

21 AUG 2007

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28 Werraway Cres.,
Scullin. A.C.T. 2614.
20 August 2007

The Secretary,
Public Works Committee,
Parliament House,
Canberra. ACT.

Re: Hardened + Networked Army Facilities at
Edinburgh Defence Precinct, South Australia.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above proposed works. It is a project I fully support.

I know very little about the strategic, technical + financial requirements of such a project, however there is in my opinion, an essential non military work which is needed to ensure the proposed facility functions efficiently + safely in its semi-urban environment.

The former Defence Minister Senator Robert Hill was quoted in The Australian newspaper on 16 Dec, 2005 as saying "Adelaide's transport links -- as well as the two years old Adelaide to Darwin railway was behind the move" (To the Edinburgh Defence Precinct).

Since then we have seen the Dept. of Defence seeking to lease heavy lift railway rolling stock capable of carrying the new Abrams tanks - based in Darwin - together with crew carriages to accompany the tanks. (The Australian 21 Feb 2007).

A substantial number of Defence heavy equipment transfers have taken place by rail between Darwin + South Australia over the last couple of years for training purposes + now the indications are that movements are

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to be expanded onto the national standard gauge network.

My Adelaide street directory shows the standard gauge rail line running along the southern boundary of the Edinburgh Defence Precinct - surely a spur-line directly into the proposed base is the safest, most secure way to handle defence traffic both vehicular and containerised, segregating it from the busy local metropolitan road system.

In their 1985 book 'Defend the North', Desmond Ball, J. O. Langtry & J. D. Stevenson make the following statement regarding the provision of defence support facilities. "There is clearly no substitute for orderly infrastructure development in peacetime". That comment is as valid today as it was when written in 1985. The railway to Darwin they were advocating in the book is now a reality & Defence would do well to learn how to use it in peacetime.

I therefore urge your committee to ensure facilities are included in the proposed project which permit on-base loading directly onto rail wagons enhancing military efficiency and safety for the many motorists living in close proximity to the Edinburgh Defence Precinct.

I look forward to seeing this project completed.

Sincerely,
Michael J. Pickering.