



Australian Defence Force Posture Review Secretariat
R1-1-A061 Russell Offices
Department of Defence
P.O. Box 7901
Canberra BC ACT 2610
4/03/2012

Dear Director,

Further to my email of the 21st September 2011 and the subsequent letter of 3rd February 2012 from the ADF Posture Review Secretariat please find below additional supporting considerations to encourage the siting of the proposed ADF presence at Port Hedland.

It not my intention to engage in a lengthy discourse about the many reasons why Port Hedland should be considered as the obvious choice for such a siting, but rather to state basic facts that are easily verifiable and request a site visit by the Secretariat members to familiarise themselves with the region and to appreciate the benefits of siting any such deployment at Port Hedland.

Port Hedland is central to the North West and North of Australia. It sits within the Pilbara which adjoins the Kimberly and is easily sentinel to the off shore gas fields and infrastructure of the Burrup Peninsular, while at the same time being Australia's largest tonnage port and the world's largest iron ore port. The current tonnage of around 150 million tonnes will increase by several million tonnes to an estimated 480 million tonnes by 2020, with the \$48 billion expansion of the outer harbour project by BHP-IO due for construction in 2014. Shipping movements are expected to increase from 2290 in 2008/2009 to 7000 in 2014/2015.

Port Hedland is a safe harbour and will be able to accommodate ADF ships of all categories or conversely, a naval depot could be established on Finucane Island on the Northern side of the Port Hedland harbour.

Port Hedland International Airport occupies an area of 967 hectares of freehold land not encumbered by native title. Ample to establish personnel accommodation within the airport boundary with easy access to hangarage, the harbour and the town facilities of both South and Port Hedland. It operates two runways. One, 14/32 is 2500 metres in length and 45 metres wide and is of chip-seal surface. This however will be resurfaced in October 2012 with a 60 mill overlay of asphalt which will give it a PCN of between 65 and 70, capable of servicing aircraft up to at least 250,000 kg's maximum take off weight (MTOW) without requiring a pavement concession. Runway 18/36 is 1000 metres by 18 metres and is currently limited to aircraft of 5700 kg's

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MTOW, but this is planned to be widened to 30 metres and extended to 1500 metres and will be capable of servicing up to 46,000 kg's MTOW.

The airport is capable of offering land with airside access to establish hangar space capable of servicing the several types of aircraft employed by the ADF. The airports forward planning also allows for the establishing of a large aircraft maintenance facility capable of servicing aircraft to the size of Boeing 737-800 or comparable size and manufacture.

Port Hedland is geographically placed some 1769 klms/1099 statute miles or 955 nautical miles from Christmas Island, 1568.85 klms or 974.84 miles from Darwin, 462.17 klms or 287.18 miles from Broome, 1355 klms/841 statute miles or 731 nautical miles from Denpasar, 2025/1258 statute miles or 1093 nautical miles, 3190 Klms/1982 statute miles or 1722 nautical miles from Kuala Lumpur or 1509/937 statute miles or 814 nautical miles from Dili, East Timor.

Port Hedland is a vibrant progressive regional town that will morph into a city in the not too distant future. It holds all the requirements of a progressive community, too many to list, but evident and noticeable, should the secretariat consider a site visit for clarification. It also sits extremely sentinel of all that the Government espouses in the released terms of reference.

Port Hedland is without doubt the most logical, strategic location in which to site the proposed deployment and the Secretariat are urged to give consideration to a site visit so that we may be the better enabled to offer first hand credence to the claims aforementioned.

The Port Hedland Town Council are most desirous of accommodating the proposed site visit so as to extol the benefits on a face to face engagement.

Yours Most sincerely,

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