

## **Shire of Broome – Submission to the ADF Posture Review (submitted via web form)**

- a) assess the impact on the ADF's Force Posture of a range of domestic, demographic and economic issues including:
- . community attitudes to living standards and residential locations; and

Broome has an estimated permanent population of approximately 18,000 rising to 25-30,000 during the tourist (dry) season. It has a range of facilities and services providing a desirable residential environment especially when compared to many other remote centres in the north and west. Broome is estimated to grow to 24,000 population by 2021 and measures are in place to ensure provision of land to accommodate the increasing population.

Broome has a very good range of regular air services for ready access across the country and provides an ideal location for workers (civil and military) to locate their families within reasonable reach of their north west work location. Anecdotally there are 420,000 passenger movements per annum estimated to rise to 800,000 with Regular flights to Perth Darwin, Karratha, Kununurra, Port Hedland Derby, Fitzroy Crossing, Halls Creek and seasonal flights to Brisbane, Melbourne, Sydney Adelaide and Exmouth. Investigations are underway to establish regular international connection to Singapore. Broome would be an ideal location for families of Defence Force personnel based in the north west.

- b) make recommendations in relation to the basing options for Force 2030 across Australia including in relation to:

It is likely the review will include options which will increase infrastructure, personnel and or operations in the north west area of WA. It will be necessary for any such increase to be supported by improved road access and port capacity. The existing single road through the area is regularly closed for various periods of time during the wet between Broome and Darwin. It is suggested the Tanami Road should be upgraded to provide a shorter alternative access to the south east, that the Fitzroy River bridge should be upgraded, and the road between Broome and Port Hedland should be upgraded to reduce the likelihood of closures due to extreme weather.

The north west area has a very high tidal range (eight to ten metres) which can pose problems for port operations. It is suggested at least one additional deepwater facility will be required between Darwin and Exmouth for supply purposes. Broome Port and possibly James Price Point may provide suitable options with good access to deep water.

- . Navy platforms (including the Air Warfare Destroyers, Landing Helicopter Docks, Future Submarines, the ANZAC Frigate and its replacements and offshore patrol vessels);

There is opportunity for extensions to the Broome Port to accommodate offshore patrol vessels on a permanent or occasional basis to improve access to the Browse Basin area and north west Exclusive Economic Zone for security and humanitarian operations.

. Air Force's plans to introduce a range of new aircraft and associated support systems into service; and

The planned relocation of the Broome International Airport to a site 12 kilometres from town provides the opportunity to design the airport to accommodate dual civil and military functions. Military functions could include pilot training for other countries in the region, and or backup or occasional facilities for fixed or rotary wing operations in the north west region.