

10 NOV 2005

SUBMISSION 3



Administration Centre
4-20 Eton Street
Sutherland NSW
Australia

Please reply to:
Locked Bag 17
Sutherland NSW 1499
Australia

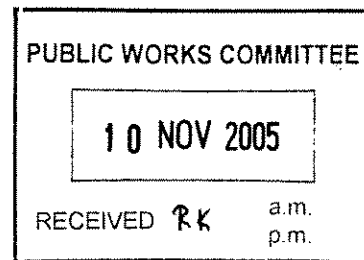
Tel: (02) 9710 0333
Fax: (02) 9710 0265
DX4511 SUTHERLAND

Email: ssc@ssc.nsw.gov.au
www.mycommunity.com.au/sutherland

ABN 52 018 204 808

File Ref: GR/10/795179, CRMS769535930

Ms Vivienne Courto
Inquiry Secretary
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600



Dear Ms Courto

Proposed Relocation of 171st Aviation Squadron to Holsworthy Barracks NSW

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the relocation of the Black Hawk helicopter squadron to Holsworthy. The relocation of the squadron to Holsworthy will have significant acoustic impacts on adjacent land in the Sutherland Shire.

In a letter dated 7 October 2005, the Department of Defence advised Council that it was concerned that the inappropriate development of future urban land adjacent to the military base, could affect the long term viability of Holsworthy. The Department of Defence then requested Council to make changes to the its draft local environmental plan to ensure that the Defence's concurrence is required so that it is satisfied with any development of land adjacent to Holsworthy. Specifically, the Department of Defence advised Council:

In particular, Defence is concerned that the owners of Site A [land along Heathcote Road, near Sandy Point, mainly owned by the State] are fully aware that the functions and responsibilities of Defence at Holsworthy will have an impact on the nature, form and extent of any development on their lands. Due to its close proximity, located adjacent to Holsworthy, the site may be impacted on by aircraft noise in addition to impulse noise and vibration from training activities. As such, Defence is reticent to support any future development of Area A unless the following changes are made to the DLEP (draft Local Environmental Plan 2005).

This letter is contrary to advice provided in the Standing Committee submission, where the Defence states that *'the significant Australian Noise Exposure Forecast (ANEF) 20 contour generated by Black Hawk operations is contained within the confines of the Holsworthy range boundary for routine training operations'*.

It is evident that the noise and vibration impacts from the relocation of the squadron to Holsworthy may be more than that indicated in the Defence report to the Standing Committee.

61 2 97100108

- 2 -

Sutherland Shire Council must represent the interests of its residents. On the basis of the information currently available to Council it appears that the relocation of the 171st Aviation Squadron to the Holsworthy Barracks will potentially have a significant impact on the existing level of residential amenity enjoyed by residents of Sandy Point, Menai, Barden Ridge, Engadine and Heathcote. There has been no consultation held with the residents of these urban areas and there is inadequate information to allow the impact of noise and vibration to be measured. If such impacts are above recognised tolerance standards, Council seeks confirmation that there will be a Federally funded noise amelioration program to reduce the burden on residents.

The Holsworthy base provides a vital wildlife link between the National Parks in the south of Sydney and bushland reserves in Sutherland Shire. Bushland in the Sutherland Shire is known to be important habitat for threatened and endangered species. Council is concerned about the impact of the squadron on avian fauna (birds, owls, bats, etc.). Without any impact assessment Council cannot be assured that the proposal will not have an adverse impact on these communities.

Council requests the Department of Defence to advise Sutherland Shire Council of the extent of noise and vibration impacts which will be generated from the relocation of the squadron to Holswothy. In particular, it seeks confirmation of what impact this risk will have on the development of any land in the vicinity of Holswothy. The established urban areas of Sandy Point, Menai, Barden Ridge, Engadine and Heathcote are all potentially exposed to amenity impacts as a result of the relocation of the squadron to Holswothy. Council particularly requires any Australian Noise Exposure Forecast contour maps that apply to any affected area in the Shire. The serious and substantial impact of such activities on land use planning in the area make it imperative that this information is confirmed as soon as possible.

If you require further information please contact Mark Carlon, Manager Environmental Planning Unit on 9710 0523.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Kevin Schreiber
Mayor