

# SUBMISSION TO THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO THE ELF2 FACILITIES PROPOSED FOR GALLIPOLI BARRACKS, ENOGGERA

**Issue of Concern: Past, current and future impacts of Army Traffic on residential areas of Mitchelton**

## **Details of Proponent:**

Name: Mr Ian Ferrier

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| <u>Submission No. 5</u> |
| SL (ELF 2)              |
| Date: 29/10/2009        |

Occupation: Retired Civil Engineer

## **Representation:**

I represent the following:

1. My Family;
2. The Ferny Grove Neighbourhood Watch (FG5-NHW), of which I am currently Deputy Area Co-ordinator and have served in the capacity of Area Co-ordinator/ Deputy Area Co-ordinator for the past 12 years. This Watch represents the occupants of some 600 Residences in an area roughly bounded by Frasers Rd/ Kooya Rd and the Army Reserve.
3. The vast majority of the 62 residents who attended an information evening about the ELF 2 Project conducted on 26/10/09, many of whom voiced concerns regarding the current impacts of Army traffic, associated with the Wanimo St Gate, on surrounding residential areas of Mitchelton.

## **History of Issue:**

FG5-NHW has campaigned since 1998 in seeking to rid Residential Areas of Mitchelton of the **Grid-lock/ Rat-running/ Dangerous Driving Behaviour** foist on local residents as a result of the Army continuing to use the Wanimo Street Gate as their main entry to Gallipoli Barracks for traffic accessing the Base from the North & North West suburbs of Brisbane.

In 1998 the then current Army Strategic Plan for the Base proposed siting a new traffic-light controlled entry in the vicinity of the Samford Rd/ Imbros St intersection. I understand that the Army, in fact, razed a couple of brick buildings in this vicinity to enable this to happen. At the time, this welcome move was apparently blocked by the Qld Main Roads Department.

However, residents were assured that, while it might take some years, the local traffic issues would be addressed. The Community I represent has been waiting patiently for over 10 years for this matter to be addressed. Judging from the reaction of the some 62 attendees at the Army's Information Evening held on 26 October, local residents are fast running out of patience! [It should be noted here that only 2 residents were from my NHW area, the small representation due to the fact that the Army brochure drop did not extend to Frasers Rd.]

### **Outline of Issue:**

During 'Question Time' at the Army Information Meeting, the vast majority of questions and statements by residents were centred fairly and squarely on the traffic issues referred to above.

**The most severely impacted areas are along Taylors Rd, Frasers Rd, Grays Rd, Suez St, Stationview St and Parkview St, Mitchelton.** I live on Frasers Rd and can vouch for traffic backed up for a kilometer from the Army Gate, almost to the intersection with Glen Retreat Rd during the morning peak. A resident in Taylors Rd complained that he is commonly denied access to his property for 15 minutes between 6.30am and 7.30am as he tries to return home from the Gym, prior to heading off to work.

You will be aware that this Gate is only opened for three short periods during early morning, midday and late afternoon. The early morning 'Grid-lock' is replaced by bursts of high speed traffic to-and-from the Base at lunchtime and from the Base in the late afternoon. 'Rat-running' is endemic, at all times of the day when the Wanimo St Gate is open, and will continue to be so as long as the Army are permitted to use this Gate as a major access point for Gallipoli Barracks.

Several women at the Meeting complained at the meeting re the dangers posed by this speeding traffic. Unfortunately the response of the Army's representatives at the meeting to the dangerous driving practices of numerous of their personnel was that 'Boys will be Boys' and there was nothing the Army could do to curb their actions once they were off the Base.

### **Proposed Solution:**

Currently there are three access points to the Base I am aware of:

- the Main Entry at Lloyd St, Enoggera;
- the Wanimo St Gate at Mitchelton; and
- a gate off Frasers Rd, Ashgrove (not to be confused with Frasers Rd, Mitchelton).

The Base abuts the sub-arterial Samford Rd from the vicinity of Gaythorne Railway station to Imbros St, Gaythorne. In this area, Samford Rd crosses Sandy Creek and also negotiates a sharp chip-sealed bend, which alludes to the dangerous nature of this section of Samford Rd. There was an original main entry to the Base here which has been closed, for something like 20 years, as a stop-gap approach to the dangers it posed.

It is obvious to most (with the possible exception of the Queensland Main Roads Department), that the access point to Gallipoli Barracks to serve traffic emanating from the Northern and North-West areas of Brisbane should be directly off Samford Rd in the vicinity of Sandy Creek. To overcome the hazard posed by the sharp change in horizontal alignment of Samford Rd at this juncture, inbound traffic from the N & N-W would require the construction of a 'Slip Lane' commencing near the crest of Samford Rd adjacent to Gaythorne Station and a 'Fly-over' across Samford Rd and Sandy Creek. Exiting the Base from this point would be much simpler but would probably be restricted to left-hand (outbound) turns. Inbound traffic (i.e to the City) would presumably continue to use the Lloyd St Gate. My initial 'guesstimate' as to the cost of such a facility would be \$12.0 to \$15.0 million.

#### **Requested Action:**

With the Federal Government proposing to spend some \$1.15 billion on the ELF2 Project in Qld, with the majority (some \$820 million) at Enoggera, surely it is not too much to expect that about 1% (or \$11.5 million) be directed towards overcoming a long overdue impost that local residential areas have had to bear due to a slipshod planning decision made many years ago? After all, the Army personnel and Consultants at the meeting stated that they have set aside a corridor within the Base and adjacent to Sandy Creek as a future access corridor.

#### **Concurrent Planning Activity:**

Brisbane City Council is currently well advanced in preparing a Master Plan aimed at injecting an additional 2,200 people (or 1,400 residences) into "Mitchelton Central" by 2026. The Southern boundary of Mitchelton Central has been denoted as Grays Rd and Frasers Rd, so it virtually abuts the Army Base along Grays Rd. This Planning Process is up to the stage where a First Draft Master Plan, confidential to those on the CPT, has just been drafted.

There are obvious synergies between the Mitchelton Central Neighbourhood Plan and the ELF 2 Planning for Gallipoli Barracks.

**Ian Ferrier**  
**29 October 2009**