



21 July 2011

Submission No. 4
(DSTO Scottsdale)
Date: 22/07/2011

The Chair
Parliamentary Committee Inquiry

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Dear Sir/Madam

Dorset DSTO Scottsdale Tasmania

It is undisputed that the DSTO facility in Scottsdale is a strategic and important asset which should be the subject of further investment.

Establishing a Centre for Food Innovation must clearly be an option following the joint venture arrangement with the University of Tasmania and the CSIRO. Gaining a return on the investment in research should be a priority going forward. Tasmania has the potential to be a food bowl for not only our nation but overseas and gaining a cutting edge innovative research facility would help to lock in this potential.

To this end we are pleased to support the refurbishment of the centre. However, we would also like to encourage and support further development of this site, which will in time enact the vision espoused by the recently retired (Senator) Guy Barnett of Tasmania.

That vision is to see the centre extended to encompass two important additional components.

- 1. The research, development and trial manufacture of life sustaining (48 hour) humanitarian food packs for use by overseas aid agencies during periods of natural disasters.*
 - Ensuring the right food reaches the people - appropriate nutritional value*
 - Value for money for the World Food Program*
 - Appropriate shelf life*
- 2. The research, development and trial manufacturing of SAS food ration packs for Australian and other soldiers.*

These developments would be consistent with the capacity of the region, namely;

- *Its clean green food production capacity;*
- *Its remote location, and*
- *Its reliable and willing labour force.*

It appears that the Scottsdale site could adapt itself for these extended purposes reasonably efficiently for enormous return for the community (and the recipients of food packs).

Such an expanded enterprise would provide a willing community the ability to participate in a program which has Tasmanian, Australian and International significance. Where the community of Dorset in Tasmania were truly engaged in a project to support and nurture people when they are most requiring it – our soldiers on the battle field or others in need during the first 48 hours following a natural disaster.

The investment in Tasmania by the Defence Force when compared to the investment in other states is barely noticeable. Such an investment in Tasmania is warranted and required we would suggest. An investment like this would be a catalyst for other businesses to grow and provide additional services. Would give the community a sense of worth, would provide employment for those recently displaced. We would welcome the opportunity to explore these opportunities further with you in due course.

In summary we consider the DSTO in Scottsdale is a strategic asset which should be the subject of significant and further investment both in research and production capabilities.

Yours faithfully



WENDY MITCHELL

Sustainable Development & Environment Manager