



AA14.4 - ACTION ALERT: JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER JETS

Australia has decided to purchase F-35A aircraft for the defence forces. As part of preparing the way for these planes, a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has being prepared and released in July. Details can be found on the website www.f35evolution.com.au

Submissions on the EIS may be made in writing to Coffey, F-35A Lightning II EIS Project, Reply Paid 89109, Kew Vic 3101. Otherwise you can go onto the above website and send a message via the 'Contact Me' icon.

Further information sessions are expected to be held in the places where the aircraft will operate – Williamtown NSW, Katherine NT, Darwin NT, and Townsville Qld. Details about these sessions can be checked on the website.

A report on *ABC News* on 22 July 2014 made the following points about the draft EIS:

- The new fighters would produce comparable noise levels to the FA-18 Hornet fighter jets they are replacing.
- Peak noise levels will reach 90 decibels for Darwin's Bagot indigenous community.
- Thrust after take-off will be reduced to 60% of engine capacity to reduce noise levels.
- The flight paths for the aircraft could disrupt feeding, roosting and breeding patterns of some migratory birds, especially in Darwin and Williamtown.
- There is at present no plan for noise from the Darwin base to be monitored by the Department of Defence, owing to the low number of aircraft movements expected.

Whilst it seems to be too late to change the decision to purchase the planes, there may be opportunities for Friends to make it known that they are concerned about the environmental implications.

Canberra
August 2014