



Australian Government

Department of Defence

2018 Review of Coexistence in the Woomera Prohibited Area

Terms of Reference

Aim of the Review

The 2018 review will deliver a contemporary coexistence framework for the management of the Woomera Prohibited Area (WPA) that:

- a) Acknowledges that the WPA is a significant national security asset and that its use by Defence and Australia's partners will continue to evolve.
- b) Balances and responds to evolving Defence and non-defence use including the economic interests within the WPA.
- c) Maintains the primacy of Defence use governed by national security and Defence's capability needs while committing to continued coexistence with other stakeholders to maximise the economic value of their activities: the resources sector; pastoral operations; Aboriginal communities; and other current and emerging interests.
- d) Provides for investment access by non-defence users within a framework that offers current and prospective investors clarity on strategic and national security considerations in granting access.
- e) Provides for public and private consultations to inform stakeholders and their submissions that will contribute to the review.

Objectives

The review must:

- Determine the current and evolving use of the WPA:

- For Defence, future capability testing needs including the national security and risk environment.
- For the resources and other economic sectors, domestic and foreign investment and access to the WPA.
- For other non-defence users and native title interests, access to the WPA.
- Scope for other non-defence use.
- Determine the primacy of Defence use:
 - Capability and strategic imperatives.
 - National security considerations.
 - Compatibility with maximising the economic value of the WPA.
- Determine the economic value of the WPA:
 - Contemporary assessment of the resources and other economic sector potential.
 - Factors in the emerging economic environment required to realise the prospective potential of economic sector investment.
 - Access and investment considerations within the coexistence framework, including means to encourage Australian permitted economic sector investment.
- Consider the lessons from the 2010-11 review of coexistence:
 - For Defence, implementation of the coexistence framework including any capability impacts.

- For the South Australian Government, the resources and economic sectors and other non-defence users, the operation of the coexistence framework including the system of permits and access.
- Determine the economic, legal and other possible consequences of any proposed policy, legislative or regulatory changes on existing non-defence users including any transitional agreements.
- Determine a contemporary governance framework:
 - The legislative and regulatory framework required for the management of non-defence user access.
 - Australian Government and South Australian Government governance requirements for the WPA Coordination office.
 - The role and future of the Advisory Board in supporting coexistence.

Outcomes

The findings of the 2018 Review of the Woomera Prohibited Area coexistence framework will form the basis for a contemporary policy context and enhancing legislative regime by which the economic and national security considerations are balanced within the WPA, and the national value of the WPA is realised to the full extent possible.