

### Submission to committee inquiry

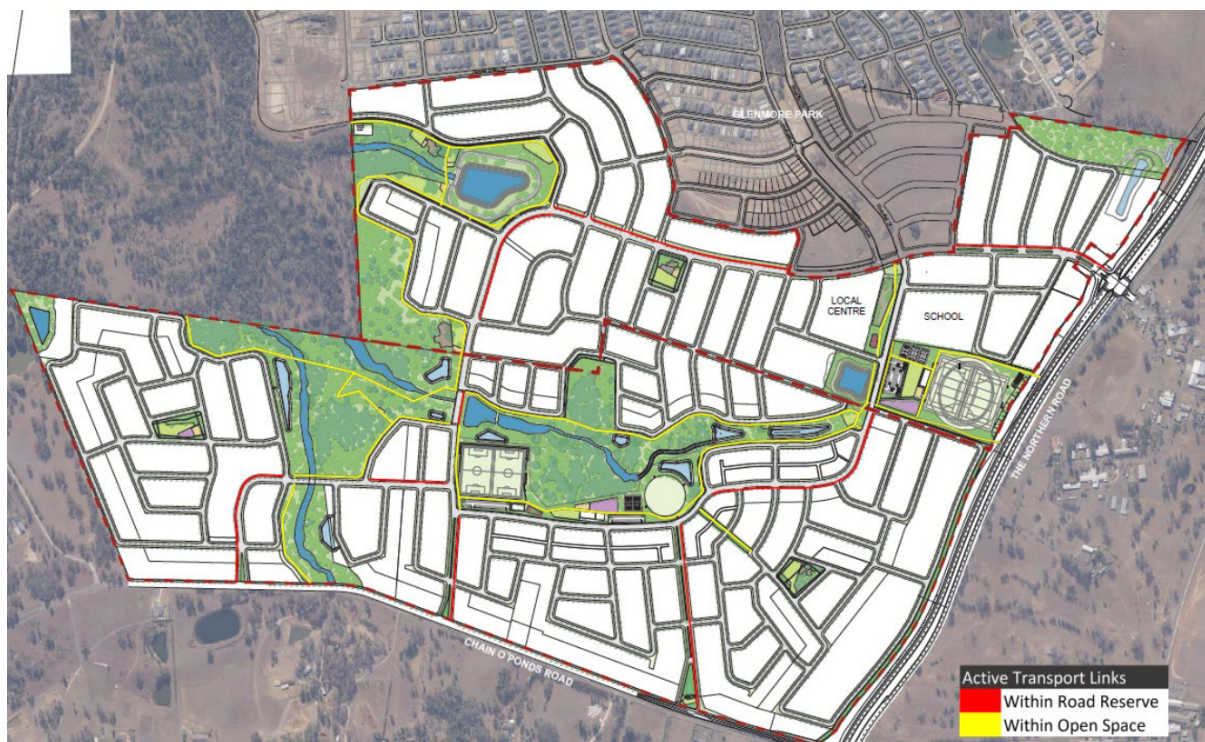
Orchard Hills Guided Weapons and Explosive Ordnance Storage upgrades.

*The DEOH started planning this project in 2022, signed a contract 11/23, so why wasn't the local community informed about the proposed changes then.*

*After chasing for more information on this project. The DEOH arranged this community forum and said notices were to be placed in the western weekender other newspapers, I would like to know why was there only one such advert put in the Western Weekender two weeks before the meeting. The other EO Northern NSW Facilities Redevelopment Project placed notices for 3 weeks in the newspapers for their information forum.*

*I would like to know why are you expanding this DEOH Storage Facility when you have to the western side of the base a new 6000 housing expansion of Glenmore Park, on the southern side a new Science business park, to the eastern side is the Twin Creeks estate and Mamre rd industrial estates expansion, Western Sydney Airport line and Orchard Hills station and Staging yards. The northern side you now have the Orchard Hills urbanisation with planned 40000 homes with a mixture of 6 to 25 storey buildings Townhouses etc. On top of that a new 24/7 airport with Flight Paths surrounding the base perimeter.*

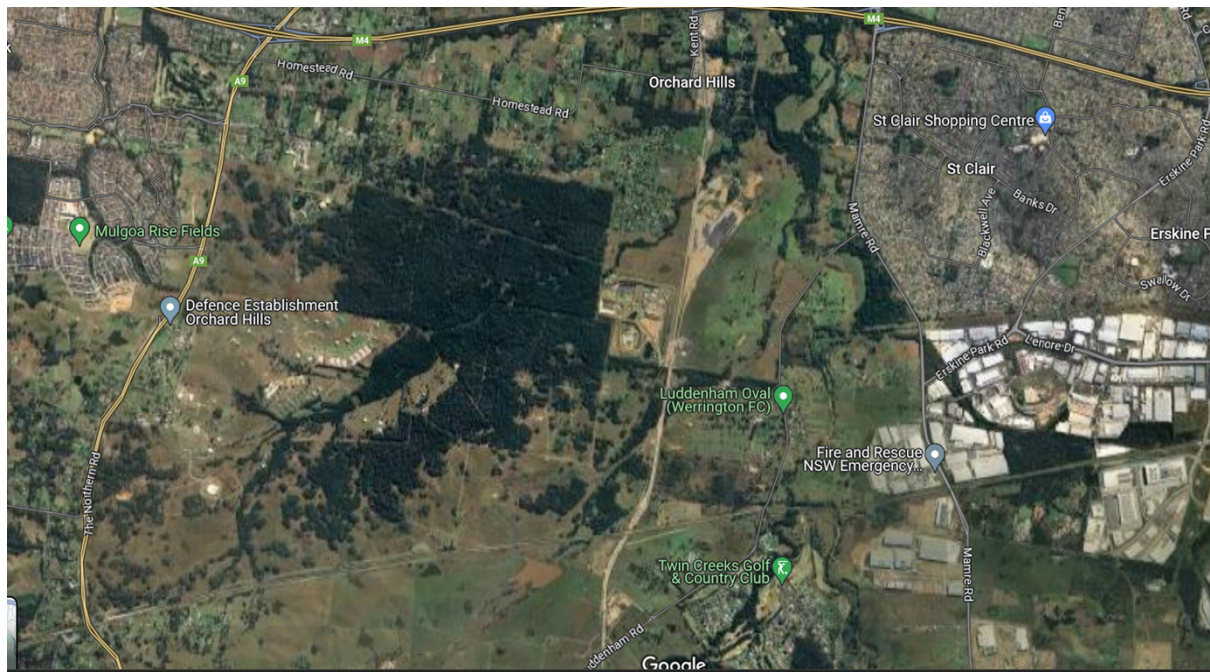
*So, in less than 10 years' time this facility will be in the middle of a city. How does that make any sense. In your Proposed Facilities Solution, can you explain why there isn't any reports on how this urbanisation will impact on this proposal, nor any of the issues of increasing EO storage in a built up urban area.*



6000 housing expansion of Glenmore Park

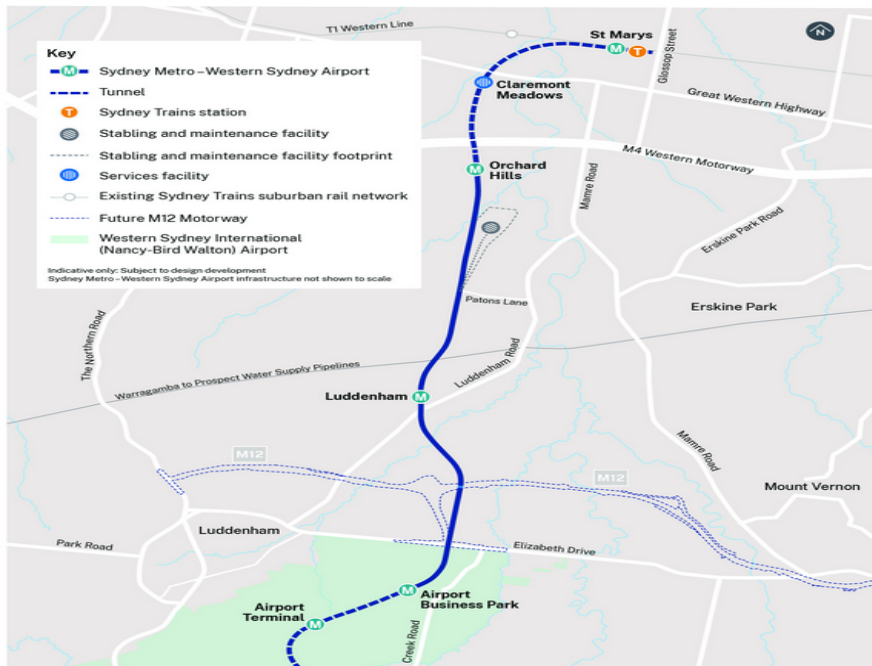


Southern side a new Science business park,

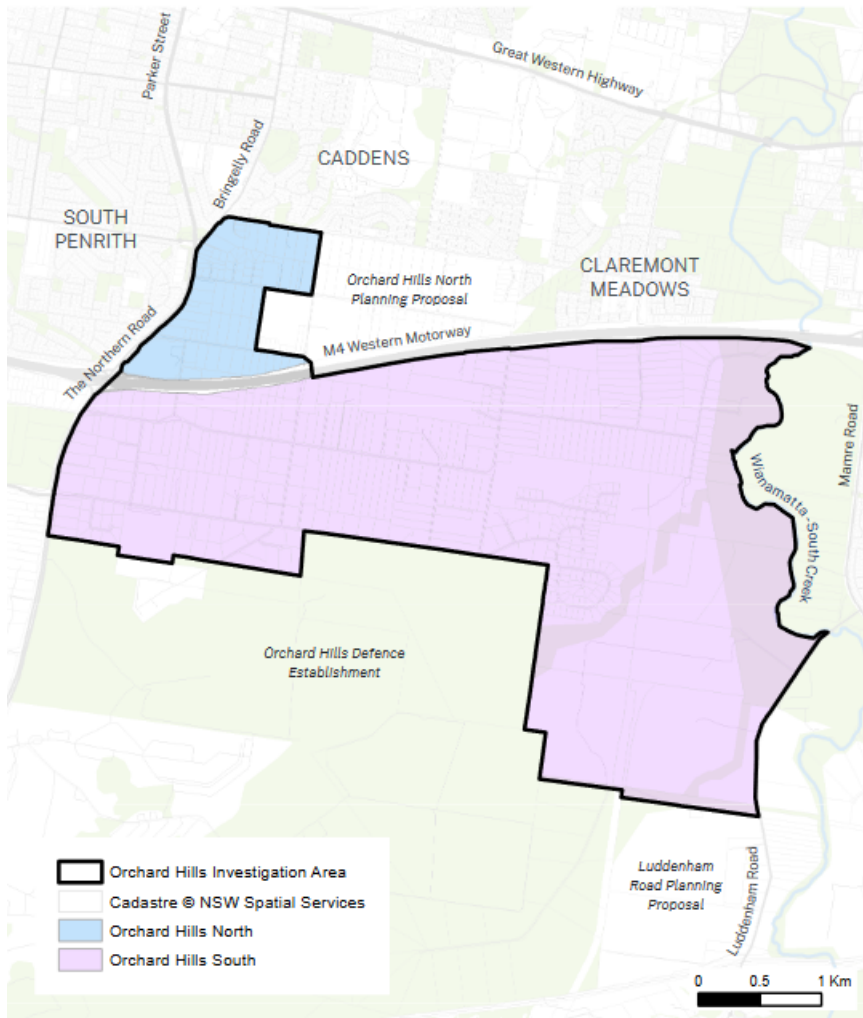


Eastern side the Twin Creeks estate and Mamre rd industrial estates expansion



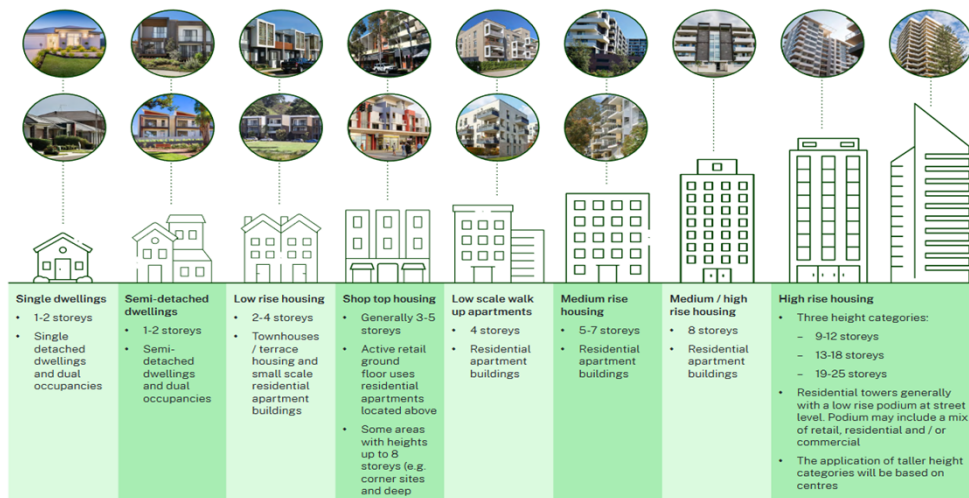


Western Sydney Airport line and Orchard Hills station and Staging yards



northern side you now have the Orchard Hills urbanisation with planned 40000 homes with a mixture of 6 to 25 storey buildings Townhouses etc

### Neighbourhood scale - possible housing types







24/7 airport with Flight Paths surrounding the base perimeter.

Will all construction vehicles travel by the main gate.

*When asked the DEOH said that it was in design phase so not able to say if this will happen. But isn't this part of design planning. So again in the construction of these upgrades, will all construction vehicles travel by the main gate, will there be any site access by Wentworth rd.*

*The current problem there is so much heavy vehicle traffic due to the new railway station, tunnel boring and raised railway line construction, that Wentworth rd is being destroyed. The damage to the rural roads is such a problem that Penrith council is not able fix these large potholes quick enough. So adding more heavy construction traffic will make things even worse. There is currently work happening on the DEOH and the Wentworth rd entry is currently being used. As you can see the gate entrance is water logged and no turning area on this narrow road. Based on the size of the project there will be at least 200 vehicle movements a day on Wentworth rd causing traffic and pollution issues to the local properties.*

*If so what plans are in place for the increase in traffic, Will DEOH update the effected property owners or just leave us in the dark.*





gate entrance is water logged and no turning area on this narrow road



Heavy vehicle damage to Wentworth rd



**As there will be large site works. Has the site been tested for soil Contamination, we are concerned about dust blown into neighbouring properties.**

**I would like to know if proposed changes to explosive ordnance being stored will there be any DEMOLITION testing in this area {Wentworth rd Orchard Hills},**

**Is the DEOH, a Large Quantity Facility. Will DEOH need the licence to be increased.**

eDEOP 101 - PROCEDURE 3 - SITING OF AREAS AND ESTABLISHMENTS

1.25 An EHA licence authorises.

e. Safeguarding and master planning details, if applicable. **When was this reviewed**

f. Authorised waivers or concessions. **Are there any waivers or concessions, if so what are they**

g. Limitations imposed by the LA. **Are there any limitations imposed by the LA, if so what are they**

3.8 Safeguarding. Safeguarding maps are to be prepared for the site in accordance with Regulation 5.6 Procedure 1, to assist in determining the area of land required for the site. **Does that include Field Storage**

**Do you have the site evaluation study of the Safeguarding that apply to local properties and property owners for the storage upgrade as per PROCEDURE 1 - LICENSING OF FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES including Explosives Disposal Area (EDA) Licensing / BURNING AND DEMOLITION GROUNDS**

The DEOH safeguarding arcs (MGA20-56) (23-05-2024)- YELLOW SAFEGUARDING LINE

Defines the minimum distance inhabited buildings, general community amenities or major traffic routes, must be sited from explosives facilities. The following are examples of structures and facilities that the Department of Defence may not wish to see approved inside the Yellow Line.

- the structures and facilities not permitted within the Purple Safeguarding Line,
- residential housing and its associated services, facilities which serve the needs of the general public, eg water, gas and electricity installations.



**So why are the residential housing, Water plant and Power line in this zone.**

THE QUANTITY DISTANCE TABLES FOR PLANNING OF A NEW STORAGE AREA *does this apply to the upgraded storage area and does this effect local properties*

*Why is the Safeguarding not held within the Defence dept area, what are the impacts on these areas outside the Defence depts zone.*

1.13 Landowners affected in any way by an activity must be notified as appropriate. ***Have they been notified in writing and when.***

#### **SAFEGUARDING - PROTECTION AGAINST CIVIL ENCROACHMENT**

2.19 It is Defence policy to protect the operations of EO facilities from encroachment by external development through the exercise of sufficient control over the development of land outside Commonwealth property boundaries. ***Has or will Defence Dept be applying for control over development in the Orchard Hills area.***

**Will these storage structures achieve the eDEOP101 blast performance criteria.**

**Are there any WAIVERS AND CONCESSIONS in place as per PROCEDURE 3**

**Will the increase in the size of proposed total tonnage Explosive Ordnance Storage Program upgrades. being stored, be larger than the current total tonnage of Ordnance and Explosive capacity**

**Does the DEOH do SURVEILLANCE OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE and any testing and or demolition of non-repairable or dangerous EO on site.**

**Why is there training of explosive ordnance detonation being done at the DEOH**

**Is there training of explosive ordnance detonation being done near the proposed storage area**

**How far from homes is the location of Training of ordnance detonation area from Wentworth rd**

**There has been a lot activity of Training explosive ordnance detonation in the past few months, we can feel the vibration impacts on our properties. Will there be a study on Seismic Effects and Ground shock waves intensity and distance from the Training of detonation of ordnance.**

**What is the size of largest single Ordnance current being part of the Training of ordnance demolition and is there any larger ordnance planned to be tested in the future and will we be informed.**

**Will there be an increase in Training of ordnance demolition**

**Will there be missile ordnance testing and any other impacts on the current and surrounding area.**

**Has there been any base line testing data created for over pressure, noise and toxic fallout, vibration impacts Training of ordnance demolition, testing of ordnance, on the local area**

**Will there be Over pressure study including high peak overpressures of explosive ordnance with Training of ordnance demolition**

**Will there be a noise hazard study on High energy impulsive noise of explosived ordnance**



**Will there be a study on toxic substances of exploded ordnance toxic fallout in the air and ground, I've read that toxins can cause chemically-induced hearing loss**

**Has there been any testing done of Contamination of the local area beside the PfAS investigations**

**Will there be a study on Fragmentation spend and impact of explosive ordnance from Training of ordnance demolition**

**Will Rocket Propellants be tested onsite ie High-Energy-Dense-Oxidizers**

**What are the materials/ chemicals being used in the ordnance**

**How toxic are these materials or chemicals to humans. Are trinitroethyl moiety, nitroform, any chemicals such as PHOSPHORUS AND PHOSPHIDES stored on site**

**Is there storage of radiative materials including depleted uranium EO on site**

**PROCEDURE 11 - CONTROL AND OPERATION OF BURNING AND DEMOLITION GROUNDS Are there Burning and Demolition Grounds areas, what are Demolition Ground limits { Burning and Demolition Grounds are areas specifically designated for controlled disposal of explosives}**

**End of Service Life procedure, is ordnance Disposed on site, if so how**

**Ground Contamination, are the remains of the Explosive Ordnance buried on site, ie Explosive Contamination, White Phosphorus (WP) Disposal Areas. Chemical Disposal Areas**

**Why is there No demolition, notification given to the local community.**

**Have there been Incidents involving Explosive Ordnance ie accident./ EO malfunction/ EO defect/ EO violation/ EO near miss at the DEOH**

**Are there any WAIVERS AND CONCESSIONS TO MANDATORY SAFETY REQUIREMENTS in place that impact the local community**

**INITIAL RESPONSE AND REPORTING PROCEDURES, says nothing about warning the local community**

**Will DEOH provide any data on the Training of the explosive ordnance demolition/testing and its impact on the local properties and property owners.**

**REGULATION 1.4 - AUDIT AND MONITORING ACTIVITIES FOR EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE FACILITIES WITHDRAWN has this been updated yet.**

**REGULATION 2.1 - HAZARD CLASSIFICATION OF EXPLOSIVES1.9 The Defence Science and Technology Group (DSTG) is to advise on explosive substance classification testing. The expertise of DSTG in this respect is available to the ESTC and all other elements of the Department.**

**PROCEDURE 4 - SURVEILLANCE OF EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE Surveillance consists of various types of inspection, non-destructive and destructive testing, at specified frequencies throughout an item's Life of Type, will this effect local properties**

**Any Reporting of Breaches of Authorised Explosives Limits for the base.**

**Is there a Commonwealth Explosives Regulator in place,**

## **I read the Explosives Act Thematic Review, Department of Defence | Explosive Ordnance Branch**

### **With statements like**

*How many people can you kill and have the risk level tolerable*

It has been stated that current Explosives Instruments do not have sufficiently clear safety and security requirements and lack an independent governance structure capable of enforcing compliance with the requirements; and some Commonwealth Explosive Activities require diligence above and beyond what the general safety and security duties can regulate.

“[The current regime’s] reference to exemption from the Australian Explosives Code is very problematic as the Code is significantly out of date and out of alignment with international standards.”

“The current Commonwealth EO regime fails to capture the EO where risks are potentially greater or even unknown. It’s built around a uniform "off the shelf model" where everything fits neatly into place.”

The consequences from [issues with] security or storage even below MHF thresholds is a significant risk. Public perception is also a factor. How many people can you kill and have the risk level tolerable? Storage below MHF thresholds is very important.”

[The current regime creates] confusion between industry and regulators about where the current Commonwealth legislation stops, and the states' legislation starts. Blurring of the lines of what is under the control of Defence when they contract out activities to non-government organisations.

If standards adopted are accepted international standards, it sets a good baseline for international harmonisation, with recognised best practice for safety and security.

**Have your committee addressed any of these issues raised. If so what are they.**

**{old Regulation 1.4 has been withdrawn in preparation for the} release of the new Explosive Ordnance, has this been completed.**

**What is your Assurance Framework policy.**