



Australian Government
Department of Defence

Australia-Singapore Military Training Initiative

Newsletter | December 2021

A message from AIRCDRE Sandy Turner, Program Manager

As the year draws to a close, I'd like to take a moment to pause and reflect on the achievements made this year under the Australia-Singapore Military Training Initiative (ASMTI), and what a year it's been!

This time last year, we saw the Australia-Singapore Treaty on Military Training and Training Area Development brought into force on 10 December 2020, building upon 30 years of Singapore's unilateral training in Australia. A year on, it's wonderful to see the continuing progress toward the achievement of ASMTI objectives, in particular, seeing the construction of the Shoalwater Bay Training Area (SWBTA) expansion, now 50% complete, and the design of the Greenvale Training Area (GVTA) shaping up.

2021 didn't come without its challenges though. We've all been impacted both personally and professionally with the ongoing presence of COVID-19, however it is to the credit of all involved, that ASMTI milestones were achieved this year despite the obstacles. The collective ASMTI team has overcome travel and health restrictions to collaborate, deliver, engage with community and celebrate successes, albeit in slightly different ways.

I'd like to thank Singapore for our continued collaboration on this joint development initiative, all the great people

across Defence, the local Traditional Owners, Defence's Project Manager/Contract Administrator Aurecon, Managing Contractors Laing O'Rourke (LOR) and CPB Contractors (CPB), and the subcontractors who have contributed to ASMTI's progress this year. Of course, I'd be remiss not to acknowledge the wonderful local community members who have shared their ideas and concerns to help shape the ASMTI.

Thank you to the many contributors to this 'end of year wrap up' edition of the newsletter. Make a cuppa and enjoy reading our reflections on what has been achieved this year.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy, well-earned break and a wonderful 2022! I look forward to further opportunities to meet with you face-to-face in the New Year, and sharing our continued progress via the next edition of the newsletter.



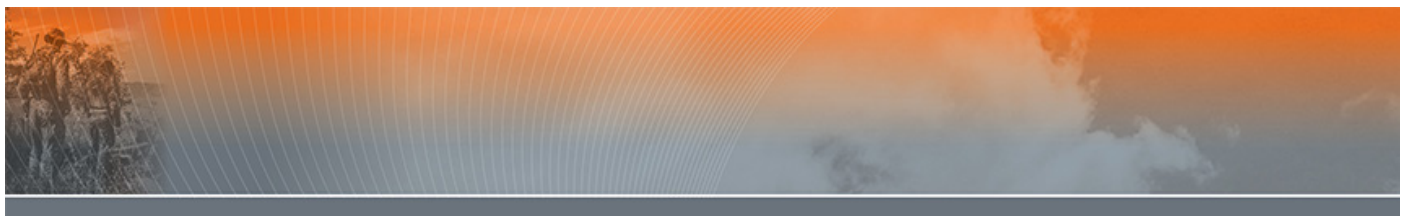
**Keep across all the latest
ASMTI news on our website.**

[https://defence.gov.au/initiatives/
asmti/News/Default.asp](https://defence.gov.au/initiatives/asmti/News/Default.asp)

Provide Feedback

Is the ASMTI newsletter useful for you and your business? Is there something you'd like us to include? We'd love to hear from you so we can make sure we're hitting the mark. Our survey will take less than 2 minutes to complete.

[Take the Survey](#)



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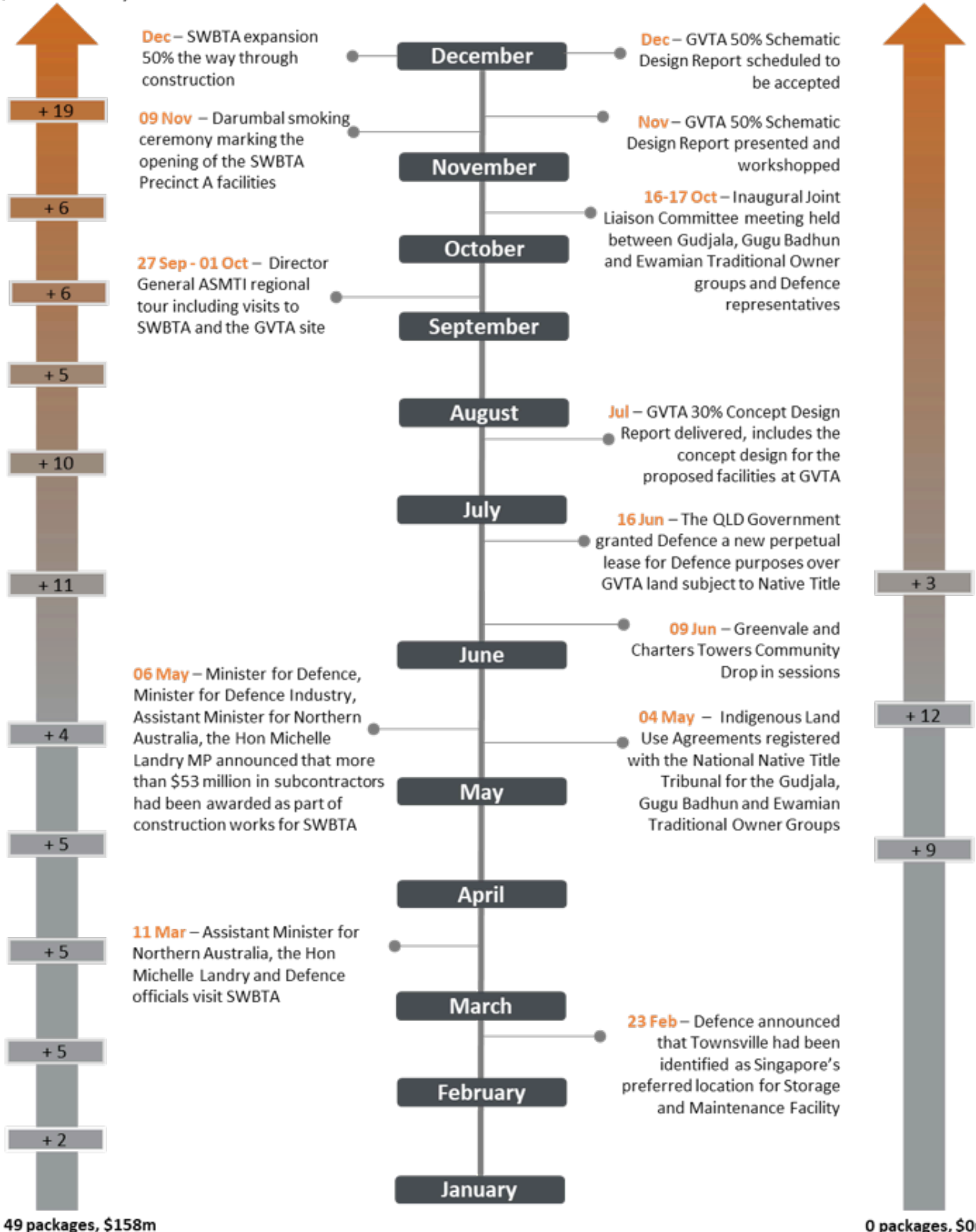
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Australia-Singapore Military Training Initiative

2021

SWBTA
Contract Awards
Total 127 packages
\$425m
(\$358.573m local)

GVTA Design
Contract Awards
Total 24 packages
\$14.7m
(\$13.895m local)



Laing O'Rourke Update

We wrap up 2021 with LOR having awarded a total of 127 work packages for design and construction work, worth in the order of \$425 million, since LOR's engagement in 2018. This represents 68% of the total expected 187 work packages.

With COVID-19 restrictions in place over much of the country this year, Central Queensland has been very fortunate to experience minimal restrictions in the region, enabling LOR to remain connected with the community and the industry throughout these tumultuous times.

LOR have hosted numerous industry briefings and participated in regular industry engagement activities including:

- Weekly catch-ups with industry groups such as Capricorn Enterprise, Advance Rockhampton and Master Builders.
- Monthly meetings with the 'Work in Central Queensland' and 'Shoalwater Bay Jobs' platforms – enabling us to keep an eye on potential skills shortages in the region.
- Monthly Industry Breakfasts hosted by 'Advance Rockhampton'.
- Bi-monthly information sessions hosted by Master Builders.
- Quarterly catch-ups with the Capricorn Enterprise Industry group.
- Quarterly workshops with the 'Construction Skills Queensland Major Project Fund' and other major projects involved with the fund.

LOR have sponsored and presented at several annual events including:

- Capricorn Enterprise Major Projects Forum
- Master Builders 2021 Awards Night
- Gladstone Engineering Alliance Supply Chain Expo

2021 has seen continued development of the relationship between LOR and the Traditional Owners of the SWBTA, the Darumbal people. In the past year, 90 LOR and subcontracting staff have undertaken cultural awareness

training, and up to 5,098 hectares of land was inspected for cultural heritage assessment across the SWBTA expansion area. 60 logs and 40 elbows of trees from the expansion site were provided to Darumbal to make artefacts.

LOR hosted a number of events during NAIDOC week (04 Jul to 11 Jul), including a breakfast at Mt Archer, Rockhampton. LOR also hosted an open day on site at SWBTA for Darumbal and LOR family members at which LOR representatives spoke about the importance of recognising the land on which they operate.

Read on to learn about the Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony recently held at SWBTA.



James Foreman, Laing O'Rourke Project Director, Capricorn Enterprise Forum



Dominique McGregor and Sara Davies, Gladstone Engineering Alliance Supply Chain Expo



Gloria Malone, Laing O'Rourke, speaking at the NAIDOC breakfast at Mt Archer, Rockhampton

LOR Fast Facts - 2021

-  • In the order of \$300m awarded
-  • In the order of \$180m worth of work performed over the year
-  • Over 80% local industry content, and growing
-  • 35km of fencing installed
-  • 199,615 litres of diesel fuel used to power work sites
-  • Clocked in over 500,000 working hours on the project

CPB Contractors Update

2021 has seen some exciting progress toward the establishment of GVTA. CPB awarded 24 work packages for site investigations and design services, valued in the order of \$14 million, since their engagement in 2020. In the order of 95% of the value of work packages have been awarded to businesses with operations in the North Queensland region. The design of the future GVTA is now approximately 50% complete, with site and geotechnical investigations also progressing well.

CPB spent much of the year travelling through North Queensland, meeting with interested local industry representatives to discuss future opportunities and to help inform the structuring of packages for major construction works (the delivery phase) of the project.

CPB has attended and/or presented at 47 industry engagements throughout the year, including the ASMTI public information sessions held at Greenvale and Charters Towers in March and June, Defence Hub Industry Breakfasts, Defence forums and 'Meet the Defence Contractor' sessions.

Before major construction works can commence in the development of a new greenfield Defence training area, site investigation activities are required to inform the siting and design of facilities. CPB continues to work with Traditional

Owners of the GVTA, Gudjala, Gugu Badhun and Ewamian for inspection services and design development related activities, and has engaged AECOM Australia Pty Ltd to undertake historical and heritage surveying of the site.



Simon Millard, ASMTI Local Industry and Capability Manager and Hannah Gander, CPB representative enjoyed a round of 'supplier speed dating' at a 'Meet the Defence Contractor' event in Townsville on 20 May 2021. Here they are with representatives from Clermont Crane Hire



Simon Millard, ASMTI Local Industry and Capability Manager and Kris Bitz, Project Director presenting to the Greenvale community in March



Simon Millard, ASMTI Local Industry and Capability Manager presenting at a Defence Hub Industry breakfast. Credit - Budd Photography

CPB Fast Facts - 2021

-  • \$14.7 million awarded for site investigations and design services at GVTA across 24 packages
-  • 95% packages awarded to business in the North Queensland region
-  • Design of the GVTA is now more than 50% progressed
-  • 47 industry engagements

Are you interested in upcoming work at GVTA?

Businesses are encouraged to register interest through Defence's existing request for Capability Statements.

[Capability Statements](#)

Opening of New Development at Shoalwater Bay Training Area

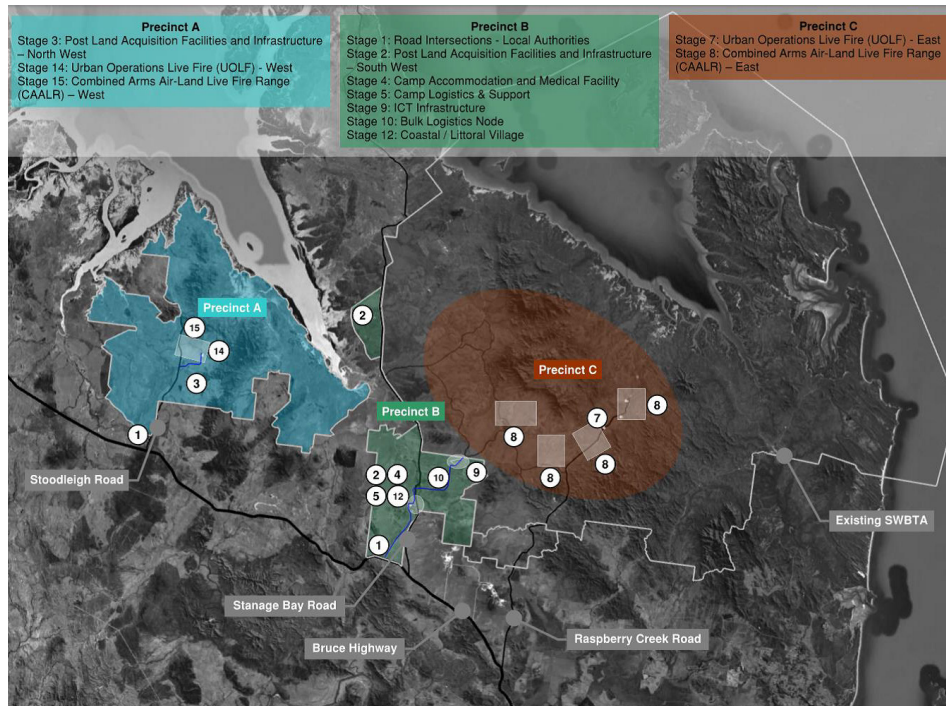
The ASMTI marked an important milestone on 09 November 21, with the opening of a new precinct at SWBTA.

‘Precinct A’ is one of many developments underway as part of the ASMTI expansion of the existing SWBTA in Central Queensland. The precinct includes the construction of an Urban Operations Live Fire (UOLF) facility. Simulating an urban environment, the UOLF contains ten buildings of varying shapes, three of which will support the use of the close target round when approved. Construction of an additional ‘After Action Review Building’ is underway, which will provide a space where training outcomes can be reviewed, assessed and debriefed immediately following a training activity. Precinct A will include a Combined Arms Air Land Range and associated Hardened Manoeuvre Corridors providing an area capable of supporting advanced live fire activities, as well as facilities including a vehicle wash point, ammunition transfer point and staging area.

The opening of Precinct A was marked with a traditional smoking ceremony led by Darumbal man, Wade Mann. Traditional Owners of the SWBTA, the Darumbal people, were also represented by Kristina Hatfield and the traditional Darumbal dance group. The event was attended by AIRCDRE Sandy Turner, Director General Force Posture Initiatives (DG FPI), Sean Hawkins, outgoing ASMTI Community Liaison representative and Clare Royal, GVTA Indigenous Liaison



AIRCDRE Sandy Turner, DG FPI (left) and SQNLDR Sally-Ann Knox, Staff Officer to DG FPI (right) participating in the Darumbal emu dance.



Map of Shoalwater Bay Training Area depicting the location of Precinct A.

Officer. Representatives from Defence’s Project Management / Contract Administration consultant Aurecon, Laing O’Rourke, SWBTA Managing Contractor and local subcontractors Mitcon Projects, Waanyi Shamrock United and RMS Engineering and Construction also participated in the event.

Major Dan Palmer, Acting Project Director, reflected on progress to date. “This is an exciting milestone in the expansion of the SWBTA. Works on the expansion commenced in September 2019 to prepare the area for development and are expected to be completed by mid-2024. Precinct A has been under construction since March 2021 and is scheduled for completion by September 2023. We acknowledge the efforts of LOR and their subcontractors in achieving this milestone”.

The smoking ceremony highlighted the enduring partnership between Defence and Darumbal Traditional Owners. An Indigenous Land Use Agreement was signed with the Darumbal people on 02 April 2019.

James Foreman, Project Director at LOR highlighted, “The Smoking Ceremony and Welcome to Country is an important part of how we go to work at Shoalwater Bay. Our relationship with Darumbal has always been valued and we respect this by keeping with the traditions required to be welcomed on country. LOR remain very conscious of keeping to the footprint of our project and respecting the land on which we are operating”.

“It is always wonderful to have Defence representatives such as AIRCDRE Sandy Turner in attendance at ceremonies such as these, demonstrating the strong collaboration between Traditional Owners, Defence and contractors”, James added.

Reflecting on 2021 achievements

“It was another great year living up to project commitments and really seeing these facilities take shape. All project areas are now activated and all areas have worked hard building momentum over the course of the year, especially against the backdrop of uncertainty of COVID-19.” – **James Foreman, Project Director for LOR at Shoalwater Bay**

“A significant success in the Native Title space at Shoalwater Bay over the last 12 months is the progress and development of the relationship between Darumbal and Laing O’Rourke. The effort put into developing this relationship has been acknowledged by Darumbal on a number of occasions, and Darumbal now use this as the example when talking to other Contractors.”
– **John Mageean, Indigenous Liaison Officer**

“It’s been a big first year at ASMTI Greenvale with design, geotechnical and site investigations now well progressed and strong relationships formed with the Greenvale and wider North Queensland community, Traditional Owners of the land, local councils, government and industry. We look forward to working with our client and industry partners in 2022.”
– **Kris Bitz, Project Director for CPB Contractors at ASMTI Greenvale.**

“2021 was challenging but we made good progress. 2022 is likely to be equally or perhaps more challenging but we will continue to make progress.” – **Colonel (COL) Kevin Packham, Director Implementation ASMTI**

“It has been a challenging and fulfilling 2021 for the ASMTI development, having to work on and progress the SWBTA construction, GVTA design and Storage and Maintenance Facility master-planning, amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. I am particularly proud and delighted to be working alongside dedicated and professional members from various parts of Defence and the local industry as an integrated team. It is to the special credit of this group of professionals that the ASMTI continued to stay on track and make good advances throughout the year, and I look forward to another productive year in 2022.” – **COL Eric Gooi, Deputy Head Australia Training Area Development Office, Singapore Armed Forces.**