



**Australian Government**

**Department of Defence**  
Estate and Infrastructure Group

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**Senator Dean Smith**

Chair  
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Smith,

**AIR5431 PHASE 2 AND 3 DEFENCE AIR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL SYSTEM FACILITIES REQUIREMENTS AND AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL COMPLEX INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT**

This letter is to advise the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (the Committee) of a change in design to an underground diesel tank at RAAF Base Williamtown, proposed as part of this project. Defence has considered this change in response to community concerns about AFFF contamination at RAAF Base Williamtown and in response to the NSW Environment Protection Authority's (EPA) submission to the Committee.

The current design for the proposed works at RAAF Base Williamtown includes a 10,000 litre underground diesel tank to support the emergency power system of the Sensor Equipment Building.

The NSW EPA's submission to the Committee highlights a risk in the installation of underground tanks, citing that this "would likely require dewatering and subsequent disposal of potentially contaminated ground water".

Although Defence is confident that the dewatering process and construction activities would be carried out in a manner to mitigate this risk, Defence has reviewed the proposed design solution. To reduce excavation works at RAAF Base Williamtown, Defence now proposes to install the 10,000 litre tank above ground at the Sensor Equipment Building. The proposed above ground tank will require minimal excavation and will include appropriate bunding to mitigate environmental risks from fuel spills.

Yours sincerely,

  
**N.F. BEUTEL**  
Brigadier  
Director General Capital Facilities and Infrastructure

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