



**Australian Government**

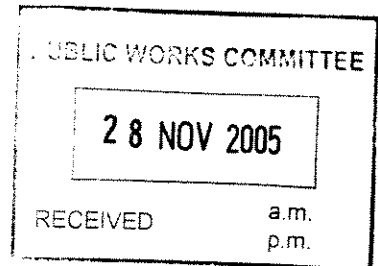
**Department of Defence**  
Corporate Services &  
Infrastructure Group

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**Ms Vivienne Courto**  
Inquiry Secretary  
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works  
House of Representatives  
Parliament of Australia  
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Ms Courto,

**RESPONSE TO SUTHERLAND SHIRE COUNCIL**

The Department of Defence would like to take the opportunity to reply to the submission of the Sutherland Shire Council dated 10<sup>th</sup> November 2005 concerning the Relocation of the 171<sup>st</sup> Aviation Squadron to Holsworthy Barracks. It remains the clear intention of the Department of Defence to respect and preserve the heritage and the environment of the local area, while at the same time achieving the objectives of national security. The role of Holsworthy Army Base has not changed over the years; that is, it exists for national Defence purposes. All of the works at Holsworthy are part of the ongoing and essential modernisation of the Australian Defence Force.

The submission from the Sutherland Shire Council highlights the possible social or environmental impacts of helicopters operating at the Holsworthy Barracks, adjacent to Sutherland Shire. Defence will continue to ensure that all of its activities at Holsworthy are environmentally responsible and within the recognised and legislated standards, including helicopter operations which have regularly occurred since 1974.

The Sutherland Shire Council perceives a difference between the evidence provided to the Committee for this proposal and correspondence directly with the Council concerning potential development of land adjoining Holsworthy Range. The Australian Noise Exposure Forecast (ANEF) 20 contour is the critical criteria for assessment of Development Applications for Housing, in accordance with Australia Standard AS 2021-2000, *Acoustics – Aircraft noise intrusion – Building siting and construction*. This ANEF 20 contour does not describe the contour beyond which aircraft can not be heard. The ANEF for the proposed helicopter operations at Holsworthy does not intrude into the Sutherland Shire at any location at the critical ANEF 20 level.

As a separate issue, Defence is concerned about urban encroachment on a large number of its ranges and encourages local governments to generally restrict development along the boundaries. The purpose of the Defence correspondence on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2005 was to remind the Council that some areas in Sutherland Shire are likely to be subject to noise and vibration from a variety of Defence activities including artillery, aviation, explosives, weapons and vehicles.