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Department of Defence
Corporate Services &
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HQJOC Project 108/2004

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

Dear Ms Courto

**HEADQUARTERS JOINT OPERATIONS COMMAND PROJECT
RESPONSE TO PWC SUBMISSION FROM ACT FORESTS**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the submission dated 21 May 2004 from ACT Forests.

The proposed site for the Headquarters Joint Operations Command will occupy approximately 200ha on the south-west corner of the "Woodlands" property, bounded on the north and west by the ACT/NSW border.

As the Kowen Forest, which comes under the management of ACT Forests, is located within the ACT on the north-west side of the project site, Defence anticipates that the construction, and later operation, of the Headquarters should not hinder or restrict ACT Forests' normal land management operations in the area. Defence intends on consulting with ACT Forests during the design development for the project.

Defence recognises the economic and recreational value of this plantation estate for the local community, and acknowledges that the new Headquarters facility should not restrict or inhibit in any way its future use. Use of the forest by Defence personnel for individual or group activities will meet the same requirements as for any other individual or group.

The location of the Headquarters will not generate any demand to enlarge current buffer zones within the plantation, as the size of the land to be acquired for the Headquarters allows for adequate buffer zones for fire protection.

Defence welcomes ACT Forests' proposal to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to progress the above and other matters of mutual interest before the commencement of construction.

Yours sincerely

Original signed on 30 May 2004

B.E. PLENTY
Air Commodore
Director General Headquarters Joint Operations Command Project

May 2004