



Infrastructure Division
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Russell Offices
CANBERRA ACT 2600

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SUBMISSION 11

The Secretary
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Attention: Ms Margaret Swieringa

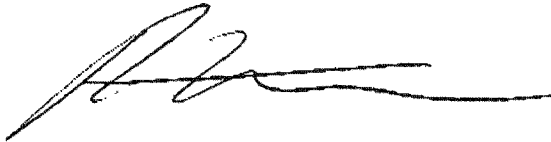
DEFENCE RESPONSE TO PWC SUBMISSION FROM THE HAWKESBURY CITY COUNCIL

1. Thank you for referring a copy of the letter dated 29 August 2003 from the Hawkesbury City Council concerning the RAAF Base Richmond Reinvestment project.
2. Defence appreciates the strong support of the Hawkesbury City Council with respect to this proposal.
3. The Mayor of City of Hawkesbury, Dr Rex Stubbs OA, the Member for Macquarie, Mr Kerry Bartlett MP, the Member for Londonderry, Mr Alan Shearan MLA, representatives from NSW Government agencies and Hawkesbury City Council were briefed by Defence on the proposed RAAF Base Richmond Reinvestment project on 8 August 2003. At this briefing, Defence advised its intention, subject to Parliamentary approval, to initiate a limited reinvestment at the Base to ensure operational capability is maintained in the medium term. The project will have no foreseeable impact on external services infrastructure.
4. Defence notes Hawkesbury City Council's interest in the long-term future of RAAF Base Richmond. The benefits of an on-going RAAF presence to the social and economic fabric of the region are acknowledged and are important factors that will be considered in the broader Force Disposition Review which has been initiated by Government.
5. Defence is committed to providing a work environment that is safe and free from risk to all personnel working in or visiting Defence controlled workplaces, including contractors. In addition, Defence will provide a safe working environment for tenants and build and purchase 'fit for purpose' facilities and equipment.
6. Defence expects all employees and contracting personnel to be conscious of and nurture the surrounding environment by employing sound environmental management practices in all of their activities. RAAF Base Richmond is managed in accordance with the current Base Environmental Management Plan. Contractors will be required to

produce Environmental Management Procedures for Construction Activities as a contractual obligation, and these procedures will be audited as an element of project management.

7. Defence recognises the long-standing stormwater drainage issues in the Richmond area. Initial results from a study of the on-base stormwater system, conducted as part of the development of the project, indicate that the current system is degraded and in need of repair and maintenance. Measures to address any potential stormwater contamination issues associated with new and refurbished facilities will be examined during detailed design of the facilities.

8. Defence acknowledges the need to consider the broader regional issues when delivering the works for the Base, and will endeavour to maximise the opportunities for local industry through its method of procuring the proposed works.



P. J. Hutchinson
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4 September 2003