

# Australian Defence Force



## OVERVIEW

Townsville is regarded as Australia's largest garrison city, with the Australian Defence Force a pivotal component of the Townsville economy. Townsville hosts four major defence establishments:

1. Lavarack Barracks
2. RAAF Base Townsville
3. Townsville Field Training Area
4. Port of Townsville's Berth 10 (designed for the Royal Australian Navy)

Townsville's safety sector is the fourth largest industry, contributing \$1,662.6M or 18% to the 2014/2015 Gross Regional Product of the region. This sector has experienced growth of 12.8%, largely due to the relocation of key battalions to Lavarack Barracks, including the 3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment from Sydney in 2012 and the 2nd Cavalry Regiment from Darwin in 2014. \*  
**Source AEC.**

The region is home to over 15,000 defence force personnel and their dependents, accounting for approximately 8% of Townsville's population (Townsville City Council, Townsville Enterprise Limited and Townsville Chamber of Commerce, 2011). The majority of the defence force personnel are between the ages of 20-30.



## OUTLOOK

A number of crucial reports were released in 2016 which provided a positive outlook for Townsville's continuing importance as a centre for defence capability.

### The Australian Government's Defence White Paper (2016)

This white paper identified that further investment in national defence infrastructure is necessary to support new response capabilities to counter potential security threats to Australia. In response, the Federal Government announced an increase in defence spending, with funding to rise to 2 per cent of GDP by 2020-2021. \$170 million dollar funding is allocated over the course of the next decade to upgrade facilities at Lavarack Barracks and RAAF Base Townsville in support of new land combat and amphibious warfare capabilities.

\*Source: <http://www.defence.gov.au/whitepaper/docs/2016-defence-white-paper.pdf>

### Townsville City Deal (2016)

This is the first City Deal in Australia and it involves a commitment from all three levels of government to sustain Townsville as a Defence Hub. It is designed to strengthen engagement between the Department of Defence, Defence Industries Queensland and Townsville City Council and to encourage investment and local business involvement.

Major activities over the next decade provide opportunities to build local defence industry capability and expertise. These include: Australian and Singaporean investments into training area facilities; a Townsville logistics hub; continued investment by Defence in Australia's northern military bases, including RAAF Base Townsville; and a pipeline of projects including capital facilities for the F35A Joint Strike Fighter and P-8a Poseidon Maritime and Response.

\*Source: <https://cities.dpmc.gov.au/townsville-city-deal>



## Singapore Deal Memorandum of Understanding (2016)

On 6 May 2016, Australia and Singapore signed a 25 year Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen cooperation and open access for annual military training. Under the initiative, up to 14,000 personnel will conduct training in Australia for up to 18 weeks per year – significantly increasing current personnel numbers. Up to AUD 2.25 billion will be invested in the Townsville and Rockhampton regions from 2016 to 2026. This investment will focus on military training facilities of Shoalwater Bay in Central Queensland and the Townsville Field Training Area.

INDICATIVE DATE	MILESTONE
Jan 2017	Commencement of Socio-Economic Impact Assessment
Feb/March 2017	Outcomes of master planning process
2017	Business case (including land acquisition strategy) presented for Government approval
2017	Commencement of negotiated land acquisition
2019	Anticipate commencement of construction of capital facilities
2020/2021	Anticipate significantly increased Singapore Armed Forces presence
2026	Anticipate completion of capital facilities construction

\*Source: <http://www.defence.gov.au/Initiatives/SingaporeTraining>

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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## OPPORTUNITIES

There are significant opportunities for early local business engagement in the pipeline of Defence projects including:

- F-35A Joint Strike Fighter capital facilities project (from 2016–2016)
- P8A Poseidon maritime and response capital facilities project (from 2016–2016)
- The development of the Townsville Field Training Area under the Australia–Singapore Comprehensive Strategic Partnership
- Redevelopment of RAAF Base Townsville

These opportunities for local industry will promote greater jobs growth, job skilling and support to local business.



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