



8 Pesaro Place
POINT COOK VIC 3030

22 March 2005

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

Dear Ms Courto

RE: DEVELOPMENT OF ON-BASE HOUSING FOR DEFENCE AT
PUCKAPUNYAL, VICTORIA

In my capacity as the Defence Families of Australia (DFA) National Delegate for Victoria and Tasmania, I wish to comment on the Defence Housing proposal for the development of 80 on-base Service Residences in Puckapunyal.

In considering this proposal, there are several factors of importance in the provision of further Service Residences on the base at Puckapunyal:

- Current housing on-base includes properties built in the 1960s which do not meet current standards of quality or amenities. These properties continue to be allocated to families due to the lack of more appropriate housing.
- The proposed development will include Service Residences with improved amenities including the following:
 - Living areas of an adequate size and suitability for families. Many of the current residences do not provide family living areas.
 - The provision of a covered outdoor area which offers privacy from neighbouring residences and a functional area during inclement weather, which has been requested by families in Puckapunyal.
 - Appropriate vehicle accommodation and storage space, which is currently not provided in many of the residences.
 - Modern, functional kitchens with adequate storage space.
 - Substantially improved energy efficiency, increasing environmental sustainability and assisting to decrease the heating and cooling costs for residents, which is a concern with the extreme climatic variations in the area.

- The inclusion of evaporative cooling and modern heating solutions, bringing them into line with the more modern residences currently available in Puckapunyal, and increasing the quality of life for families.
- The inclusion of adequate electrical, television, and phone outlets will better support the needs of the modern family.

The isolation of the Puckapunyal Military Area can make the posting difficult for families. The difficulty of the posting has, for many years, been exacerbated by the standard of housing in the area. This proposed development is a good starting point in helping to alleviate some of the housing issues, and therefore make Puckapunyal a more attractive posting locality for families.

However, the additional amenities and space provided in the next development will be a dramatic improvement in housing standards in Puckapunyal and therefore a real improvement in the quality of life for families in the area. As such, in my capacity as the DFA National Delegate for the region, I support the development of the next 80 Service Residences as proposed.

Yours sincerely

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