



CHIEF MINISTER
MINISTER FOR DEFENCE LIAISON

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The Hon Stephen Smith MP
Minister for Defence
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House of Representatives
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Dear Minister

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Australian Defence Force Posture Review. Attached is the Northern Territory Government submission, which has also been submitted online.

The people of the Northern Territory have a long relationship with Defence, a symbiotic relationship which has seen Defence providing aid to the Northern Territory in times of need and the Northern Territory providing support to Defence during operations and deployments overseas.

The Northern Territory values the Defence presence and the important contribution it makes to our community and economy. As Chief Minister and Minister for Defence Liaison, I am proud of our proven track record in supporting the Defence presence in the Northern Territory.

The Northern Territory and Darwin are strategically geographically located to enable Defence to maximise its capability in meeting Australia's modern and future strategic and security challenges, particularly in the protection of Australia's offshore assets. The capability benefits achieved by an increased Defence presence in northern Australia can be further enhanced by policy decisions which will result in industry providing support to Defence platforms where they are based, thereby reducing freight costs and equipment downtime.

A greater Defence presence in the Northern Territory will not only increase Defence capability but also contribute to the development and growth of northern Australia, easing population and resource pressures in other major cities. My Government is ready to work with Defence to identify opportunities for an expanded Defence presence and support that the Northern Territory can provide to make it happen in a timely and cost effective manner.

I have asked my office to arrange a suitable time to meet with you to discuss further an expanded Defence presence in the north and the support that my Government can provide.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Henderson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

PAUL HENDERSON

13/4/11