



# Defence Assistance to the Civil Community

Assistance Classifications and Information



## Acknowledgement of Country

Defence acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands, seas and air in which we live, work and train. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present. We also pay our respects to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women who have contributed to the defence of Australia in times of peace and war.

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## Contacts

### Joint Operations Support Staff NSW:

joss.nsw@defence.gov.au

### Joint Operations Support Staff ACT:

joss.actsnsw@defence.gov.au

### Joint Operations Support Staff VIC:

joss.sv@defence.gov.au

### Joint Operations Support Staff TAS:

joss.tas@defence.gov.au

### Joint Operations Support Staff SA:

joss.sa@defence.gov.au

### Joint Operations Support Staff WA:

joss.wa@defence.gov.au

### Joint Operations Support Staff NT:

joss.nt@defence.gov.au

### Joint Operations Support Staff QLD:

joss.qld@defence.gov.au

### Australian Government National Situation Room:

1300 243 222 | [nsr@nema.gov.au](mailto:nsr@nema.gov.au)

### Additional information

[www.defence.gov.au/programs-initiatives/  
support-australian-community](http://www.defence.gov.au/programs-initiatives/support-australian-community)

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Australian Army personnel unload groceries on behalf of the Yungngora people who had recently returned to their homes in Noonkanbah following devastating floods.



A Royal Australian Navy sailor assists with flood recovery at Forbes, New South Wales as part of Operation Flood Assist 22-2.

# Defence Assistance to the Civil Community

Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC) provides the means through which Defence can assist non-Defence organisations or agencies to deliver support at a time when their own resources are not sufficient, have been overwhelmed or there is a mutually beneficial outcome for Defence in providing assistance.

Whether assisting emergency service agencies to respond to natural disasters, emergencies or aiding local communities, the DACC arrangements exist to guide the requirements of providing Defence support outside the core business of military operations to defend Australia.

In the emergency support context, State and Territory governments are primarily responsible for the protection of life, property and the environment, and for coordinating and planning responses or recovery actions in disaster-affected areas within their jurisdictions.

In times of crisis or large-scale disaster, Defence has assisted the Australian civilian community when in need, to save human life, alleviate human suffering or prevent loss or damage to property.

The diverse demands of our strategic environment require Defence capabilities to respond to the Australian Government's requirements to defend Australia and support domestic essential community support requirements.

The provision of DACC is based on a number of factors. Deliberate consideration is required to ensure Defence resources are used to deliver the core business of Defence.

Before DACC is provided, assistance is to be requested, agreed to, and approval notified in accordance with the procedures defined in the DACC Manual. The DACC manual is available on the Department of Defence website or from Joint Operations Support Staff (JOSS).

The decision to provide DACC support and commit Defence assets will depend on each circumstance and in full consideration of prevailing operational, fiscal and policy conditions.

DACC support is normally short-term in nature, provided on a non-enduring basis and does not grant any rights to the organisation or individual receiving assistance.

Private Nathan Mills from Team Army with Ghost Robotics Scouting Unit known as 'Cougar' at the 2022 Valo Adelaide 500 Supercars event.





An Australian Army soldier assists volunteers by sorting essential supplies donated for flood-affected community members at a distribution centre in Lismore, New South Wales during Operation Flood Assist 22.



# DACC Classifications

DACC is divided into two classes, emergency and non-emergency, and comprises six categories as follows:

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## Emergency assistance:

### **Category 1 (DACC 1)**

Local emergency assistance

### **Category 2 (DACC 2)**

Significant crisis response or relief assistance

### **Category 3 (DACC 3)**

Significant recovery assistance

## Non-emergency assistance:

### **Category 4 (DACC 4)**

Local non-emergency assistance of a minor nature

### **Category 5 (DACC 5)**

Significant non-emergency assistance

### **Category 6 (DACC 6)**

Support to law enforcement







State Emergency Service and Royal Australian Navy and Australian Army personnel conduct sandbagging at the Mount Druitt State Emergency Service depot to assist in the flood response efforts in New South Wales.

## Emergency Assistance

Requests for local, time sensitive emergency Defence assistance where life is threatened, can be made directly to a local Australian Defence Force (ADF) commander, who has the authority to provide support within their resources for a short timeframe.

For larger scale or longer term emergency Defence assistance, a formal request for Australian Government non-financial assistance (RFA) is to be made by authorised state and territory officials to National Emergency Management Australia (NEMA).

The regional Joint Operations Support Staff (JOSS) office can assist in this process.

Defence will seek to coordinate any response to a state or territory government entity request for assistance as part of a whole of government approach.

As such, when the Australian Government Disaster Response Plan (COMDISPLAN) is active, all requests related to that COMDISPLAN are to be coordinated through NEMA.

South Australia Country Fire Service personnel board a Royal Australian Air Force C-27J Spartan transport aircraft to return home to Mount Gambier from Kangaroo Island, South Australia.



# DACC 1

## Local Emergency Assistance



Australian Army soldiers hand out a flood warning sheet to a resident in Hillston, New South Wales during Operation Flood Assist 22-2.

Defence emergency assistance provided to authorities at a local level where deliberate and decisive action is necessary to save human life, alleviate suffering, prevent extensive loss of animal life or prevent widespread loss and damage to property; where local civilian resources are inadequate, unavailable or cannot be mobilised in time.

DACC 1 support is provided from within the resources of a local Defence unit or base, or the resources already assigned to an established Joint Task Force.

DACC 1 tasks are short term in nature (generally no more than 48 hours). Examples of support that may be provided under DACC 1 include:

- » assistance with sandbagging during a crisis
- » door knocking for evacuations
- » provision of temporary accommodation including access to Defence facilities and tents
- » transportation to evacuate civilians from crisis
- » transportation of emergency service

- personnel into and out of crisis areas
- » transit support to firefighting aircraft whilst they are conducting firefighting operations
- » assistance in the search of missing persons
- » aero-medical evacuation of civilians.

The requesting organisation is to submit a DACC request to a local Base Commander or a Unit Commander and is to detail the nature of assistance required and resources needed. The nearest JOSS office can assist in this process.

Within Defence, DACC 1 activities are coordinated by the approving authority in consultation with the regional JOSS and with civilian authorities at the incident site.

# DACC 2

## Significant crisis response or relief assistance

Defence Assistance to the Civil Community Category 2 (DACC 2) refers to requests for significant emergency non-financial assistance.

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DACC 2 support is beyond the assistance that can be provided under DACC 1 due to the location, scale, complexity or expected duration of the request.

DACC 2 assistance is aligned to the scope of response and/or relief activity as defined in the Australian Government's National Disaster Management and Recovery Continuum. A COMDISPLAN must be activated for DACC 2 to apply.

An emergency may arise from an extensive or continuing natural or technological disaster, where the civil emergency authorities request additional capacity or specialist niche capability that Defence may be able to provide.

By its nature, a DACC 2 task will require significant command and control, liaison officer engagement and personnel and materiel capability. At all times, Defence is in support of civilian emergency authorities.

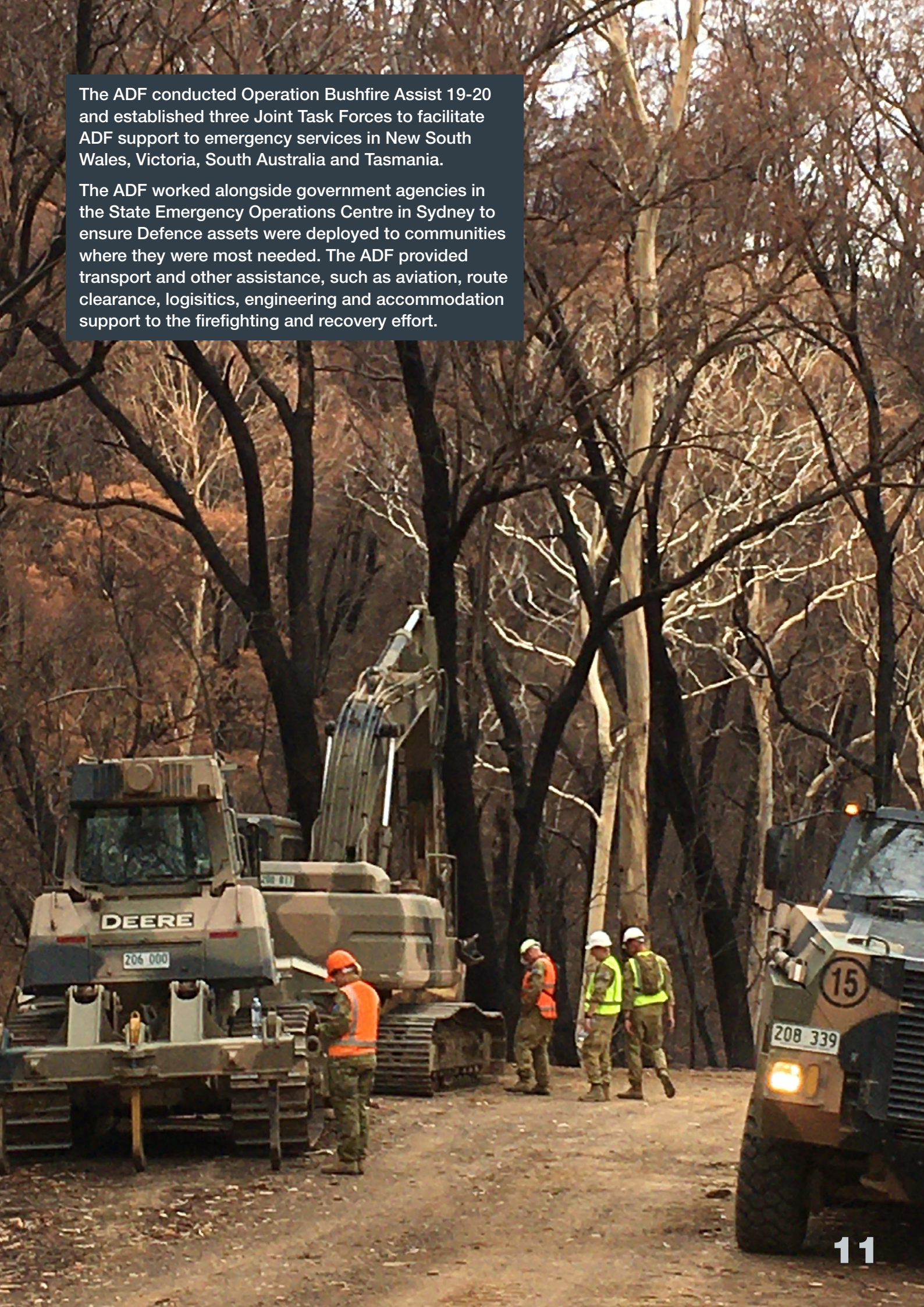
Once an affected jurisdiction (local, state or territory) determines that due to the nature, magnitude or duration of an event, their total resources (government and commercial), cannot reasonably cope with the needs of the crisis, the jurisdiction may advise the NEMA via the National Situation Room (NSR) of its intention to seek Australian Government non-financial assistance.

The Deputy Coordinator-General Emergency Management and Response (Deputy CG EMR) NEMA is responsible for activating COMDISPLAN where an event/disaster is imminent, or has occurred.

Following receipt of Ministerial approval (Minister for Emergency Management) for the provision of Australian Government non-financial assistance for a particular disaster, the Deputy CG EMR is authorised to request Defence to undertake the task.

The ADF conducted Operation Bushfire Assist 19-20 and established three Joint Task Forces to facilitate ADF support to emergency services in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania.

The ADF worked alongside government agencies in the State Emergency Operations Centre in Sydney to ensure Defence assets were deployed to communities where they were most needed. The ADF provided transport and other assistance, such as aviation, route clearance, logistics, engineering and accommodation support to the firefighting and recovery effort.



# DACC 3

## Significant recovery assistance

Defence Assistance to the Civil Community Category 3 (DACC 3) is assistance associated with recovery from a civil emergency or disaster, where the imminent threat to life and or property has passed.

Provision of this level of support involves longer term significant recovery support, such as reconstruction of the physical infrastructure and the restoration of emotional, social, economic and physical wellbeing. Duration of assistance shall depend on the nature and scope of recovery effort and available resources.

DACC 3 assistance is aligned in scope to recovery activity as defined in the Australian Government's National Disaster Management

and Recovery Continuum, and does not include reconstruction or risk reduction support.

A COMDISPLAN must be activated for DACC 3 to apply.

Examples of DACC 3 support include: provision of temporary or permanent bridging, shelter and power supplies, temporary restoration of roads, fencing and infrastructure, clean up of destroyed materials; and pollution clean-up.

An Australian Army plumber works alongside Lismore City Council workers repairing the Nimbin water pipeline in northern New South Wales during Operation Flood Assist 22.



# High Risk Weather Season Preparations

During times of crisis, unique Defence capabilities may be critical contributors to Australian Government coordinated assistance to States and Territories. Defence increases posture to support hazard responses during the annual High Risk Weather Season (01 October – 30 April).



Personnel prepare animal feed before it is delivered to Yeeda Station by an Australian Army MRH-90 Taipan as part of Operation Flood Assist 23-1.

Preparations for the HRWS ensure Defence is suitably postured to support the whole of government response to natural disasters and emergencies.

Early engagement by States and Territories with Defence is crucial to maintaining alignment with the Australian Government Crisis Management Framework and a continuous understanding between key stakeholders on the provisions of DACC.

Defence will engage with and support NEMA in their HRWS Preparedness Program. This program is a series of activities conducted around Australia with federal, state and territory emergency management authorities.

These engagements ensure an ongoing understanding of the civil operating environment, State/Territory responsibilities, authorities, interdependencies, interoperability as well as their potential operational hazards, risks and challenges. These activities enable an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the various Defence entities, as well as allowing for an understanding of Defence capabilities which will likely be available during the HRWS.

The relevant regional JOSS will represent Defence at standing emergency management committees at State/Territory level and at regional level. This will complement Commonwealth representation by NEMA, usually by the Regional Planning Officer (RPO). When a task force/group has been established for a domestic operation, the task force/group may also send liaison officers in coordination with the JOSS.

Defence representation at any standing local emergency management committees (where appropriate) will usually be provided by a local Base Commander or a local unit Commanding Officer.







# Community Engagement Non-emergency Assistance

The scale and diversity of community engagement activities by Defence is wide and varied, ranging from individual attendances at local activities to significant capability demonstrations at major sporting events.

Community Engagement activities allow Defence to connect with the Australian community, thereby strengthening our relationship with the Australian people and ensuring Defence is trusted 'to defend Australia and its national interests in order to advance Australia's security and prosperity.'

Community engagement is provided in accordance with the procedures defined in the DACC Manual. The DACC manual is available on the Department of Defence website or from the regional JOSS.

Defence will only commit resources after considering prevailing operational, fiscal, and policy conditions to support activities that complement Defence's values, standards, priorities and goals.

Community engagement events must not be reliant on Defence to be successful. The civilian organisation must be deemed able to manage the event successfully.

HMAS Hobart's Ship's Company stands on the upper decks as the ship sails into her namesake city for the 183rd Royal Hobart Regatta.

## DACC 4

# Local non-emergency assistance of a minor nature



The Royal Australia Navy Band's Western Australian detachment perform at Diwali Mela - The Festival of India, at Claremont Showgrounds in Perth, Western Australia.

Defence Assistance to the Civil Community Category 4 (DACC 4) is short term non-emergency assistance of a minor nature provided to local organisations.

DACC 4 support may include requests for access to Defence facilities or requests for Defence representation, assistance or capability displays at local events such as school fetes or activities, regional shows, community group events, local Veterans organisations or charity groups.

DACC 4 assistance can be provided from within the resources and authority of a local Base Commander or Unit Commander.

DACC 4 requests are to be initiated by the requesting organisation via the regional JOSS. The request should be in writing using the format provided on the DACC Request Form template (Webform AF095), which is available from the JOSS.

Requests for DACC 4 assistance would normally be coordinated with the requesting organisation through the JOSS in consultation with the approving authority including, the local Base Commander or Unit Commander.

# DACC 5

## Significant non-emergency assistance

Defence Assistance to the Civil Community Category 5 (DACC 5) is significant non-emergency assistance provided by Defence. DACC 4 events that exceed the ability of the local Base Commander or Unit Commander to provide may be classified as DACC 5 activities.

Examples of DACC 5 support include:

- » The provision of specialist skillsets such as, planning support officers, logisticians, medical and transport movement specialists.
- » The provision of strategic lift to Australian Government agencies to transport items and personnel that cannot be moved by commercial means.
- » Disposal of dangerous materials, other than explosive devices.
- » Support to significant events that are best

categorised as public affairs opportunities or community engagement activities such as major community events or events organised by commercial enterprises, charitable or not-for profit organisations or individuals.

DACC 5 requests are to be submitted by the requesting organisation to the regional JOSS using the format provided on the DACC Request Form template (Webform AF095), which is available from the JOSS.



A C-27J Spartan battlefield air lifter from No. 35 Squadron on display at Lifeline's Soar, Ride and Shine event held at Bathurst Airport.

# High Profile Public Events

Where Defence is requested to support certain large-scale events or activities where significant public exposure is likely, Defence may designate these a High Profile Public Event (HPPE).

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HPPE may include major sporting events, major motor racing events, large air shows, expositions, festivals, and agricultural shows.

The key focus of Defence's involvement in HPPE is to strengthen the links between the ADF and the community it serves, enhance the reputation of Defence and Defence industry, and maximise the appeal of Defence as an employer of choice to diverse groups across Australian society.

The HPPE Program is a consolidated schedule of high profile DACC 5 events that is submitted bi-annually for approval in May (for events between 1 July and 31 December of that calendar year) and October (for events between 1 January and 30 June of the following year).

## **Short notice requests**

Significant public events that arise at short-notice (after the 1 March or 31 July deadlines) may still be considered as stand-alone DACC 5 support.

The relevant JOSS is responsible for facilitating HPPE (and other DACC 5) requests and relaying approved tasks to the event organiser.



The RAAF Roulettes PC-21 aircraft during the first public display at RAAF Base Point Cook, Victoria.

# DACC 6

## Support to law enforcement



Indigenous Liaison officer, Barry Fisher (right) working with members of the Australian Army and Queensland Police at a Police Check Point in Queensland during Operation COVID-19 Assist

Defence Assistance to the Civil Community Category 6 (DACC 6) is law enforcement assistance to civil authorities in the performance of law enforcement related support. DACC 6 is only used where there is no likelihood that Defence personnel will be required to use, or potentially use, force (including intrusive or coercive acts).

Defence assistance to domestic Australian law enforcement agencies that may involve the use of force (including the exercise of coercive or intrusive powers) by Defence members is not DACC and will be provided as Defence Force Aid to the Civil Authority.

DACC 6 assistance includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- » Non-emergency explosive ordnance disposal relating to commercial explosives and chemicals
- » Assistance in post-blast analysis.
- » Searches for hidden materials (including the use of Defence members' equipment and/or dogs).
- » Provision of communications and

control facilities.

- » Provision of interpreters, translators and/or linguists.
- » Transportation.
- » Administrative support.
- » Use of Defence facilities and services in order to support the conduct of law enforcement operations.
- » Provision of ADF training to law enforcement agencies

All DACC 6 requests are to be initiated by the law enforcement agency to the 'regional JOSS using the format provided on the DACC Request Force template (Webform AF095), which is available from the JOSS.

# DACC Financial Arrangements

Defence's purpose and mission is to defend Australia and its national interests in order to advance Australia's security and prosperity. Defence has finite resources to achieve this aim. The reallocation or repurposing of Defence resources to other efforts must be justified.

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Justifiable circumstances for non-emergency assistance may include support with significant public affairs, recruiting or training value to Defence or support that is one-off in nature involving only a minor cost.

In the emergency support context, State and Territory governments are primarily responsible for the protection of life, property and the environment, and for coordinating and planning responses or recovery actions in disaster-affected areas within their jurisdictions.

NEMA coordinates Australian Government physical assistance (including any Defence support) when the States and/or Territories request significant emergency support.

When emergency support from the Australian Government becomes necessary, Defence will coordinate any financial requirements with relevant authorities and NEMA.

The rationale to recommend a cost waiver must be documented and provided to the Approving

Authority prior to the decision being made. Financial costs are to be captured and recorded, regardless of any decision to recover or waive associated costs.

## **DACC 1 and 2 - Emergency Assistance**

No cost recovery, unless the requestor agrees to pay costs prior to the provision of Defence support.

## **DACC 3 - Emergency Assistance**

Cost recovery will be sought unless a cost recovery waiver (decision not to charge) is approved.

## **DACC 4 - Non-emergency Assistance**

No cost recovery if the net additional cost is minor. If the amount exceeds a minor cost, then support should be categorised as DACC 5.

## **DACC 5 and 6 - Non-emergency Assistance**

Cost recovery will be sought, unless a cost recovery waiver (decision not to charge) is approved.





The Royal Australian Air Force delighted racegoers and fans at the Formula 1 2018 Australian Grand Prix with a number of flying displays.





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advance Australia's security and prosperity  
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