

28 August, 2003

The Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Public Works
Suite R1 119
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Sir/Madam

Re: RAAF Base Richmond Reinvestment Project, Richmond

GROW Employment Council is Sydney's Area Consultative Committee and helps local communities to manage change at the local level and to plan for and lead their own development. In helping local communities GROW brings a broader regional perspective to the growth and development of Sydney's regions.

In this role, GROW has been actively involved and represented at the Richmond Economic Impact Study Steering Committee, held during 2002/03.

GROW has a team of local representatives from the Hawkesbury region that advise our Board on issues impacting on this region. A major item of concern expressed for many years has been the status of the RAAF base at Richmond.

As the RAAF Base is one of the largest employers in Greater Western Sydney it is considered a vital component of the local and regional economies, impacting across the whole Sydney basin, not just the adjacent localities.

The impact of the Richmond base on the local economy and social infrastructure of the region is substantial. The long history of the Base working as an integral member of the community both at an organisational and personal level is strongly supported and appreciated by the local community.

Works proposed at Richmond will substantially improve the working conditions, particularly in regard to modern standards of health and safety, for those employed at the Base.

The proposed reinvestment of \$35 Million would allow local businesses to tender for the proposed works and materials required under this proposal. An injection of any proportion of this funding into the local economy would have substantial impact, as it would represent a major project for this region.

It is with strong support that we endorse the recommendations to undertake the RAAF Base Richmond Reinvestment Project.

Yours faithfully

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CEO, GROW Employment Council

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Area Consultative Committees
are funded by the
Commonwealth Government