

Infrastructure Division
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Russell Offices
CANBERRA ACT 2600

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SUBMISSION 7

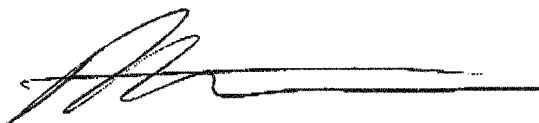
The Secretary
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Attention: Ms Margaret Swieringa

**DEFENCE RESPONSE TO PWC SUBMISSION FROM HAWKESBURY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HEDAC)**

1. Thank you for referring a copy of the letter dated 29 August 2003 from the office of the Hawkesbury Economic Development Advisory Committee (HEDAC) concerning the RAAF Base Richmond Reinvestment project.
2. Defence appreciates the strong support of HEDAC with respect to this proposal. The Committee represents broad sections of the local community and the submission emphasises the value of the relationship between Defence and the local community.
3. The HEDAC Chairperson, Ms Lorna Allan, the Member for Macquarie, Mr Kerry Bartlett MP, the member for Londonderry, Mr Alan Shearan MLA, the Mayor of City of Hawkesbury, Dr Rex Stubbs OA, 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.
4. Over the planned construction period of up to three years, an average of about 50 personnel will be directly employed on construction activities. In addition, it is anticipated that construction would generate further job opportunities off-site from the prefabrication of components and the manufacture and distribution of materials.

5. 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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Director General Infrastructure and Asset Development
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4 September 2003