

## COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE

This submission is in response to provide comment on the proposed works under Canberra Defence Precinct Tranche 1 ADFA Living In Accommodation Project released in November 2023.

Included in the scope of the recommended option are

Para 23b – 1600 car parks for trainee officers and supervisory staff-

Car parks are not discussed in detail in the submission and only a site plan of the campus gives a visual impact of their location

There is no mention of electric vehicle charging points or of dedicated car cleaning bays in each car park. Charging points will have an increasing role in the future and will require switchboards that can cope with this demand

Car Park 4 is sited on the northern boundary of the ADFA campus ( not including the Addison Rd playing fields). It is quite remote from the LIA precinct which is on the southern boundary. It is surrounded on two sides by partly cleared bushland and a main road.

Importantly out of working hours – evenings and weekends- a trainee walking to or from the car park to her or his accommodation is challenged by dimly lit open spaces and buildings that will not be occupied and paths surrounded by narrow paths and building walls. About 250 metres will have to be traversed before reaching some people frequented areas such as the library and ACM entrance but after 11pm those areas also will be quite empty.

There is therefore an element of personal risk from unprovoked personal attack given that the ADFA campus is not a gated community.

Although ADFA and RMC have contracted security patrols and there is an AFP presence the risk of walking to and from Car Park 4 will still be present.

Both the Australian National University and the University of Canberra face similar risks although their car parks are closer to campus accommodation. They have supplemented their security patrols by having an out of hours help line which provides a “chaperone” personal companion to anyone who feels at risk.

The personal risk described could be eliminated if another site for car park 4 could be identified.

The current car park on the southern side of General Bridges Drive opposite the 2 eastern accommodation blocks would seem to be an obvious choice but appears to have been discounted

It was originally used as a car park for the adjacent Duntroon Health Centre and has been used by ADFA cadets and civilian staff since 1986. However in the last two years a new Health Centre has been built with its own multi story car park.

It may have a role in the future RMC development or may be considered essential for access to the Weapons Simulation facility but both options seem unlikely.

As the aim of the project is to provide “a safe and secure environment to support the well being of trainee officers” the present site of car park 4 should be reviewed.