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Australian Government

Defence

Air Commodore Ron Tilley
Director General
Capital Facilities and Infrastructure
Brindabella Business Park [REDACTED]
PO Box 7925
CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

[REDACTED]

Mr Graham Perrett MP

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

Dear Mr Perrett,

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE TAKEN
DURING THE HEARING INTO THE SUBMARINE ROTATIONAL FORCE –
WEST PRIORITY WORKS PROJECT**

1. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works Public and In-camera Hearings for the Submarine Rotational Force – West Priority Works Project were conducted on Friday 2 August 2024. During the Public and In-camera Hearing, three questions were taken on notice.
2. **Deputy Chair:** Which sites on the Defence estate will be used to temporarily store Controlled Industrial Facility waste?
3. **Response:** There are currently two radioactive waste storage facilities on the Defence Estate that are licenced by the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency. These facilities are located near Woomera, South Australia, and Southern New South Wales. Defence has not yet determined the location where low-level radioactive waste provided by the Australian Submarine Agency will be stored. Defence will determine an appropriate storage location in conjunction with the Australian Submarine Agency and the Australian Radioactive Waste Agency’s development of interim storage and final disposal solution.
4. **Chair:** Regarding additional DHA housing, has DHA taken Perth’s current property market into consideration?
5. **Response:** Defence is aware of the current property market in the Rockingham region, which currently has low levels of housing supply and low vacancy rates. In meeting the Submarine Rotational Force – West’s housing demands, Defence is considering a number of options which will include a diverse range of housing stock in a number of different locations to reduce the impact on local services and community infrastructure. DHA, as the preferred provider and manager of Defence family accommodation, is committed to meeting the forecast increased housing demand through a combination of acquisition and direct

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leasing. DHA approached the market in March 2024 for a new builds volume leasing program in the Rockingham region over the next five years. This approach to market generated a number of responses to access new housing developments over the next five years with options to extend, which will complement DHA's existing leasing and acquisition programs.

6. **Mr Smith:** How much of the additional DHA housing will be located in Rockingham?

7. **Response:** The housing requirements and the availability of properties in the Rockingham region will largely determine which suburbs housing will be located, noting the requirement for DHA is to provide houses within 30 kilometres of the base entry. While exact locations are still to be determined due to the ongoing procurement process, housing provided by DHA will typically be spread throughout the community.

8. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further clarification.

Yours sincerely

RM Tilley
Air Commodore
Director General Capital Facilities and Infrastructure

6 August 2024