



12 November 2019

Committee Secretary
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Chair and Committee,

Navy Capacity Infrastructure Sub Program: Facilities to Support New Navy Capabilities

The Fremantle Chamber of Commerce, established in 1873, is one of Australia's oldest Chambers of Commerce, representing the interests of merchants and traders in the region for over 140 years.

We were pleased to receive a personal briefing from Lt Col Peter Sims, on the above-mentioned project last week. The Indian Ocean rim is on our doorsteps and we have long supported trade, defence and marine base activity within our membership and advocacy work.

I am writing to show our support for the scale of the maritime, operational and domestic support components of this project and its potential to add considerable value to the Western Australian economy, and particularly our local region.

Our local maritime and engineering is well placed to support the project. In particular, we were pleased to see the attention put to the project's local participation plans - including local employment, procurement and indigenous participation. We would also encourage closer ties with our local training institutions such as the University of Notre Dame and South Metro TAFE wherever possible.

The project's projected employment figures of 1,959 full time equivalent at HMAS Stirling and 352 full time equivalent jobs at Henderson also represent a significant opportunity for Fremantle. As the closest urban centre to the project we would like the opportunity to promote the benefits that a Fremantle residential base can provide to these workers.

Defence Housing Australia (DHA) has recently completed the award winning, sustainable LIV Apartment complex in Fremantle, and any further commitments to supporting such opportunities for a residential inner-city workforce to offset any negatives of a large (often male dominated) construction workforce would be appreciated.

We recognise the importance of Cockburn Sound from an environmental perspective, and as such, we are pleased to see a strong Environmental Management Plan will be in place for all works.

In summary, our Board, Committee and Members fully support the project for not only its contribution to state of the art Defence facilities, but also the opportunity it presents to Fremantle.

We know we offer a progressive and attractive maritime city that can become a desired location of choice for a both Defence domestic support, and also a construction workforce and visiting Defence personnel.

We hope that the project will offer the opportunity to share this message further afield. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries on the Chamber's support for the project.

Yours sincerely,



Dancia Quinlan
Chief Executive Officer