



National Bosun's Call



Vol 4 No 2

Once Navy, Always Navy

March 2022

Relief and Ceremonial



1 March 2022

Right ; National President David Manolas at the Chief of Navy's commemoration of the Navy's 121st birthday at the Naval Memorial on ANZAC Parade, Canberra

Photo: Nicole Mankowski



2 March 2022

Above: HMAS Adelaide being followed by HMAS Canberra and HMAS Supply on entry into Nuku'alofa harbour, Tonga, as part of Operation Tonga Assist 2022.

Photo: Christopher Szumlanski

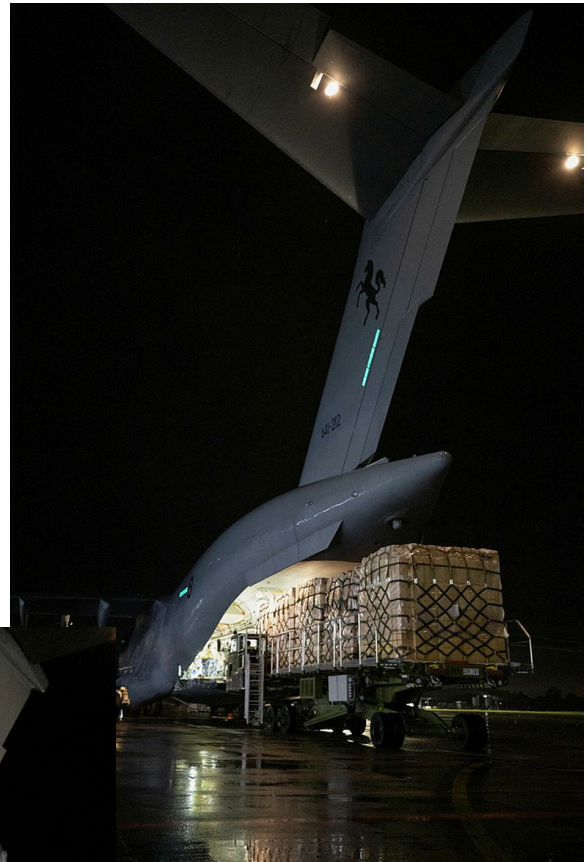


National Newsletter of the
Naval Association of Australia

Australian Military Assistance to Ukraine

Australian Prime Minister, The Hon. Scott Morrison, MP, announced on 27 February 2022 that the Australian Government will join other allies and partners in providing military assistance to Ukraine, following Russia's senseless and illegal invasion of Ukraine sovereignty.

On Wednesday, 02 March 2022, a Royal Australian Air Force C-17A Globemaster III aircraft departed RAAF Base Richmond, New South Wales, for Europe carrying critical military equipment and medical supplies to support the Government of Ukraine.



Above: Royal Australian Air Force personnel from No. 22 Squadron load pallets of military assistance bound for Ukraine onto a Royal Australian Air Force C-17A Globemaster III aircraft at RAAF Base Richmond, New South Wales.

Photo: CPL Kyle Gibson

Right: A Royal Australian Air Force C-17 Globemaster III aircraft takes off from RAAF Base Richmond in New South Wales loaded with military assistance bound for Ukraine.

Photo: Dan Pinhorn



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National Patron His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC Retd Governor General of Australia

Nuclear Powered Submarines—AUKUS

Comments from the Taskforce Chief



By Vice Admiral Jonathan Mead AO
30 October 2021

As Chief of the Nuclear Powered Submarine Taskforce my role is to advise Government on the optimal pathway to acquiring a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines for Australia. Nuclear-powered submarines will fundamentally change Australia's strategic personality in the maritime domain. They will allow us to hold potential adversaries at risk from a greater distance and influence their calculus of the costs involved in threatening Australia's interests. Nuclear-powered submarines have superior characteristics of stealth, speed, manoeuvrability, survivability, and almost limitless endurance compared to conventional submarines.

The *2020 Defence Strategic Update* highlighted a rapid deterioration of the strategic environment of the Indo-Pacific region – Australia's region. Military modernisation is occurring at an unprecedented rate. Capabilities are rapidly advancing, and their reach is expanding. As a result, our technological edge is narrowing.

In response, the Government has outlined a commitment to develop a more capable military force that will allow us to continue to help shape the region's future trajectory in ways that support security and prosperity for all – Australians, our neighbours and partners. This includes a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines, the most technologically advanced underwater capability to ever be operated by the Royal Australian Navy.

Managing the delivery of this capability is a vital task – one that has my absolute commitment and that I consider of the deepest importance in its contribution to the defence of Australia. The delivery of a project of this scale is a national endeavour. We must get this right – and to do so, we must have the right people, with the right skillsets, in the right places.

Since the announcement of the AUKUS enhanced trilateral security partnership, the Taskforce has grown in size, capacity and expertise. The multi-agency taskforce now comprises seven divisions: Capability, Executive, International Policy and Agreements, Program Delivery and Industry, Security, Technology, and Stewardship. We have recruited – and continue to recruit – the best and brightest minds in Australia to contribute to the delivery of this historic capability. Our people will be the key enablers of success for the nuclear-powered submarine program.

There has been much speculation about the nuclear-powered submarine program since its announcement on 16 September – which boat design will be selected? How much it will cost? When will construction commence? How long it will take? It is important to understand that acquiring a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines is a multi-faceted task and requires significant input from a wide range of stakeholders. It is not an overnight task. Australia has never undertaken a capability acquisition of this scale.

The 18-month period of intensive consultation, which has already commenced, is imperative. It is a defined period that will allow us to work through the key questions with experts in industry, academia and Australian nuclear organisations to inform the Government's decision on the future nuclear-powered submarine program.

What I can assure you is that this nuclear-powered propulsion technology is safe. The nuclear propulsion system used by the United Kingdom and the United States has an enviable track record of safety and security. Their respective nuclear-powered submarines have never experienced any reactor accident or release of radioactivity that has harmed humans or marine life. Our AUKUS partners have set and maintained an exemplary safety record operating their submarine nuclear reactors. Australia will ensure it replicates this safety record by leveraging both countries' decades of experience as responsible stewards of this technology. Safety is our absolute priority.

Further, the 'nuclear' in nuclear-powered submarines refers only to the propulsion power source of the boat. Australia will not seek to develop or acquire nuclear weapons. We remain committed to our obligation under the Non-Proliferation Treaty

NUCLEAR-POWERED SUBMARINES –AUKUS

not to acquire nuclear weapons.

Looking ahead at the next 18 months, the Taskforce will work with our counterparts in the United Kingdom and United States to deliver key outcomes. We will establish a framework around nuclear stewardship and safety and further policy requirements. We will define the nuclear-powered submarine workforce, including domestic and international training and education opportunities, and identify industry, security and infrastructure requirements. We will determine timeframes, costs and supply needs – and we will select a submarine design.

The Government has outlined its intention to build these submarines in Adelaide. This is with the backing of a strong sovereign defence industry. We can only move forward and contribute more to our region's stability, security and prosperity if we commit to build a robust, resilient and internationally competitive Australian defence industrial base. This will advance Australia's economy and create and sustain thousands of Australian jobs.

I am focused on expeditiously delivering to Government an optimal pathway to acquire these nuclear-powered submarines. We must remain focused. We must deliver. We must remain committed to our mission to defend Australia and its national interests in order to advance Australia's security and prosperity for decades to come. That is mission success.

Vice Admiral Jonathan Mead, AO

Naval Career

Jonathan Dallas Mead joined the Royal Australian Naval College in 1984 and graduated in 1986 with a Diploma of Applied Science. He specialised in Mine Clearance Diving and Explosive Ordnance Disposal and after serving as Executive Officer of Clearance Diving Team One he undertook Principal Warfare Officer (ASW) training. A succession of warfare postings then followed, including: Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer in HMAS *Melbourne*

and HMAS *Arunta*, Fleet Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer and Executive Officer of HMAS *Arunta*.

In 2005, Commander Mead took command of HMAS *Parramatta* and saw active service in the North Arabian Gulf as part of Operation CATALYST in 2005-06; for this his ship was awarded a Meritorious Unit Citation and he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM). He undertook studies at the Indian National Defence College in 2007 after which Captain Mead was appointed as Australia's Defence Adviser to India.

Promoted to Commodore, in July 2011, he deployed to the Middle East where he commanded Combined Task Force 150, responsible for maritime counter terrorism, during October 2011-April 2012 and he was consequently awarded a Commendation for Distinguished Service, in 2013, for his service in the Middle East region. Upon his return to Fleet Headquarters in 2012, he served as Commander Surface Force.

In January 2015, he was promoted to Rear Admiral and assumed the position as Head Navy Capability. On 19 January 2018 he assumed the position of Commander Australian Fleet.

Rear Admiral Mead was appointed as an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2020 'for distinguished service to the Royal Australian Navy in senior management and command roles'.

On promotion to the rank of Vice Admiral in November 2020, Jonathan Mead assumed the position of Chief of Joint Capability which was followed in 2021 with being selected for the position of Chief of the Nuclear Powered Submarine Taskforce

Vice Admiral Mead holds a Masters Degree in International Relations, a Masters Degree in Management and a PhD in International Relations. He is the author of *Indian National Security: Misguided Men and Guided Missiles* published in 2010.

Sea Power Centre

We support those who serve or have served in defence of our nation, and their families.



Veteran Family Strategy Engagement Summary Report

The *Veteran Family Strategy* Engagements were held virtually through GovTEAMS on Thursday 20 January 2022.

The workshops brought together representatives from the Ex-Service Organisation Round Table (ESORT), Younger Veterans' Forum (YVF) and the Female Veterans and Veterans' Families Policy Forum (the Forum) to support the development and co-design of the Veteran Family Strategy.

The objectives of these sessions were to:

- *Develop a shared understanding of the purpose of the Draft Veteran Family Strategy;*
- *Agree on the goal we're working towards;*
- *Explore the key principles and focus areas of the Strategy; and*
- *Develop ideas and options for the Strategy*

Representatives from DVA's Senior Executive Service and business areas were also in attendance.

Summary and Themes

Through the discussion, a number of ideas and themes were developed, these included:

- The importance of continuing collaboration with diverse cohorts across the veteran community, and an acknowledgement that co-design early in the development of these strategies and programs is essential.
- The need for careful consideration of the language used in the Strategy. For example, the language needs to reflect a more holistic ap-

proach and supports the empowerment for families seeking support.

- It was acknowledged there is difficulty in finding a universally accepted definition of family. It was suggested that a more inclusive perspective should be taken, to include a wide range of individuals such as spouses, parents, grandparents, children or former partners who are all connected to the veteran. A holistic definition of family should not be so broad that its focus and intent is diluted. This Strategy is crucial to the wider wellbeing of our veterans and their families.
- 'Bold' ideas should not be excluded, although they would require 'buy-in' at all levels, and significant investment and lead in times. Some of these suggestions included changing the name of the Department to include Families, as well as the creation of an entirely new Act or legislation to reduce complexity.
- To be effective, the implementation of the Strategy will rely on the entire veteran ecosystem from DVA, to Ex-Service Organisations and importantly the veteran family.
- Other themes included: the importance of respect and empathy; ensuring assistance in helping to navigate the DVA and wider veteran family system, and, working in collaboration.
- The strategy could be 'aspirational' but only promise what can actually be delivered – this was important in building and retaining trust.

Boost in support for ex-service organisations

Wednesday, December 15 2021

The Hon Andrew Gee MP

Ex-service organisations supporting veterans, war widows, partners and dependants of serving and ex-serving Defence personnel have received a funding boost from the Australian Government to help them continue their important work.

Australian Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Association, The War Widows' Guild and The Federation of Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) Ex Service Men and Women are among 14 organisations to receive up to \$10,000 under the Grants-In-Aid Program.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel Andrew Gee said the extra funding will help with the day-to-day running of these organisations that work tirelessly in support of our veterans and their families.

"These groups play a vital role in the Defence and veteran community, providing wellbeing and welfare services to our veterans and their families, as well as being a place for creating social connections and fostering mateship," Minister Gee said.

"Each organisation has their own projects and activities that will benefit from this Federal funding, with Buddy Up Australia using the money to offer an annual training camp to better inform leaders and mentors about the support services available.

"The Naval Association of Australia will use the funding to travel to key regional areas to meet with veteran groups and rebuild relationships that were disrupted due COVID-19.

"Now that COVID-19 restrictions are easing around the country, the funding will also help many important annual conferences resume in-person across the nation.

"I am committed to working closely with ex-service organisations and individuals that dedicate themselves to supporting the veteran community.

"Grants-In-Aid together with other programs such as the Veteran and Community Grants and the Support Younger Veterans Grants are an important part of the Australian Government's commitment to supporting the Defence and veteran community."

For more information, visit the [Grants-In-Aid program](#) on the DVA website.

Keeping an eye on space

Communications, remote sensing and precision navigation and timing for warships and submarines is becoming more and more important – and satellite technology is making the process that much easier.

The ADF is increasingly investing in satellite capabilities in space to allow Navy surface and sub-surface vessels to better assess the maritime environment and respond to potential threats over the horizon.

Navy Information Warfare's Deputy Director Space Lieutenant Commander Ben Piggott said such capabilities and platforms provided Navy with a strategic advantage.

"Satellite communications is the only way to move a lot of information to and from ships and submarines quickly," Lieutenant Commander Piggott said.

"Remote-sensing satellites are important so that we can understand the environment beyond the range of our on-board sensors, and GPS is essential so that we can know where we are, target weapons accurately, and synchronise our communications.

"Defence is also exploring options for space electronic warfare to deter interference with our space systems."

Lieutenant Commander Piggott's comments come as Defence highlights its long-standing and diverse science-based capabilities as part of National Science Week, Australia's annual celebration of all things relating to science and technology held each year in August.

For Navy, it is an opportunity to highlight the ground-breaking work of its Information Warfare Space specialists – a relatively new qualification.

*A/SBLT Jack Meadows
18 August 2021*

Sailors have navigated by the stars since the dawn of time, but now Navy is looking skyward to understand who is observing us.

Deputy Director of Space in the Navy Intelligence and Information Warfare Branch, Lieutenant Commander Ben Piggott, completed the Bundeswehr (German military) space situational awareness course last November.

"It was a great introduction to the fundamentals of how we can use radars and telescopes to collect data on what satellites are doing in space, then turning that data into a picture that we can use for military situational understanding of what is happening in space in the same way a ship's operations room has access to

different sensors that can be used to form a picture that can be used to make decisions," Lieutenant Commander Piggott said.

Held in Luftwaffenkaserne (air force barracks) Wahn, near Cologne, the course introduced students to the fundamentals of space situational awareness.

It was made possible by a relationship the Bundeswehr has with the Technical University of Braunschweig.

The instruction was aimed at a first-year university level.

With a master's degree in space operations, Lieutenant Commander Piggott was one of 23 military and civilian delegates from around world on the course.

"We needed to get a sense of how worthwhile the training was, and the feasibility of sending more people in the future," Lieutenant Commander Piggott said.

"It is great to see how Germany and NATO operate in the space environment.

"I was able to make connections that have the potential to create some opportunities for Australia to establish mutually beneficial space technology partnerships with other countries in the future."

There are opportunities for Navy personnel to work in the newly established Space Command, with a number of new positions available.

Lieutenant Commander Piggott said he was excited for the "astonishing" amount of growth around the corner.

"Space systems like satellite communications, earth observation satellites, and GPS are fundamental to enabling our submarines, ships and aircraft to operate effectively – we can't deliver the full capability of our platforms without space," Lieutenant Commander Piggott said

*Petty Officer Lee Anne Cooper
15 February 2022*

Navy Information Warfare Branch's Deputy Director – Space Lieutenant Commander Benjamin Piggott, pictured in Canberra, completed a space situational awareness course in Germany late last year.

Photo: Petty Officer Bradley Darvill





DEFENCE & VETERANS LEGAL SERVICE

The Defence and Veterans Legal Service (**DAVLS**) is a national service that provides free and independent information and legal advice to support Australian Defence personnel and veterans, as well as their families, carers and supporters, to safely share their experiences with the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide (**the Royal Commission**).

DAVLS is an Australia-wide service and, in the ACT, it operates through the ACT Office of Legal Aid. DAVLS is independent and separate from the Royal Commission, the Department of Defence, and the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

DAVLS can provide legal advice about:

- taking part in the Royal Commission;
- your legal rights when sharing information with the Royal Commission; and
- available legal protections when sharing information with the Royal Commission.

DAVLS can support you in:

- making a submission to the Royal Commission;
- arranging a private session with the Royal Commission; and
- connecting you with other services, like counselling, advocacy, and other legal support not related to the Royal Commission.

ed to the Royal Commission.

We are not replacing ex service organisations in their valuable work representing veterans in their claims for compensation with the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

All discussions between clients and our lawyers are treated in confidence and at no charge to the individual.

Contact details

The DAVLS contact telephone is 1800 33 1800 or you can visit our website at

<https://defenceveteranslegalservice.org.au>.

If you are deaf, hard of hearing and/or have a speech impairment, you can contact us by calling the National Relay Service (**NRS**) on 1300 555 727 or TTY 133 677.

For immediate help in a crisis, please contact one of the following services:

- Lifeline – 13 11 14
- Suicide Call Back Service – 1300 659 467
- Beyond Blue – 1300 224 636
- Open Arms – 1800 011 046
- Defence All-hours Support Line – 1800 628 036
- Triple zero – 000

Submissions and Royal Commission's Commitment

Submissions

The Royal Commission has so far received more than 1,100 written submissions from individuals and organisations. The Commission is interested in hearing from people with lived experiences – whether currently serving in the Defence force, former members, or a family member or someone who is supporting them. All voices and stories are welcome.

These stories might not relate to suicide but could be about military service, mental health and individual experiences in the Defence force. The Commissioners want to discover themes and common experiences and identify ways to bring about real change for future serving and ex-serving Defence communities.

All submissions will be recorded, reviewed and used to inform the work of the Royal Commission. You can remain anonymous when you speak to the Commission.

Information about the [submission process](#), appear-

ing as a witness and applying for a [private session](#) is available on the [Royal Commission website](#).

Community engagement and the Royal Commission: a statement from the Commissioners

We need to learn as much as we can about the issues and situations surrounding the deaths by suicide of serving and ex-serving Defence members. We can only do this with your help. We are here to listen, learn and then act, informed by the accounts and experiences of those impacted by suicide or suicidal thoughts.

Our strong commitment is to make sure this Royal Commission is about hearing the stories of those who have served or continue to serve who have experiences with suicide or suicidal thoughts. This includes the family members of those who have tragically lost loved ones. We will adhere to the principles of trauma-informed engagement and collaboration. We will monitor, learn from and strengthen our engagement approaches as the Royal Commission proceeds

ADF supports Australia Day in Sydney

Australian Defence Force personnel joined Australia Day crowds in Sydney to help celebrate our national day.

For the ship's company of HMAS *Parramatta* the day took on a greater significance when the ship replaced HMAS *Adelaide* as the backdrop for the 'Salute to Australia' on Sydney Harbour.

HMAS *Adelaide*, whose motto is 'United for the common good', had left Brisbane loaded with humanitarian stores as part of the Australian Government response to Tonga following the volcanic eruption on January 15.

Commander David Murphy, Commanding Officer of HMAS *Parramatta*, said it was an honour for the ship's company to join Sydney's Australia Day festivities.

"Australia Day is a great day to be in Sydney Harbour and see the community celebrating together," Commander Murphy said.

"The crew and I are very proud to step in on behalf of HMAS *Adelaide*, given her important mission to support our Tongan friends in the Pacific."

On the last note of *Advance Australia Fair* all eyes were lifted to the skies as a Royal Australian Air Force F-35A Lightning II aircraft provided a spectacular display.

The stealth fighter was flown by No. 2 Operational Conversion Unit pilot Flight Lieutenant Ross Bowman, who said it was a privilege to be part of the activities.

"Sydney Harbour is a great place to fly over and Australia Day provides a unique opportunity to do a display where I am actually looking up at Sydney Harbour Bridge," Flight Lieutenant Bowman said.

"Australia Day always brings in the crowds so it was good to be a part of today's celebrations."

The ADF Parachuting School's Red Berets parachute display team bought the day to a close, jumping over Sydney Harbour and landing in the waters near the Sydney Opera House as the crowds enjoyed a concert.

By Lieutenant Nancy Cotton

A Royal Australian Navy MH-60R Seahawk helicopter carries the Australian national flag past HMAS Canberra during Australia Day celebrations in Sydney, NSW.

Photo Able Seaman Benjamin Ricketts.



ADF Relief to Tonga

HMAS *Adelaide* and her crew delivered over 88 tonnes of humanitarian assistance during their deployment.

The ship's embarked Australian Army CH-47 Chinook and Navy MRH-90 Taipan helicopters also conducted reconnaissance, delivered equipment and dropped personnel and stores where they were needed most.

VOEA *Ngahau Siliva*, which led the formation entry into Nuku'alofa, is the second Guardian-class patrol boat gifted by Australia to His Majesty's Armed Forces of Tonga under the Pacific Maritime Security Program.

Below: VOA Ngahau Siliva escorts the Royal Australian Navy ships HMAS Adelaide and HMAS Canberra into Nuku'alofa harbour.

Photo: Petty Officer Christopher Szumlanski



ADF Relief to Tonga

HMAS *Canberra* has arrived in Tonga to relieve HMAS *Adelaide* on Operation Tonga Assist 2022, with HMAS *Supply* in company.

The harbour entry marked a handover of command between sister ships *Adelaide* and *Canberra*.



Significant progress has made cleaning up Atata Island



as the local ADF Joint Task Group for Operation Tonga Assist 2022, supporting the wider Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade-led effort.

Commanding Officer of *Adelaide*, Captain Stuart Watters, handed the

Operation Tonga Assist Task Group over to *Canberra*'s Commanding Officer, Captain Jace Hutchison, to continue to coordinate Defence activities in Tonga.

Captain Watters said ongoing partnerships have been on full display in supporting the Government of Tonga recover from the volcanic eruption and tsunami. HMAS *Adelaide* arrived on Australia Day and the Australian Defence Force immedi-

*Photos Above: POIS Jake Badior
Below: LSCSO Rye Huckell*



ately began working with Tonga and New Zealand to provide relief and emergency supplies," Captain Watters said "Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) personnel joined us on *Adelaide* soon thereafter and together we were requested to assist recovery efforts on Atata Island. We also worked with other partner nations including Fiji, France, Japan, United Kingdom and the United States, which contributed air and maritime support to assist the Tongan people".

Above right: HMAS Supply with Republic of Fiji Naval Ship (RFNS) Kikau during a port visit to Suva in Fiji as a part of Operation Tonga Assist 2022.

Above left: RAN sailor ABBM Makayla Bowden controls the replenishment at sea rig onboard HMAS Supply as it refuels the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force ship Osumi during Operation Tonga Assist 2022.

ADF Assistance in NSW and Qld Floods - Operation Flood Assist 2022

8 March 2022

Last updated: 08:00am Tuesday, March 8, 2022.

Defence support to Queensland and NSW governments is being delivered under Operation Flood Assist 2022 and coordinated through Headquarters Joint Operations Command. Deployment of forces is in response to NSW Government and Queensland Government requirements coordinated and prioritised through State Emergency Operations Centres.

Personnel supporting (approximate)

Currently there are 2281 personnel on task or available for tasking across NSW and Queensland.

- Total personnel deployed on task in Queensland: more than 900
- Total personnel deployed on task in New South Wales: more than 1200

Defence is increasing its support to Operation Flood Assist 2022, with 5000 personnel on task, or available for tasking over the course of this week.

Tasks planned for Tuesday, March 8:

Ongoing tasks

Defence continues its efforts to support the Queensland and NSW governments across a range of search and rescue, clean up and recovery tasks.

In Queensland:

- Continuation of clean-up efforts in Queensland: Esk, Fairfield, Gatton, Goodna, Grantham, Gracefield, Gympie, Ipswich, St Lucia and Rocklea.
- ADF personnel are expected to begin clean-up efforts in Brisbane in Ashgrove and The Gap, if weather allows.
- Defence personnel are embedded in the State Disaster Coordination Centre (SDCC) and the District Disaster Coordination Cells (DDCC) at Gympie, Gold Coast and Ipswich, as well as Brisbane Local Disaster Coordination Cell.

Eight helicopters are based out of Oakey to support South Queensland and Northern NSW with taskings including search and rescue, aerial reconnaissance, food and stores distribution, patient transfer and logistics support (4x MRH-90, 2x Army Chinook CH-47F, 2x AW-139).

In New South Wales:

- Continuation of clean-up efforts in 14 towns in northern NSW, including Lismore, Broadwater, Cabbage Tree Island, Port Macquarie, Grafton, Tweed Heads, Crabbles Creek, Ocean Shores and Chinderah.
- ADF personnel will continue to provide food, water and conduct supply drops in isolated residents and communities including Cawonga,

Grafton, Lawrence, Lismore, Maclean, Tumbulgum, Wardall and Woodburn.

- ADF personnel are expected to begin clean-up efforts in the Tweed Heads to Byron Bay area.
- ADF personnel will continue to conduct welfare checks to Upper Wilson's Creek, Main Arm and Repentance Creek.
- ADF heavy plant equipment operations are expected to begin in Lismore.
- ADF personnel will continue to support New South Wales SES aviation food and water-drop operations to isolated housing and communities.
- ADF personnel will continue to assist with food distribution in Casino.
- ADF personnel will continue to support Telstra in restoring communication services in Grafton.
- Helicopter insertion of ADF personnel into Broadwater, Coraki, Evans Head and Woodburn to support communities.

Two Navy MH-60R Seahawk helicopters and one commercially contracted AW-139 helicopter are located at HMAS *Albatross* in Nowra for search and rescue operations in day and night conditions in the greater Sydney and South Coast region.

On Monday, March 7

In Queensland:

- Continuation of clean-up efforts in Bundamba, Esk, Fairfield, Gatton, Goodna, Graceville, Grantham, Gympie, Rocklea, St Lucia and Rocklea.
- ADF personnel began clean-up efforts in Amberley, Ashgrove, Burpengary, Chelmer and Redcliffe.

ADF personnel supported Queensland SES aviation food and water-drop operations to isolated housing and communities.

In New South Wales:

- Continued clean-up efforts in 14 towns in northern NSW, including Lismore, Port Macquarie, Grafton, Tweed Heads, Crabbles Creek, Ocean Shores and Chinderah.
- ADF personnel provided food, water and conducted supply drops in isolated communities including Cawonga, Grafton, Lawrence, Lismore, Maclean, Tumbulgum, Wardall and Woodburn.
- Australian Army and Singapore Armed Forces CH-47F Chinook helicopters airlifted ADF personnel from Brisbane to several northern NSW towns, including Broadwater, Burwood and Coraki.
- ADF personnel supported New South Wales SES aviation food and water-drop operations to isolated housing and communities.
- ADF personnel assisted with food distribution in Casino.

ADF Assistance in NSW and Qld Floods - Operation Flood Assist 2022

- ADF personnel continued to support Telstra in restoring communication services in Grafton.
- ADF personnel conducted welfare checks and debris clearance at Murwillumbah, and welfare checks to Upper Wilson's Creek, Main Arm and Repentance Creek.

MRH-90 Taipan helicopters conducted food distribution in Lismore and Woodburn, and other flood assistance tasks in Mullumbimby before returning to Oakey due to severe weather.

On Sunday, March 6

In Queensland:

- ADF personnel continued clean-up efforts in Gympie, Gatton, St Lucia, Fairfield, Graceville, Rocklea, Esk, Gatton, Grantham and Goodna.

Defence personnel are embedded in the State Disaster Coordination Centre (SDCC) and the District Disaster Coordination Cells (DDCC) at Gympie, Gold Coast and Ipswich, as well as Brisbane Local Disaster Coordination Cell.

In New South Wales:

- Continuation of clean-up efforts in Lismore, Port Macquarie, Grafton, Tweed Heads, Crabbles Creek, Ocean Shores and Chinderah.
- An ADF MRH-90 Taipan helicopter conducted food distribution in the Lismore region and ADF personnel picked-up and delivered baby formula to Lismore regional areas.
- ADF personnel conducted welfare checks and debris clearance at Main Arm, Murwillumbah, Repentance Creek and Upper Wilson's Creek.
- ADF personnel assisted with food distribution in Casino.
- ADF personnel continued to support Telstra in restoring communication services in Grafton.

Contracted heavy plant equipment arrived in Lismore to support ADF clean-up operations.

On Saturday, March 5

- Continuation of clean-up efforts in NSW: Lismore, Port Macquarie, Grafton, Tweed Heads, Crabbles Creek, Ocean Shores and Chinderah.
- Conducted extensive route clearance and reconnaissance operations in vicinity of Lismore, Woodburn, Nimbin, Kyogle.
- Continuation of clean-up efforts in Queensland: Gympie, Gatton, St Lucia, Fairfield, Graceville, Rocklea, Esk, Gatton, Grantham and Goodna.
- ADF personnel conducted food drops to isolated commu-

nities including Mullumbimby, Murwillumbah, Crabbles Creek, Ocean Shores, Wardell, Kyogle, Nimbin, Bonalbo, Urbenville, Woddenbong, Tuntabla, Tabulam, Tumbulgum, Corakai and Woodburn.

- Operated a helicopter landing zone at the Casino food distribution point and a reception party for medical evacuations.
- ADF personnel distributed baby formula to Kyogle and bottled water to Tumbulgum.
- Aviation support to south-east Queensland, northern NSW, and Sydney region including for search and rescue, medical evacuations and logistics support as required.
- ADF supported NSW Police access to Grafton.
- ADF assisted Telstra in restoration of critical communications infrastructure in Grafton.
- Continued to transport logistics from Sydney into regional logistics hubs to support recovery.

Further moving reinforcements into Northern NSW including heavy plant, logistics, liaison officers and clean up personnel.

On Friday, March 4

- Defence continued its efforts in to support the Queensland and NSW Governments across a range of clean up and recovery tasks.
- Defence's MRH-90 helicopters conducted tasks including evacuations, food distribution and transportation in Mullumbimby, Ballina, Casino, Coraki, Nimbin.

Additional plant equipment requested in Lismore.

On Thursday, March 3

In Queensland:

230 personnel commenced movements into Brisbane, Ipswich, Toowoomba and the Lockyer Valley region today to support local authorities.



ADF Assistance in NSW and Qld Floods - Operation Flood Assist 2022

In New South Wales:

- An additional 100 personnel from 1st Armoured Regiment in South Australia were deploying to the Coffs Harbour area. Personnel to remain postured to move further north to flood affected areas as flood waters recede and roads open.
- Additional 5th Brigade emergency support force elements were deploying north to Grafton to remain postured to move further north once roads are opened and proved.
- An ADF rescue team has deployed to Ballina with a 40M heavy duty truck to assist with ongoing evacuation tasks.
- ADF continue to undertake search and rescue tasks in Tweed Heads and have delivered medical supplies to local SES.
- Helicopter crews conducted seven missions across the region including the rescue people, including:
 - A Navy MH-60R Seahawk conducted a rescue of a woman and her two children from their flooded home in Werrington in Sydney's west.
 - ADF personnel continue to ferry evacuees from the flood-hit area of Ulmarra, near Grafton.
 - ADF Liaison staff are now embedded within the State Emergency Operations Centre (SEOC) Homebush, SES HQ in Wollongong, Fire & Rescue New South Wales and Rural Fire Services.

Heavy and medium plant equipment was being postured to support recovery and clean-up activities when required by emergency management agencies. Deployment to likely required areas is currently being affected by the floods. Examples of plant equipment may include front end loaders, backhoes and excavators.

On Wednesday, March 2

In Queensland:

- An additional 550 personnel (approximate) were conducting preparation for tasking.

Defence adjusted its posture in response to the situation in northern NSW, and Bell 412 commercially-contracted helicopters from Oakey are now supporting the Brisbane basin.

In New South Wales:

- Defence increased its support to NSW search and rescue efforts with four MRH-90 Taipan helicopters and one AW-139 helicopter.
- Defence deployed an air-liaison team into the SES location in Wollongong.
- Approximately 70 ADF personnel from Army's 5th Brigade are undertaking a range of tasks in support of emergency services in Lismore, Coffs Harbour, Tweed Heads, Grafton and Mur-

willumbah, including sandbagging and evacuation support.

Helicopter crews conducted 11 missions across the region including the critical relocation of seven renal patients, transport of medical stores, equipment and food distribution.

On Tuesday, March 1

In Queensland:

- 25 Defence personnel were undertaking flood-relief tasks in Brisbane, with additional personnel conducting preparation.
- Defence embedded staff in the State Disaster Coordination Centre and the State Disaster Mitigation Committee at Gympie, Brisbane City, Southport and Ipswich.
- Army's 7th Brigade deployed liaison officers and route recon teams into heavily affected areas, including Gympie, Brisbane City, Ipswich and Coolangatta in preparation for potential requests for assistance for ADF to assist with recovery and clean-up operations.
- Darwin's 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, provided short-notice support to flood-affected aged-care facilities in Yeronga, The Gap, Lutwyche, Mitchelton and Tallebudgera.

Four general-duties teams of ADF personnel were deployed to assist with flood evacuation and clean-up efforts, in addition to the existing five teams already assisting aged-care facilities as part of Operation COVID-19 Assist.

In New South Wales:

- Defence continued providing emergency support to the NSW State Emergency Service in flood-affected areas in several areas of northern NSW.
- Air Force P-8A Poseidon aircraft providing aerial surveillance and imagery support was extended into northern NSW flood-affected regions.
- Additional personnel were being prepared in Sydney for emergency support tasks in northern NSW, if required.
- Defence embedded staff in the State Emergency Operations Centre (SEOC) at Homebush and SESHQ in Wollongong.

ADF helicopter crews conducted seven rescue missions resulting in 17 people rescued across a variety of locations in NSW including Woodburn, Du-noon, Bungawalbin, Upper Wilsons Creek, Kyogle, Swan River and Upper Main Arm.

On Monday, February 28

- Readying additional ADF personnel so that they can move within 24 hours' notice to augment support efforts.

In accordance with Emergency Management Australia priorities, Defence was focusing delivery of ADF rotary-wing support into northern NSW region.

ADF Assistance in NSW and Qld Floods - Operation Flood Assist 2022

In Queensland:

- Defence continued to make preparations to support the Queensland Government requirements for evacuation handling centres if needed.
- ADF personnel deployed to aged-care facilities in the Brisbane area assisted with flood preparation including sandbagging and subsequent clean-up after flood waters had receded.
- Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Minister for Defence visited 7th Brigade in Brisbane to receive a brief on the brigade's capabilities, and also an update on the ADF efforts in assisting with flood relief.
- A helicopter crew provided urgent search and rescue support in looking for a car that had been reportedly swept away down Albert River in the vicinity of Logan. The search was called off when it was confirmed that the car was unoccupied.
- One AW139 helicopter deployed from Townsville to south-east Queensland to reinforce ADF rotary-wing effects in Queensland and northern NSW.

One Air Force P-8A Poseidon aircraft provided aerial surveillance and imagery of the Mary River in the Gympie and Maryborough regions, flood-affected areas of the Brisbane River, and conducted two ad-hoc surveys of catchment areas in the Sunshine Coast Airport and Caloundra Airport regions.

In New South Wales:

Helicopter crews conducted seven rescue missions resulting in 23 people rescued across a variety of locations, including Lismore, Ballina and Gundurimba.

On Sunday, February 27

- Defence provided an Air Force P-8A Poseidon aircraft from South Australia to provide aerial surveillance support to the Queensland Government about flood and damage assessments.
- Two MRH-90 Taipan helicopters continued search and rescue operations, including winch recovery.
- Two commercial contracted rescue helicopters in Brisbane continued to be on standby to supplement Defence capability.
- ADF helicopter crews conducted 10 rescue missions in Queensland resulting in 19 people rescued across a wide variety of locations, including Regency Downs, Woolshed Creek and Lake Clarendon among others.
 - Aircrews responded to a property at Mount Tarampa where a family who were surrounded by water in their home was rescued.
 - Aircrew conducted a rescue winch recovery of a man in flood waters at Prenzlau, who was subsequently evacuated to RAAF Base Amberley.

- ADF provided emergency support to the NSW State Emergency Service in flood affected areas in the Northern NSW region with help from the Army's 5th Brigade.

As part of this support, approximately 70 Army Reserve soldiers from the 41st Battalion the Royal New South Wales Regiment were undertaking a range of tasks including sandbagging, door knocking and transportation.

On Saturday, February 26

- Defence received a request from the Queensland Government, through Emergency Management Australia, to increase its support.
 - Helicopter crews conducted eight rescue missions resulting in 28 people being rescued.
 - The rescues took place in vicinity of Regency Downs, Woolshed Creek, Clarendon, Rifle Range and Mount Tarampa in Queensland.
 - Rescue details include:
 - ✦ Aircrew responded to a property at Regency Downs, where a mother and infant along with four children, who were surrounded by water in their home, were rescued.
 - ✦ Aircrew also successfully searched for and located three missing men in a dinghy who were in difficulty after setting off to help neighbours. They were winched into the helicopter and transported safely at RAAF Base Amberley.

At approximately 2:45pm Queensland local time, an MRH-90 Taipan helicopter was tasked to a rescue at Lake Clarendon where a community member was stranded on the roof of a vehicle.

On Friday, February 25

- Following a request by Queensland Police, Defence commenced support to rescue efforts of civilians affected by the Queensland floods.
- Australian Army MRH-90 Taipan helicopters assisted the rescue of community members trapped in flood-affected areas in south-east Queensland.

Helicopter crews conducted two missions resulting in two separate rescues resulting in four people being rescued. The rescues took place in vicinity of Gatton and Jimboomba (Boonah).

Defence will continue to provide additional support as requested by the Queensland and NSW governments. Defence is ready to support the states as the flood emergency and recovery efforts continue.

For more Operation Flood Assist 2022 imagery, go to the [Defence image gallery](#).

ADF Assistance in NSW and Qld Floods - Operation Flood Assist 2022

Last updated: 08:00am Tuesday, March 15, 2022.

Defence support to Queensland and NSW governments is being delivered under Operation Flood Assist 2022 and coordinated through Headquarters Joint Operations Command. Deployment of forces is in response to NSW Government and Queensland Government requirements coordinated and prioritised through State Emergency Operations Centres.

Personnel supporting (approximate):

Currently there are more than 6900 personnel on task or available for tasking across NSW and Queensland.

- Total personnel deployed on task in Queensland: more than 1600
- Total personnel deployed on task in New South Wales: more than 5200
- more than 3700 in northern NSW, more than 1500 in Sydney basin

Tasks planned for Tuesday, March 15

- Defence continues its efforts to support the Queensland and NSW governments across a range of search and rescue, clean up and recovery tasks. Continuing liaison with SES Incident Management Teams and Emergency Operation Centres to identify and scope recovery tasks.

In Queensland:

- Continuation of disaster relief clean-up efforts in Bundamba, Goodna, Graceville, Ipswich, Logan, Oxley and St Lucia, including support to the Brisbane City Council kerbside rubbish collection efforts.
- HMAS *Shepparton*, HMAS *Yarra* and Clearance Diving Team Four to continue hydrographic survey and clearance of sub-surface obstructions in the Brisbane River and Moreton Bay.
- Reconnaissance and planning for tasks beyond the Ipswich area.
- Reconnaissance of suburbs in the greater Brisbane River area.

An engineer element will continue work at Rocklea Cold Storage & Distribution facility.

In New South Wales:

- Continuation of aviation and ground support to northern NSW, including Lismore, Evans Head, Stotts Creek, Murrumbidgee, Mullumbimby, Tweed Heads, Chinderah, Byron Bay, Ocean Shores, Ballina, Casino, Coffs Harbour, including heavy plant operations in Lismore and Tweed Heads.
- Key support in Lismore includes: support to garbage collection, debris removal at Lismore Public School and Richmond River High School, delivery of Singapore Government-donated relief stores,

- Conduct intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance of flood-damaged regions.
- Debris removal and works on key government infrastructure and schools along the Bruxner Highway, Wyrallah Road and Ballina Road.
- Continue reconnaissance tasks and support tasks alongside emergency services in Sydney basin.
- ADF personnel to support to Cessnock and Spencer in road clearance operations.
- Assisting NSW SES transfer supplies to Hinton for further operations.
- Recovery operations along Nimbin temporary water pipeline.
- Helicopter and plant machine assets to reinforce route access to isolated communities in Upper Wilsons Creek region.
- House clearance recovery operations in Cabbage Tree Island.
- Coordinate helicopter support to town mayors to reach isolated communities for critical community engagement.

Reconnaissance of area west and east of the Hawkesbury River.

On Monday, March 14

In Queensland:

- Continued disaster relief clean-up efforts in Bundamba, Goodna, Graceville, Ipswich, Logan, Oxley and St Lucia, including support to the Brisbane City Council kerbside rubbish collection efforts.
- HMAS *Shepparton*, HMAS *Yarra* and Clearance Diving Team Four continued hydrographic survey and clearance of sub-surface obstructions in the Brisbane River and Moreton Bay.
- Reconnaissance and planning for tasks beyond the Ipswich area.
- Reconnaissance of suburbs in the greater Brisbane River.

The engineer element will continue work at Rocklea Cold Storage & Distribution facility.

In New South Wales:

- Continuation of aviation and ground support to northern NSW, including Lismore, Broadwater, Cabbage Tree Island, Coraki, Evans Head, Wal-lum and Woodburn.
- Continuation of support in Lismore includes: completed house-to-curb rubbish removal, delivery of 35 care packages to Lismore Base Hospital.
- Supported isolated communities in Tweed Shire Council area through welfare checks and route reconnaissance.
- Integrated ADF liaison officers into recovery coordination centres across affected regions, including Richmond Valley Council in Casino.

ADF Assistance in NSW and Qld Floods - Operation Flood Assist 2022

- Debris removal and works on key government infrastructure and schools along the Bruxner Highway, Wyrallah Road and Ballina Road.
- Provided assistance clearing flood damage to Blakebrook, Rappville and Leeville schools in northern NSW.
- ADF personnel worked alongside NSW SES volunteers to support road clearing, clean up and rapid damage assessment in vicinity of Spencer.
- Recovery operations along Nimbin temporary water pipeline.
- Continuation of ADF and NSW SES railway line assessments in northern NSW.
- Continued support to telecommunications companies restoring communications services. Conduct intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance of flood-damaged regions.

On Sunday, March 13

In Queensland:

- Continuation of disaster relief clean-up efforts in Bundamba, Goodna, Ipswich, Gattam, Grantham, Rocklea, Milton, St Lucia, including support to the Brisbane City Council kerbside rubbish collection efforts.
- Support in the Gympie region concluded with ADF personnel returning to Gallipoli Barracks for further tasks.
- Helicopter operations were conducted in support of NNSW including the transport of the Singaporean disaster relief stores.
- HMAS *Shepparton*, HMAS *Yarra* and Clearance Diving Team Four continued hydrographic survey and clearance of sub-surface obstructions in the Brisbane River and Moreton Bay including the following ferry terminals: Eleanor Schonell Bridge, Guyatt, Milton, Regatta, University of Southern Queensland, St Lucia and West End.
- Continuation of liaison with Queensland state and local authorities to identify and scope recovery tasks.
- Further reconnaissance of greater Brisbane River suburbs to identify future tasks in accordance with Brisbane City Council priority list.

10 ADF and Singaporean helicopters based at Oakley to support south-eastern Queensland and northern NSW with taskings, including search and rescue, aerial reconnaissance, food and stores distribution, patient transfer and logistics support: 4x Army MRH-90 Taipan, 2x Army CH-47F Chinook, 2x AW-139, and 2x CH-47F Chinook helicopters from the Republic of Singapore Air Force.

In New South Wales:

- Continuation of aviation and ground support to northern NSW, including Evans Head, Stotts Creek, Lismore, Murrumbidgee, Mullumbimby, Tweed Heads, Chinderah, Byron Bay, Ocean

Shores, Ballina, Casino, Coffs Harbour, including heavy plant operations in Lismore and Tweed Heads.

- Continuation of embedding ADF personnel with NSW State Emergency Service (SES) and Rural Fire Services recovery centres.
- Continuation of clean-up of flood debris from Lismore Primary School and Richmond River High School.
- Continuation of heavy plant operations in Lismore and Tweed Heads.
- 150 tonnes of debris removed from Bruxner Highway and Wyrallah road, facilitating access to schools and key government infrastructure.
- Continuation of reconnaissance along Nimbin water pipeline.
- Assisted NSW SES transfer supplies to Hinton for further operations.
- Delivered remainder of Singapore Government-donated disaster relief supplies from RAAF Base Amberley to Lismore.
- Received and established Air Force field kitchen in northern NSW.
- Prepared to establish a Role 1 medical capability at Evans Head.
- Continued intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance of flood-damaged regions in northern NSW and P-8A Poseidon aerial reconnaissance of northern NSW and Hunter region.
- Supported Cessnock road clearance operations.
- Clean-up and general duties support to SES elements in Wisemans Ferry.
- Coordinated ADF helicopter support with town mayors to ensure isolated communities are engaged, including welfare checks and the transport of food and water.
- Food loading at food distribution points as required.

Seven ADF helicopters providing reconnaissance and support in NSW, based at HMAS *Albatross* (2x MH-60R Seahawks, 1x AW-139), RAAF Base Williamtown (1x AW-139) and Holsworthy Barracks (3x Army MRH-90 Taipans). Aerial reconnaissance teams focused on Kurrajong, Kurmond, Freemans Reach and Wilberforce.

On Saturday, March 12

In Queensland:

- Continued clean-up efforts in Gattam, Grantham, Milton, St Lucia and Rocklea. Including support to the Brisbane City Council kerbside rubbish collection efforts.
- Conducted welfare checks with vulnerable persons at the request of Brisbane City Council.
- HMAS *Shepparton* and Clearance Diving Team Four continued surveying and assisting to clear

ADF Assistance in NSW and Qld Floods - Operation Flood Assist 2022

Brisbane River and Moreton Bay of submerged obstacles.

- ADF and Republic of Singapore Air Force helicopters transported Singapore Government-donated disaster relief supplies from RAAF Base Amberley to Lismore.

Continued liaison with Queensland state and local authorities to identify and scope recovery tasks.

In New South Wales:

- Continued clean-up efforts in towns across northern NSW, including Lismore, Ballina, Broadwater, Cabbage Tree Island, Coffs Harbour, Evans Head, Grafton, Murwillumbah, Tweed Heads, Wallum, Wardell and Woodburn. Additional ADF personnel transported to isolated townships such as Broadwater, Coraki and Woodburn.
- Accepted and began delivering initial Singapore Government-donated disaster relief supplies in Lismore.
- Supported contracted garbage collection in South Lismore, where more around 400 tonnes of rubbish has been removed to date.
- Plant operations and welfare checks continued in Broadwater, Coraki and Woodburn.
- Conducted railway line assessments with SES volunteers in northern NSW.
- Several helicopter missions were conducted across NSW, including reconnaissance in the Sydney basin area.
- ADF personnel deployed to areas in Sydney's north-west, including Bligh Park, Windsor and Wisemans Ferry.
- Defence establishments in Sydney basin reached out to identify opportunities to support local councils and emergency services.
- Continued ADF build up in Singleton to be ready for tasking from Monday, March 14.
- Continued engineering reconnaissance in Nimbin to return water services to local community.
- Continued Bruxner Highway debris removal to schools and key government infrastructure.
- Continued to support telecommunication companies in restoring communication services.

Continued support to Evans Head evacuation centres.

On Friday, March 11

In Queensland:

- Continued clean-up efforts in Bundamba, Gatton, Goodna, Grantham, Gympie, Ipswich, Milton, St Lucia and Rocklea. Including support to the Brisbane City Council kerbside rubbish collection efforts.

- HMAS *Shepparton*, HMAS *Yarra* and Clearance Diving Team Four continued surveying and assisting to clear Brisbane River and Moreton Bay of submerged obstacles.

Continued liaison with Queensland state and local authorities to identify and scope recovery tasks.

In New South Wales:

- Continued clean-up efforts in towns across northern NSW, including Lismore, Cabbage Tree Island, Coffs Harbour, Evans Head, Grafton, Murwillumbah, Tweed Heads, Wallum and Woodburn. Additional ADF personnel transported to isolated townships such as Broadwater, Coraki and Woodburn.
- Commenced tasks in support of SES and local community in Ballina, Broadwater, Wardell and Woodburn.
- Plant operations and welfare checks continued in Broadwater, Coraki and Woodburn.
- ADF presence in Casino consolidated.
- 100-person camp established at Lismore to support Defence personnel conducted ongoing operations.
- Conducted intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance surveillance of flood-damaged regions.
- Several helicopter missions were conducted across northern NSW.
- Defence establishments in Sydney basin reached out to identify opportunities to support local councils and emergency services.
- P-8A Poseidon aerial reconnaissance of flood in northern NSW and Hunter regions.
- Established ADF presence in Singleton to be ready for tasking from Monday, March 14.
- Engineering reconnaissance in Nimbin to return water services to local community.
- Work across Bruxner Highway focusing on schools and key government infrastructure has removed more than 125 tonnes of debris to-date.
- Continued to support telecommunication companies in restoring communication services.

Assistance to evacuation centres in Evans Head.

On Thursday, March 10

In Queensland:

- Continuation of clean-up efforts in Gympie, Gatton, Grantham, St Lucia, Milton, Rocklea, Ipswich, Bundamba and Goodna. Including support to the Brisbane City Council kerbside rubbish collection efforts.
- Royal Australian Navy vessel HMAS *Shepparton* and Clearance Diving Team Four continued surveying and assisting to clear Brisbane River and Moreton Bay of submerged obstacles.

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- Continued liaison with Queensland state and local authorities to identify and scope recovery tasks.

Nine helicopters were based out of Oakey to support south-eastern Queensland and northern NSW with taskings including search and rescue, aerial reconnaissance, food and stores distribution, patient transfer and logistics support (4x MRH-90, 2x Army Chinook CH-47F, 2x AW-139. 1x Chinook CH-47F from Singapore Armed Forces).

In New South Wales:

- Continuation of clean-up efforts in towns across northern NSW, including Lismore, Coffs Harbour, Grafton, Murwillumbah, Tweed Heads, Ballina. Additional ADF personnel in isolated townships such as Coraki, Woodburn and Broadwater.
- Limited helicopter operations continued in support of northern NSW, due to severe weather.
- ADF presence in Casino consolidated.
- Planning underway for 500 personnel camp construction to commence in vicinity of Lismore.
- Conduct intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance surveillance of flood-damaged regions.
- Five helicopter missions were conducted, undertaking tasks such as reconnaissance and passenger transfer.
- Defence establishments in Sydney basin reached out to identify opportunities to support local councils and emergency services.
- P-8A Aerial reconnaissance of flood in Sydney Basin Area.
- Continued to support telecommunication companies in restoring communication services.

Assistance to evacuation centres in Evans Head.

On Wednesday, March 9:

In Queensland:

- Continuation of clean-up efforts in Queensland: in Gympie, Gatton, St Lucia, Fairfield, Graceville, Rocklea, Gatton, Grantham and Goodna.
- ADF footprint was expanded on the ground to meet the needs of more communities.
- Support to the Brisbane City Council kerbside rubbish collection efforts.
- Royal Australian Navy vessel HMAS *Shepparton* and Clearance Diving Team Four continued surveying and assisting to clear Brisbane River and Moreton Bay of submerged obstacles.
- ADF personnel continued to support Queensland State Emergency Service (SES).
- Defence personnel continued to be embedded in the State Disaster Coordination Centre (SDCC) and the District Disaster Coordination

Cells (DDCC) at Gympie, Gold Coast and Ipswich, as well as Brisbane Local Disaster Coordination Cell.

Nine helicopters were based out of Oakey to support south-eastern Queensland and northern NSW with taskings including search and rescue, aerial reconnaissance, food and stores distribution, patient transfer and logistics support (4x MRH-90, 2x Army Chinook CH-47F, 2x AW-139. 1x Chinook CH-47F from Singapore Armed Forces).

In New South Wales:

- Continuation of clean-up efforts in towns across northern NSW, including Lismore, Cabbage Tree Island, Coffs Harbour, Grafton, Murwillumbah, Port Macquarie, Tweed Heads—Byron Bay, Wallum and Woodburn.
- ADF heavy plant equipment operations continued in Lismore.
- Limited helicopter operations continued in support of Northern NSW, due to pending severe weather.
- ADF personnel continued to support NSW SES aviation food and water-drop operations to isolated housing and communities.
- Conducted intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance surveillance of flood-damaged regions.
- ADF personnel continued to assist with reconnaissance and food distribution in areas south of Casino.
- P-8 Poseidon aerial reconnaissance of flood Sydney Basin Area.
- Members from the ADF Dive School yesterday rescued a sinking small boat which would have become a navigational hazard in Sydney Harbour.
- An MRH-90 helicopter conducted reconnaissance of the Sydney basin, focusing on Camden, Nepean Valley, Penrith, Richmond/Windsor and Chipping North areas.
- Six littoral flood assessment teams conducted proactive reconnaissance/survey of the Hawkesbury River from Mooney Mooney Bridge.

Two Navy MH-60R Seahawk helicopters and one commercially contracted AW-139 helicopter are located at HMAS *Albatross* in Nowra for search and rescue operations in day and night conditions in the greater Sydney and the South Coast region.



HMAS Shepparton greets HMAS Yarra as she enters Moreton Bay,

Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT) Concessional Access Program

Stay COVIDsafe - If you have symptoms of COVID-19, **don't** go to a pharmacy to collect a rapid antigen test. Instead, check your state or territory health authority's [directions](#) on what to do. In most cases, this will mean you should go straight to a COVID-19 testing centre.

About this program

The Australian government is introducing a temporary Rapid Antigen Test Concessional Access program. **This new program starts on 24 January 2022 and ends on 30 April 2022. Extended to 31 July 22 on 11 March 22.**

If you have a valid, eligible Commonwealth concession card, you can access up to 10 rapid antigen tests through participating community pharmacies, at no cost to you. You can access a maximum of 10 rapid antigen tests over the three-month period, but no more than 5 tests in any month.

This temporary program enables eligible people to access rapid antigen tests, to be more confident engaging in your regular activities, while protecting yourself and others from COVID-19.

The Australian Government and state and territory governments are jointly funding this program to provide rapid antigen tests to eligible people at no cost.

Eligibility

If you have a valid Commonwealth concession card from the list below, you are eligible to receive up to 10 rapid antigen tests, over 3 months, at no cost to you from a participating community pharmacy:

- Pensioner Concession card;
- Commonwealth Seniors Health Care card;
- Health Care Card (including Low Income Health Care card); or
- Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold, White or Orange cards.

Details

If you're eligible, you will need to go to a participating community pharmacy in person to claim your tests, or have a guardian/carer attend to collect them on your behalf.

A valid Commonwealth concession card will need to be shown to the pharmacy. You will also need to agree to the pharmacy recording your concession card details into their system for supply, compliance, and pharmacy reimbursement purposes.

The pharmacy will then check and confirm if you've received any rapid antigen tests through the program, and what allocation you have remaining.

If you are confirmed as an eligible person by the participating pharmacy, with a remaining allocation available, you may be supplied with a minimum of two tests.

The pharmacy will record the supply details into their system of how many rapid antigen tests you received.

DVA CONTACTS

Information on health services may be obtained from DVA. The contact numbers for health care providers requiring further information or prior financial authorisation for all States & Territories are listed below:

PHONE NUMBER:

Telephone:
[1800 VETERAN \(1800 838 372\)](tel:1800838372)

International callers:

[+61 2 6289 1133](tel:+61262891133)

POSTAL ADDRESS FOR ALL STATES AND TERRITORIES:

Health Approvals & Home Care Section department of Veterans' Affairs

GPO Box 9998

BRISBANE QLD 4001

DVA WEBSITE:

<http://www.dva.gov.au/providers/allied-healthprofessionals>

DVA email for prior financial authorisation:
health.approval@dva.gov.au

The appropriate prior approval request form can be found at: <https://www.dva.gov.au/providers/servicesrequiring-prior-approval>

CLAIMS FOR PAYMENT

For information about claims for payment visit:
www.dva.gov.au/providers/how-claim

You may ask for your monthly test allocation limit as a single supply, if required. The decision to provide this will be at the discretion of the pharmacy, and dependent on whether the pharmacy has enough tests available. If you have already received the maximum number of tests you're entitled to, your pharmacy will let you know.

For the purposes of this program, the following time periods apply:

- **First month** 24 January 2022 to 28 February 2022
- **Second month** 1 March 2022 to 31 March 2022
- **Third month** 1 April 2022 to 30 April 2022
- **Extended to 31 July 2022** on 11 March 2022.

You will only be able to access a maximum of 5 tests in any month of the program, as outlined above, until you have reached the maximum number of tests available under the program.

The tests you receive under this program will be at **no charge** to you.

For more information about getting tested and reporting a positive rapid antigen test result visit the Department of Health [website](#), or check your local state or territory requirements.