Capability

- **2014** – Government Second Pass Approval
- **2014** – First two aircraft delivered in the US
- **2014** – Parliamentary Approval of facilities project for approx. \$1.5B
- **2015** – Commence pilot training in the US
- **2015** – Commence construction of facilities at Williamtown
- **2018/19** – Proposed next 12 aircraft delivered in the US for pilot training
- **2018/19** – First two aircraft fly to Australia
- **2019** – Stand up maintenance training at Williamtown
- **2020** – First operational squadron at Williamtown
- **2021** – Second operational squadron at Williamtown

- Prior to publication of the Draft EIS, Defence held public consultation sessions in Williamtown, Darwin, Townsville and Katherine to advise the public of the upcoming release and comment process.
- Public notices were placed in national, state and local newspapers to advertise the release of the Draft EIS and invite public comment.
- Subscribers to the EIS website were advised by direct email of the publication of the Draft EIS. Significant community and governmental organisations were also directly informed of the release.
- Defence held public information sessions to explain the content of the Draft EIS in August 2014 in Williamtown, Darwin, Townsville and Katherine.

- A total of 53 submissions were received on the Draft EIS, with approximately 470 issues raised.
- 36 of the submissions received related to RAAF Base Williamtown and/or Salt Ash Air Weapons Range, with approximately 425 issues raised.
- Submissions related to Williamtown were predominantly concerned with:
 - **Aircraft Noise** – Modelling, Monitoring and Compensation / Attenuation;
 - **Planning and Land Use** - Property Values and ANEF Zones/Contours;
 - **EIS Process** - Scope and methodology;
 - **Air Quality** - Emissions and Effects; and
 - **Socio-Economic Impacts** – Health Impacts.

UNCLASSIFIED

New Air Combat Capability

- Defence is preparing a Supplementary Report to the Draft EIS.
- All public submissions made on the Draft EIS will be considered and responded to in the Supplementary Report to the Draft EIS.
- All public comments will be forwarded to the Department of the Environment as part of the EIS process.
- The Supplementary Report will be published online and at selected venues around Australia when it is forwarded to the Department of the Environment.
- Current Website Subscribers will be advised of the Supplementary Report publication via direct email.

- Defence expects to complete the Supplementary Report to the Draft EIS in mid December 2014.
- Submission of the Supplementary Report to the Department of the Environment is expected to occur in mid-January 2015 to provide better community access
- Public release of the Supplementary Report will occur within 10 business days of submission to the Department of the Environment
- A decision on the EIS, including the supplementary report, will be made within 40 business days of receipt by the Department of the Environment
- The EIS decision will be published on the *Government Notices Gazette* and on the Department of the Environment website

UNCLASSIFIED

New Air Combat Capability

- The facilities component of the project was required to gain Parliamentary Approval (that is expediency to proceed) via the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC) process prior to construction commencing.
- Parliamentary Public Works Committee Hearing held in September 2014.
- Parliamentary Approval received late October 2014.
- All facilities scope elements required approval by Parliament.
- Newcastle Region just under \$1B of works.
- Facilities Construction to commence in early 2015 and will continue until approximately 2021.

Questions.

