

Defence Bases in Australia

What impacts do they have on their local communities?

Defence is one of the largest employers in Australia, and holds a massive amount of property and equipment.

Over 70% of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) operates in regional Australia.

The Defence 'footprint' — its impacts on the local area — is evident through employment, industry, research and development, the environment, community involvement and services, childcare facilities, housing, heritage issues, Indigenous affairs and economic activity.

But what are its specific impacts in a local community?

In this unit you will be able to explore a number of case studies of defence activities in local communities and determine these impacts for yourself.



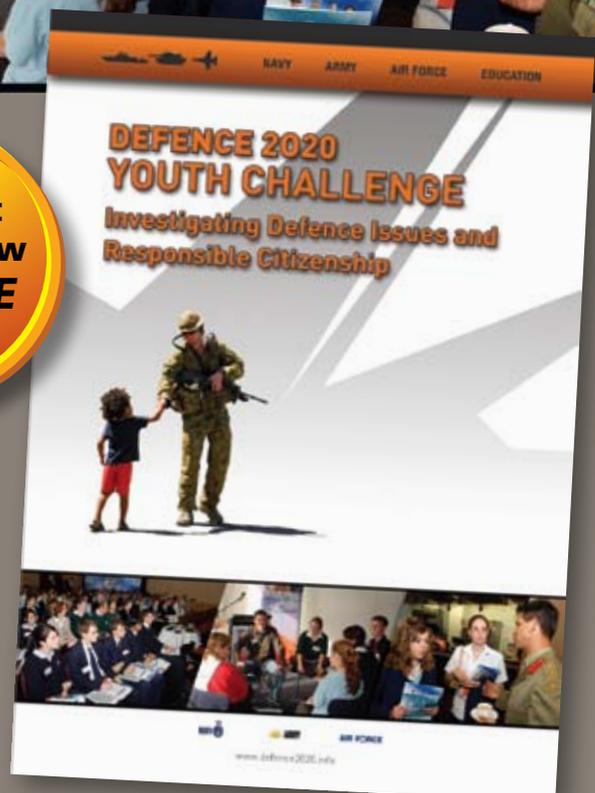
Look out for the new **DEFENCE 2020**

In 2003 the education resource *Defence 2020: Protecting Australia's People and Place* was sent to all schools in Australia.

The program included a book of classroom-ready units, an interactive CD-ROM, STUDIES articles and a Youth Challenge series, and a website.

2008 sees stage 2 of this program commence, with a **Civics and Citizenship emphasis** (*Is the Defence Force a Responsible Citizen?*) that can be used in a variety of curriculum areas.

See page 95 for details of the program, and the 2008 Youth Challenges and Participation Task.



ACTIVITY 1: Thinking about Defence Bases

1 How many major Defence Force Bases or establishments do you think there are in Australia?

- 10-20
 20-30
 30-40
 40-50
 50-60
 60-70
 70-80
 80-9
 90-100
 100+

You will be able to work out the answer after you have completed this unit.

2 Each of the three Defence Services — Navy, Army and Air Force — has a different role, and therefore has different needs. Here are some of the different types of Defence Bases that exist. Suggest where you would expect to find these types of Bases, and the reasons why you would find them there:

DEFENCE BASE EMPHASIS	WHERE LIKELY TO BE FOUND	WHY LIKELY TO BE FOUND THERE
SUBMARINES		
PATROL BOATS		
JUNGLE WARFARE TRAINING		
DESERT WARFARE TRAINING		
AIR COMBAT AIRCRAFT		
ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING		
NAVAL TRAINING		
AIR LIFT AIRCRAFT		
HELICOPTERS		
ARMY RECRUIT TRAINING		
TANKS		
ARTILLERY		
LIVE FIRING EXERCISES		

ACTIVITY 2: Where are the Bases in Australia?

Below is a list of major Defence Bases in Australia, with a brief description of their main function.

- 1** Working in groups, with one group per state or territory, mark the Bases on a state/territory map. Provide a legend that identifies each as a Navy, Army, Air Force or Joint Services (that is, combined Navy, Army and Air Force) Base.
- 2** Describe the pattern for your state/territory, and suggest reasons to explain this pattern.
- 3** Place the maps together and repeat question 2 for all Australia.

Use the scale maps of the states and territories of Australia on pages 87-90.

Defence Bases in Australia

Multi-service/Non-service specific/Training areas

S/T	NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
ACT	Defence HQ	Canberra	Administrative & Operational Command centre of the Australian Defence Force. Headquarters for each of the Service Chiefs.
	Australian Defence Force Academy	Canberra	Undergraduate and graduate university education institution for future military leaders of the three Services.
	Australian Defence College	Weston Creek	Education of leading military officers and officials in Command, Leadership and Management, Strategic and Australian Defence Studies.
NT	Jindalee	Alice Springs	Base for Over-the Horizon radar network used in the defence of Australia.
	Pine Gap	Alice Springs	Satellite tracking station jointly operated by Australian and US Forces. Joint Defence Space Research Facility.
WA	Curtin Base	Derby	One of three bare bases able to be brought into use by the Services during crises.
	Learmonth Base	Learmonth	One of three bare bases able to be brought into use by the Services during crises.
	US Facility	Geraldton	U.S. Satellite communications base, also occupied by Australian Signals organisations.
QLD	Kokoda Barracks	Canungra	Defence Intelligence Training Centre and Jungle Warfare Training Centre.
	Training Area	Shoalwater Bay	Large land and sea area used for military training exercises.
	Scherger Base	Weipa	One of three bare bases able to be brought into use by the Services during crises.
NSW	Defence Establishment Orchard Hills	Orchard Hills	Defence Explosive Ordnance Training School.
	Australian Defence Force Basic Flying Training School	Tamworth	Responsible for all pilot basic training in the ADF.
VIC	Victoria Barracks	Melbourne	Home for elements of Joint Logistics Command and Defence Services Group.

Navy

S/T	NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
ACT	HMAS <i>Harman</i>	Canberra	Provides administrative and logistic support for Naval personnel in the Canberra region. Supports the ADF tactical, operational and strategic communications.
	HMAS <i>Creswell</i>	Jervis Bay	Navy College for officer training, and for some general naval training in survivability, ships safety and naval gunnery.
NSW	Fleet Base East	Garden Island	Main major naval base for the east coast of Australia.
	HMAS <i>Waterhen</i>	Sydney	Base for Navy mine warfare and Clearance Diving operation.
	HMAS <i>Watson</i>	Sydney	Navy's primary maritime warfare training establishment.
	HMAS <i>Kuttabul</i>	Sydney	Establishment is vital to Navy's shore based capability. Exists to develop, maintain and sustain the logistics and services to support operational capacity.
	HMAS <i>Penguin</i>	Sydney	Land based training facility for specialised works for all areas of the Navy, such as diving, hydrography and medical training. Navy's main medical facility.
	Australian Hydrographic Office HMAS <i>Albatross</i>	Wollongong Nowra	Produces and maintains navigational charts and associated products. Supports the Naval Air Squadron that provides helicopter support for the Fleet.
NT	HMAS <i>Coonawarra</i>	Darwin	Home to 12 fleet units of the Navy – a modern naval base in our forward defence zone. Host for many Australian and visiting foreign naval exercises.
QLD	NHQ South Queensland	Brisbane	Headquarters for all naval activity south of the Tropic of Capricorn (near Rockhampton).
	HMAS <i>Cairns</i>	Cairns	Patrol Boat Base for area covering Rockhampton to Thursday Is. Base of Hydrographic Fleet. Provides support for neighbouring Pacific Islands Patrol Boats.
VIC	HMAS <i>Cerberus</i>	Crib Point	Navy training base for recruits, and some specialised training for all Services.
WA	HMAS <i>Stirling</i>	Perth	Administrative Headquarters for Fleet Base West including base for Frigates and Collins Class Submarines.
	Naval Communication Base Harold E Holt	Exmouth	Radio transmission base (VLF) to Navy and US Navy for the West Pacific Ocean and Indian Ocean.
SA	NHQ South Australia	Adelaide	Administration support to naval personnel working in South Australia.
TAS	NHQ Tasmania	Hobart	Administration support to naval personnel working in Tasmania.

Army

S/T	NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
ACT	RMC Duntroon	Canberra	Military Academy to train staff cadets to be commissioned officers in the Australian Army.
NSW	Gaza Ridge and Wadsworth Barracks	Bandiana	Defence Support Logistics and Army Logistic Training Centre.
	Army Recruit Training Centre	Kapooka	Main Training Base for new enlistments in the Australian Army.
	Holsworthy Barracks	Holsworthy	Home to Headquarters 5 Brigade, Signals and Infantry Regiments, Aviation Squadron, 1 st Health Battalion, and NSW Reserves.
	Steele Barracks	Moorebank	Home for the Royal Military Engineers and Military Engineers' Museum.
	Randwick Barracks	Sydney	Headquarters of the 2nd Division.
	Victoria Barracks	Sydney	Houses the Headquarters Land Command and Headquarters Training Command.
	Lone Pine Barracks	Singleton	Home to the School of Infantry.
NT	Timor Barracks	Sydney	Home to Headquarters 8 Brigade and 8th Command Support Regiment.
	Larrakeyah Barracks	Darwin	Army barracks that also houses naval personnel at HMAS <i>Coonawarra</i> Naval Base.
TAS	Robertson Barracks	Palmerston	Major Army Base including the 1st Brigade, 1st Aviation Regiment and helicopter airfield.
	Anglesea Barracks	Hobart	Oldest barracks still in use. Now used for various civilian and military departments.
QLD	Paterson Barracks	Launceston	Home to 16th Field Battery – the oldest artillery unit, Army and Air Force Cadets and 10th Health Company.
	51 Far North Queensland Regiment	Cairns	An elite regiment with a heritage dating from WWI. Main role Regional Force Surveillance Unit.
	Army Aviation Centre	Oakey	Training establishment for Australian Army Aviation Corps as well as host Base for visiting Singapore Armed Forces.
	Borneo Barracks	Cabarlah	Houses Army's deployable electronic warfare unit, 7th Signal Regiment and Defence Force School of Signals.
	Gallipoli Barracks	Brisbane	One of the largest barracks housing the 1st Division, the 6th Battalion and previously the Deployable Joint Force headquarters.
	Jezzine Barracks	Townsville	Headquarters 11 Brigade Command's three Reserve Battalions plus supporting units.
	Lavarack Barracks	Townsville	Major Australian Army base. Home to 3rd Brigade.
VIC	Victoria Barracks	Brisbane	Military museum housing collection of Queensland military history.
	Passchendaele Barracks	Bendigo	Historic drill hall once housed 38th Battalion. A new Multi User Depot now houses Transport, Support, Reserves, and Navy, Army and Air Force Cadet units.
	Puckapunyal Base	Puckapunyal	Home to Combined Arms Training Centre, Land Warfare Development Centre, three of the principal Combat Arms schools, Transport training, Army Cadets and a tank museum.
	Simpson Barracks	Watsonia	Home to Defence Force School of Signals, Financial Services, Land Warfare Centre and Defence School of Music.
WA	Latchford Barracks	Bonegilla	Australian Army Training Centre.
	Leeuwin Barracks	Fremantle	Main Army Reserve training facility that also houses Australian Army and Air Force Cadet Units.
SA	Campbell Barracks	Perth	Home of the Australian Special Air Service Regiment.
	Karrakatta Barracks	Perth	Major Army Reserve Base for Headquarters 13 Brigade and units.
	Keswick Barracks	Adelaide	Accommodates a range of Defence units including Army Reserve Headquarters 9th Brigade, Navy Headquarters South Australia and some Cadet units.
SA	Warradale Barracks	Adelaide	Home to some Army Reserve units and the Army Reserve Band – Australian Army Band Adelaide.
	Woodside Barracks	Adelaide	Home to 16th Air Defence Regiment, Army Cadets and Defence contractors.

Air Force

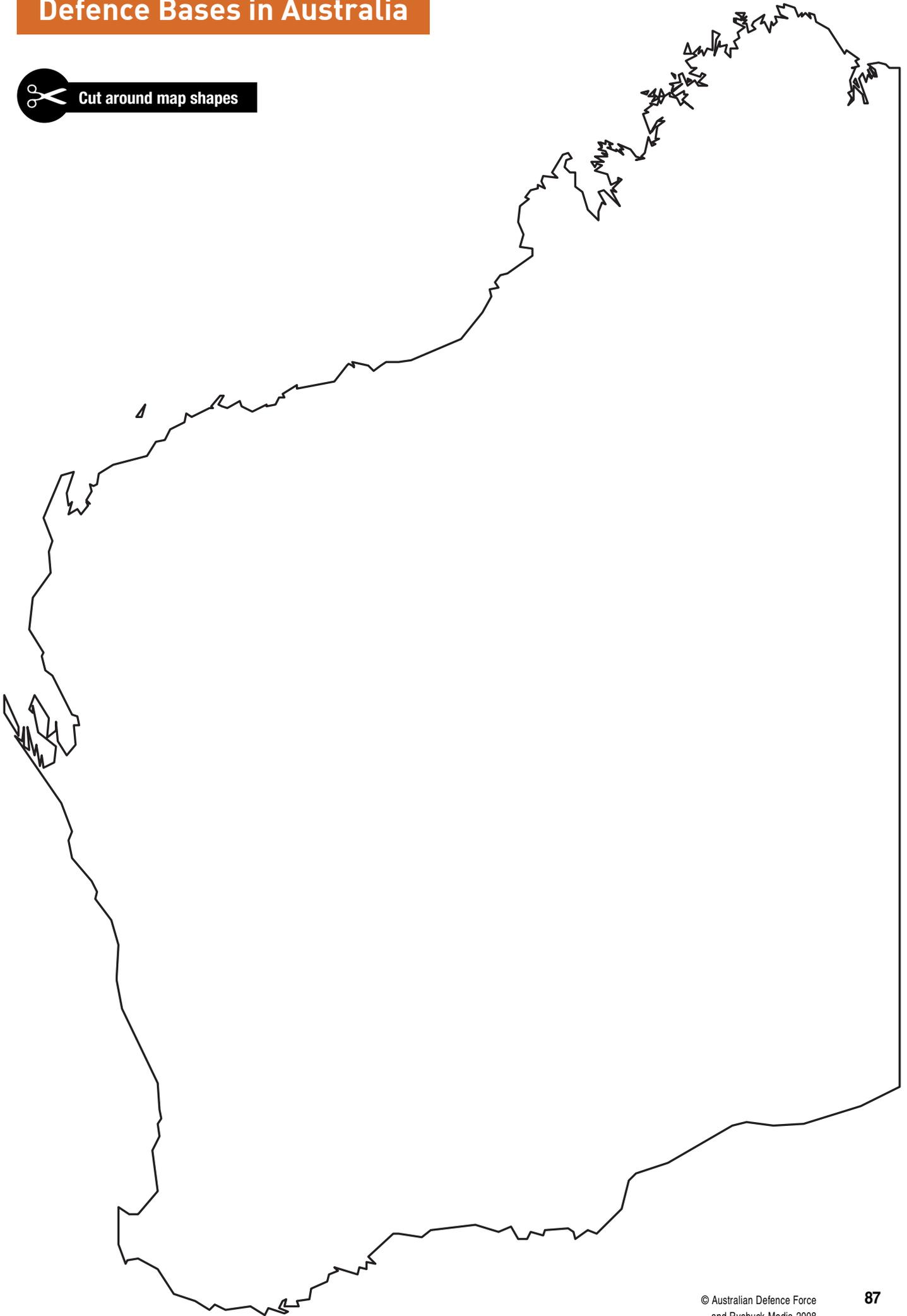
S/T	NAME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
NSW	RAAF Air Command	Glenbrook	Headquarters of Air Command of the Air Force.
	RAAF Base	Richmond	Transport aircraft Base.
	RAAF Base	Wagga	RAAF College – Training Base for Air Force recruits, technical trade training, administration and logistics courses for officers, and postgraduate courses in leadership and professional development.
	RAAF Base	Williamstown	Home to Headquarters Air Combat Group and Surveillance and Response Group.
NT	RAAF Base	Darwin	One of four main forward operating Air Force Bases.
	RAAF Base	Tindal — near Katherine	One of four forward operating Air Force Bases.
QLD	RAAF Base	Amberley — near Ipswich	Air Force's largest base and home to the C-17 heavy airlifter aeroplanes, as well as air combat aircraft and significant training units including Security and Fire School.
	RAAF Base	Townsville	A primary northern defence installation that includes airlift aircraft.
SA	RAAF Base	Edinburgh	Home to maritime patrol aircraft and Aerospace Operational Support Group.
	RAAF	Woomera	National and international aerospace and weapons testing Base — the largest land-based range in the world.
VIC	RAAF Williams	Laverton Point Cook	Air Force Training Group Headquarters and all administration functions for the two establishments – Laverton and Point Cook. Includes ADF School of Languages, Defence International Training Centre, an Air Force Reserve Squadron and RAAF Museum.
	RAAF Base	East Sale	One of the main Air Force training Bases. Home of the Officers' Training School, School of Air Traffic Control, School of Air Warfare and Central Flying School which is home of the Roulettes Aerobatic team.
WA	RAAF Base Pearce	Pearce	A major pilot training facility for the Air Force, and home for an Air Force Reserve Squadron.

NOTE: This list only includes major Bases. There are many small establishments in suburbs and towns that are used by Reserve and Cadet units. This allows more than 45 000 citizens who join the part-time Reserves of each Service to have access to regular training close to their homes.

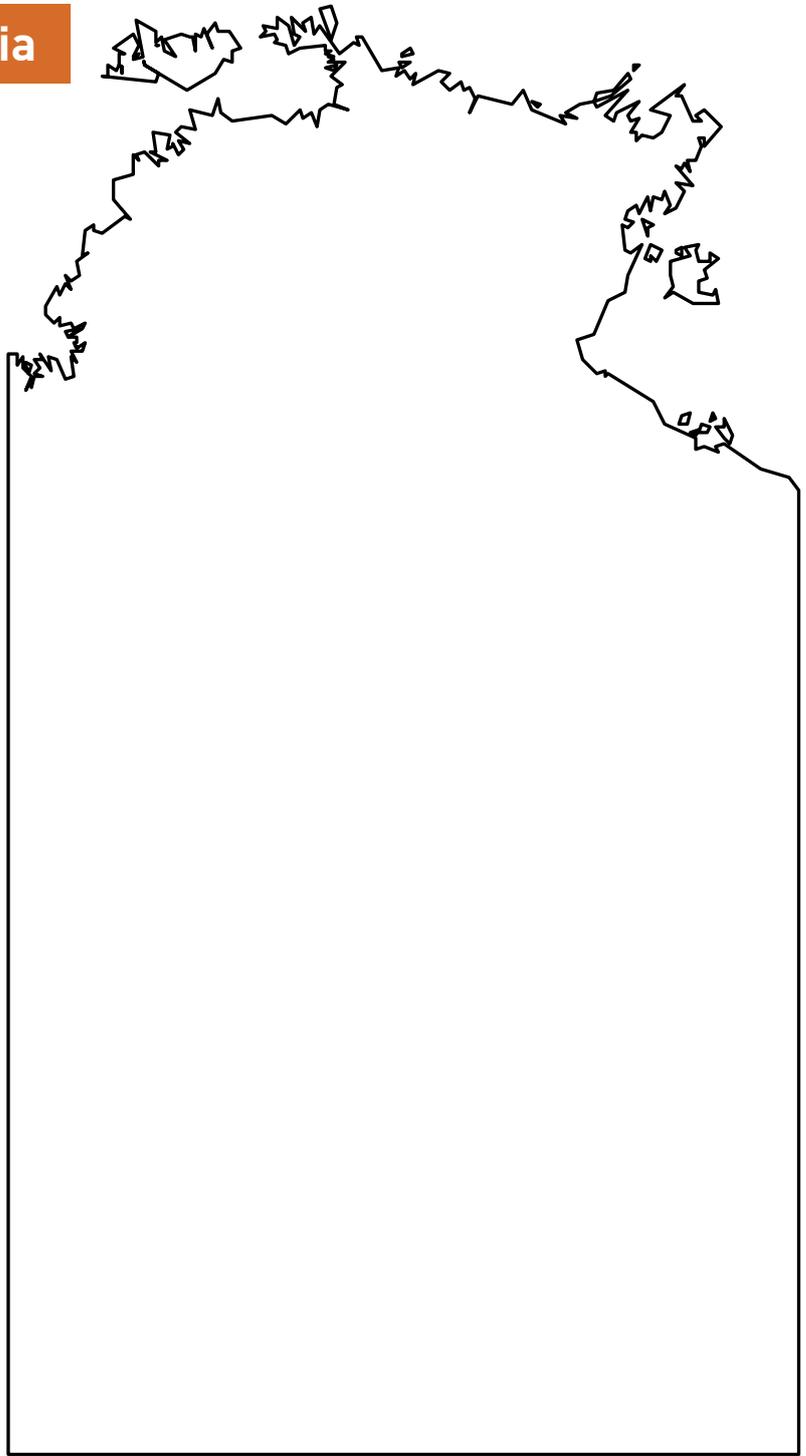
Defence Bases in Australia



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Defence Bases in Australia

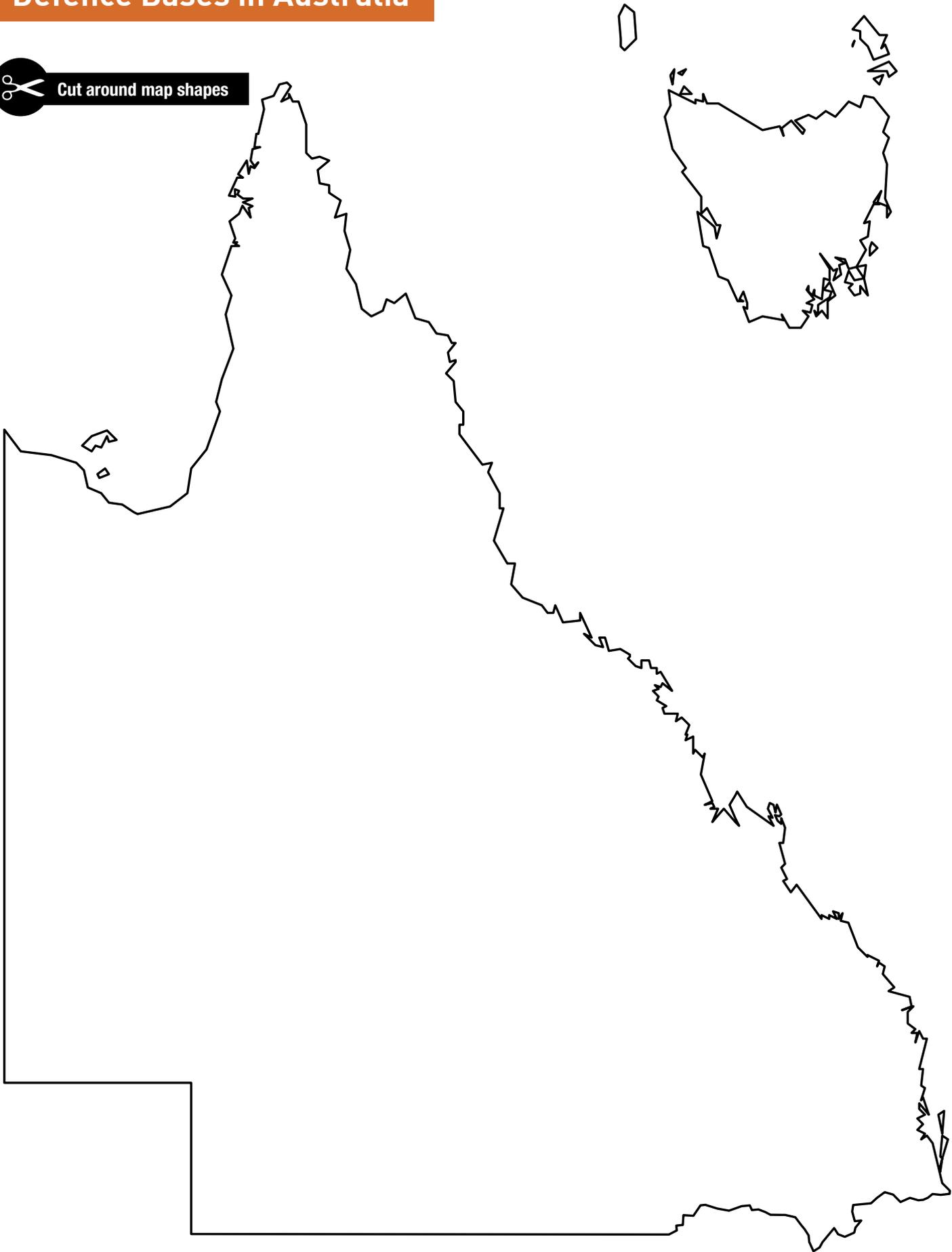


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Defence Bases in Australia

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Defence Bases in Australia



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ACTIVITY 3: What impacts do Defence Bases have in regional areas?

You now realise that there are many Defence Bases in Australia. They exist in a variety of sizes, places and forms. Many of these are in regional areas. What impacts do they have on the local area?

There is information on the following pages from the Commanding Officers of the local Combat Support Units from three Defence establishments: HMAS *Cerberus* in Victoria, HMAS *Creswell* at Jervis Bay, and RAAF Base Amberley in Queensland.

- 1 Read this information and decide what impact — Economic (E), Social (S), Cultural (C), Environmental (ENV), or Other (O) — each aspect mentioned refers to.
- 2 Then create a summary statement of impacts in the table below.

Impacts of Defence Bases — SUMMARY

ECONOMIC (E)	
SOCIAL (S)	
CULTURAL (C)	
ENVIRONMENTAL (ENV)	
OTHER (O)	

3 The information is from Service personnel. What other evidence would you look for to further explore the impacts of Defence Bases on a local community?

4 What would you now see as the major benefits or advantages, and the major disadvantages or costs of having a Defence establishment in a local community?

5 Overall, do you think that having a Defence Base in a region is a cost or a benefit? Explain your reasons.

6 Would you like one in your region? Explain your reasons.

You can explore the impacts of bases further in the forthcoming *Defence 2020* education resource (see page 95 for details), and at www.defence2020.info.

HMAS *Cerberus*

HMAS *Cerberus* is the Navy's largest technical training base. It houses between 2000 and 3000 people at any time – a mixture of staff and students. It is located on Westernport Bay, near Crib Point, on the Mornington Peninsula, Victoria.



ASPECT	IMPACTS E, S, C, ENV, O
Many Navy students have cars, laptop computers, plasma TVs and expensive sound systems, which they buy when they start earning their salary as naval trainees. Trainees can spend up to 50% of their salary in this way.	
Many students participate in local sporting clubs.	
Most of the staff are married and have children, many of whom are of school age. There are about 2600 children of staff in the area.	
On Anzac Day, Remembrance Day and other special occasions the base supplies buglers, musicians and official ceremonial parties for schools, RSLs and other organizations.	
One unique club is the Steam Club, part of the engineering faculty. This club has restored and operates a heritage model 1923 Foden steam wagon, which it often displays publicly.	
Staff mainly live off the Base. They are a mixture of Navy personnel, local contractors and Australian Public Service personnel.	
Storm water from the Base runs directly into Westernport Bay. There are stringent controls over rubbish, chemicals, oil, paint acid – anything and everything that could enter the bay. These are supervised and audited by naval and state government controllers.	
Students live on the Base but they are able to travel to the nearby towns of Hastings and Frankston for recreation and entertainment.	
The Base has about 2000 young men and women aged 18-25 as students. Many of these have cars. The Base conducts constant road safety and anti-drinking and drug abuse campaigns, carries out roadworthiness checks on students' cars, bans drugs, and often tests drivers' alcohol readings on leaving the Base and entering public roads.	
The Base has an automatic computer switch-off facility at night to cover the 1500 or so computers in classrooms.	
The Base has an extensive rain water collection and recycling system. All the Base's vehicles are cleared by recycled water only.	
The Base has some smaller work boats and yachts. The boats and the piers are subject to stringent environmental controls to minimise any pollution.	
The Base has several places of worship. The public are invited to services there on Sundays.	
The Base includes a naval museum that the public is free to visit.	
The Base operates a 'naval gazing' tour of the Base for the local public and schools, and it is always booked out.	
The children of the staff use public transport, join sporting clubs, go shopping, buy fast food, have their cars serviced, and go to local hotels, clubs and cinemas.	
These staff rent or buy locally, and shop both locally and at the nearest large shopping area in Frankston.	
A 2003 study by Monash University showed that HMAS <i>Cerberus</i> contributed \$390 million to Melbourne, and was responsible for the employment of 6100 persons.	



HMAS *Creswell*

HMAS *Creswell* is the Navy's officer training school. It is located near Wreck Bay on the east coast of New South Wales. It is on Jervis Bay in Jervis Bay Territory, which is administered by the Australian Capital Territory.



ASPECT	IMPACT E, S, C, ENV, O
During periods when there are no courses the base provides its accommodation and facilities to Camp Quality, a non-profit organisation that provides experiences to children with cancer.	
HMAS Creswell is a naval officer training establishment. It trains men and women who wish to become officers in the Navy, as well as some overseas naval officers.	
It has a staff of about 100 uniformed personnel, 20 public servants, and about 60 permanent contract staff, and a varying number of students, from 200 to 300 who live on base during the courses.	
Vincentia is the nearest major town. Many of the staff's children attend local primary schools, and the Vincentia High School. There are other small villages nearby, including Jervis Bay village, Erowal Bay and Hyams Beach.	
Naval activities take place on, above and under the water, and all these are done within the strict rules and regulations governing behaviour in a National Marine Park environment.	
On the Base there are strict controls on the collection and management of waste, especially in relation to controlling run-off into the bay.	
One of the reasons why the area is so environmentally intact is that it is controlled by the Australian Government. If it were in private ownership its beautiful coastal areas would have been developed for housing long ago.	
The Base actively seeks to be a good neighbour in the area. It recognises that it needs to act responsibly and be trusted by the local community.	
The Base has links with the school, including providing a leadership course for senior students at the High School.	
The Base provides aid to the civil community in areas such as bush fire fighting or maritime rescue operations.	
The Base is involved in the local Arts Festival.	
The Base is open to the public for Anzac Day services, and attracts 500-600 people.	
Jervis Bay is a State Marine Park and Commonwealth Reserve, so responsible environmental management policies are foremost. The base has an attitude of 'stewardship' towards the local environment.	
The Base provides service personnel to help with Anzac Day ceremonies in the local area.	
The Base supports local initiatives such as being a plastic bag-free zone, co-sponsoring blue light dances.	
The Base works closely with the local Indigenous community to ensure that its activities do not interfere with traditional cultural areas or sacred sites.	
The uniformed staff live on the Base, with families. The nearest town is Huskisson, and personnel at the Base do a lot of their shopping there.	
HMAS <i>Creswell</i> supports collaborative research with other organizations, such as Marine Parks, in areas such as the effects of bush fires, and marine pests management.	
A 2003 study by Monash University showed that HMAS <i>Creswell</i> contributed \$43 million to the Illawarra region, and was responsible for the employment of 700 persons.	



RAAF Base Amberley

RAAF Base Amberley is the Air Force's largest Base, employing over 3500 people. It is 40kms south-west of Brisbane on the outskirts of Ipswich. It is the home for HQ Combat Support Group and has elements of every other Force Element Group in some form on the Base.



ASPECT	IMPACT E, S, C, ENV, O
Base personnel carry out all their normal activities in the areas where they live, and not in special Defence areas. This means their shopping, going to local schools, playing in local sport teams, etc. just like other non-military residents in the area.	
Most people do not live on the Base, but are spread through various areas of the city of Ipswich and surrounding districts.	
The Base co-operates with local emergency services, and people and equipment are often called on to help with regional emergencies such as floods and fires.	
The Base has a full time civilian Environment Agency official on site to ensure that all environmental protection standards are observed.	
The Base has a large-scale water recycling program, uses solar power to operate its security sensors, uses low-emission electric lights. It is actively reducing its 'greenhouse footprint' in all ways possible.	
The Base provides a range of support activities for local groups in the area – such as helping with tents at a local fete, supporting charity concerts, and presenting guard dog displays at local schools.	
The Base supplies several hundred personnel each year to help local communities with their Anzac Day services and ceremonies.	
The main problem that the base creates in the area is noise. It is inevitable that there will be noise at an air base, but we do everything possible to reduce the impact of the noise on the surrounding area – especially imposing night curfew hours on aircraft operation.	
There is a special complaints process to ensure that civilians who have problems with the noise can be quickly and fairly heard.	
This is the largest Air Force base in Australia, with about 3500 permanent members, and growing.	

Now go back and complete the table on page 91.

