

## Community consultation

- 6.1 In its submission to the Committee, the Department of Defence (DoD) advised that the level of consultation and community support for the rezoning and Master Plan proposals for the proposed development of the site had been extensive. In May 1996, at the behest of the DoD, the then Lord Mayor of Parramatta City Council initiated a public meeting to elect a Community Reference Group (CRG) to represent the community interests in the rezoning deliberations.<sup>1</sup> DoD advised the Committee that the CRG has publicly endorsed the rezoning proposal and the Master Plan.<sup>2</sup>
- 6.2 DoD also advised the Committee that during the works information newsletters on the works program would be distributed to the local community and regular liaison would be maintained with the CRG.<sup>3</sup>
- 6.3 The Committee received evidence from witnesses that affirmed the evidence of DoD.<sup>4</sup> The Committee noted in particular the lengthy list of resident involvement in related activities, which DoD was instrumental in organising, detailed in the CRG submission.
- 6.4 The Committee is strongly of the view that it is an essential element of DoD's role in public works, such as those proposed at Ermington, to involve and include the wider community in the works process.
- 6.5 The Committee is strongly supportive of the CRG process undertaken prior to commencement of the works and proposed DoD/Managing

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1 Evidence, p. 12.

2 Evidence, p. 12.

3 Evidence, p. 12.

4 Evidence, p. 51.

Contractor/community liaison mechanisms.<sup>5</sup> The Committee is of the opinion that on-going community involvement, such as that proposed with respect to the Ermington works, will lend greater legitimacy to the agencies' actions and facilitate the implementation of the project and minimise community disturbance.

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5 Evidence, p. 12.