

Hot Issue Brief Tracking System

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Subject: DISCOVERY OF HUMAN REMAINS ON MAJURA TRAINING AREA BY ACT POLICE
Comment:
Group: Estate and Infrastructure Group

DISCOVERY OF HUMAN REMAINS ON MAJURA TRAINING AREA BY ACT POLICE

NATURE OF THE INCIDENT:

- After Defence reported an unauthorised vehicle in the Sutton Forrest area of the Majura Training Area to ACT Police (AFP), the AFP conducted a search in the area and discovered human remains.

THE DATE AND TIME OF THE INCIDENT:

- The human remains were found by AFP at 1000, 19 November 2015.
- The initial report of the unauthorised vehicle on Defence land was made on 15 November 2015 to Defence Range Control Staff by a lease holder of Commonwealth (Defence) land on the Eastern Boundary of Majura Training Area.

ACTIONS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY:

- On 15 November 2015, a lease holder reported an unauthorised vehicle which had breached the fence between his leased paddocks and the Range Boundary fence.
- A member of Range Control investigated this report on 16 November 2015 and found further damage to the Training Area boundary fence on Sutton Road (which forms the Eastern range boundary). This damage and a description of the vehicle was reported to Military Police at Duntroon and the fence was repaired that day.
- Separately AFP discovered an abandoned vehicle at Molonglo Gorge, approximately two kilometres from Majura Training Area on the opposite side of Sutton road, and issued a media release noting concern for the safety of the driver.
- On 17 November 2015, a member of Duntroon Military Police noted a reasonable similarity between the abandoned vehicle and vehicle reported by Majura Range Control Officer and advised AFP.
- Members of AFP meet with the Range Control Officer Majura on 18 November 2015 and arranged to conduct a search of the Sutton

- Forrest area from 730 19 November 2015.
- Human remains were found in the Sutton Forrest area of Majura Training Area, near its Eastern boundary.
 - Police declared the area a crime scene and sought approval from Defence to conduct an investigation within that area.
 - Approval was provided with Range Control staff providing full support to Police.
 - Military users of the Training Area are some distance from the declared crime scene and no continuing military training will be affected by the Police presence.

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