



**WELLINGTON**

SHIRE COUNCIL

*The Heart of Gippsland*

1 April 2016

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

### **AIR 5428 PHASE 1 – PILOT TRAINING SYSTEM FACILITIES PROJECT**

RAAF Base East Sale has been a valued part of the Sale community since 1943, and with over 600 uniform, civilian and contractor staff on the Base, is one of the largest employers in the region.

Wellington Shire Council has been a staunch advocate for the relocation of Defence Basic Flying Training to RAAF Base East Sale for a number of years, to bring about the colocation of all initial officer and military aviation training onto one Base.

The relationship between Council and the executive and personnel of RAAF Base East Sale is exceptionally strong, and based on a long history of support and strategic planning decisions by Council to ensure that the operational requirements of the Base are not encroached. In June 2013, Council reaffirmed measures detailed in our Wellington Planning Scheme and Municipal Statement (MSS) that ensure that the grant of any planning application will not detrimentally affect the operational safety of aircraft or the opportunity for the reasonable future expansion of an aerodrome such as RAAF Base East Sale.

On 31 January 2012, then Mayor Peter Cleary attended the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works Hearing for the RAAF Base East Sale Redevelopment, along with Mr Darren Chester, Member for Gippsland and a relatively large number of local community members to support that redevelopment. The high level of support was evidenced by the fact that not only Mr Chester, but also a member of Council's economic development team, and the chair of the local strategic economic development group, the Committee for Wellington, spoke at the Hearing.

Subsequently, Councillors and staff took great pride in attending the Sod Turning Ceremony for the Base Redevelopment Project on 18 July 2013. Senator Feeney noted on a number of occasions in his address, the strength of community relationship and work done collaboratively by Defence and Wellington Shire Council, to see that project approved and coming to fruition.

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Now, as the Base enters a new phase, the redevelopment works completed last year provide the foundation to continue to support not only the initial officer and aviation students currently trained at the Base, but they will also now benefit students of the Basic Flying Training School in future years.

Local Gippsland contractors have a great deal of experience in Defence infrastructure works, having also been a vital part of infrastructure work for the relocation of the Officers' Training School to Sale in 2008 and then the Base Redevelopment finalised last year. If the facilities works are approved, Council will work closely with Laing O'Rourke Australia to ensure that the potential for local businesses to participate in this tender is maximised and we already have a database of over 100 businesses that want to be engaged in this process. Continued opportunities such as this significantly benefit the local economy, allowing businesses to take on more staff and offer further potential for apprenticeships.

The level of interest and community support for the Pilot Training System Facilities project was evidenced by the attendance of over 60 business and community members at the Community Consultation on 23 March 2016. This project will significantly add value to the local community through the construction phase and then into the 25 year period of AIR 5428. This will benefit not only Wellington Shire but also the neighbouring economies of East Gippsland and the Latrobe Valley.

Council worked with companies tendering for Defence Project AIR 5428 and as part of that process, commissioned an Economic Impact Analysis Report based in support of what is the now successful Team 21 tender. Based on the Team 21 figures, the direct wage and salary contribution for the 25 years of the contract would be up to \$28 million per year. Construction work on base had not been factored into that Report but initial analysis by Council, utilising REMPLAN data on a notional project of \$170 million estimate that the total value-added for Gippsland, including all direct, industrial and consumption effects, is estimated to increase by up to \$115.29 million.

Council will attend the Public Hearing in Melbourne on 5 April 2016. Should you wish however, any further clarification on any aspects raised in this submission, please contact Manager Economic Development Sharyn Bolitho

Yours sincerely,

**CR/BOB WENGER**  
**Acting Mayor**

Cc: Hon Darren Chester, Federal Member for Gippsland

Our Ref: SB