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## **The Proposed Works**

### **Need**

- 2.1 Medium-term investment in facilities at RAAF Base Richmond is required in order to maintain operational capability until 2010, or until the long-term future of the base is decided.
- 2.2 Specifically:
- some work areas provide insufficient space and amenity for personnel to operate with efficiency and safety, and do not comply with current OH&S requirements;
  - infrastructure, such as electrical services and stormwater drainage, has deteriorated to the point that it no longer serves its intended purpose;
  - changes to the size and composition of the base population have rendered current ablution facilities inadequate; and
  - some areas are too small, inadequately equipped and poorly sited, and impede safe and efficient operation.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Appendix C, Submission No. 1, paragraphs 15 - 65

## Purpose and Suitability

- 2.3 In view of the uncertain long-term future of the base, the primary purpose of the proposal is to execute works necessary to maintain infrastructure and facilities at RAAF Base Richmond at a level that will permit delivery of operational capability to satisfy Government requirements until 2010.<sup>2</sup>
- 2.4 The project seeks to:
- address deficiencies in the safety and amenity of facilities;
  - maintain infrastructure necessary to support the existing operational capabilities of the Airlift Group; and
  - prevent further deterioration of facilities and infrastructure.<sup>3</sup>

## Scope

- 2.5 The proposed works will address critical shortcomings in the facilities and infrastructure that support capability, such as engineering services and working/training accommodation.<sup>4</sup>
- 2.6 It is proposed that the reinvestment project will comprise the following elements:
- construction of a new combined headquarters complex for 36 and 37 Squadrons;
  - construction of new, purpose-designed MEOMS facility;
  - construction of an extension to the east side of 33 Squadron hangar;
  - upgrade works to 36 and 37 Squadron hangars and workshops;
  - upgrade and rationalisation of high voltage electricity reticulation;
  - construction of new ablution facilities to service the western portion of the base; and
  - upgrade and repair of the stormwater drainage system.<sup>5</sup>

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2 Appendix C, Submission No. 1, paragraph 4

3 ib id, paragraphs 13 - 14

4 ib id, paragraph 15

5 ib id, paragraphs 17 - 65

## Cost

- 2.7 The estimated cost of the proposed works is \$35 million. This figure includes:
- management costs,
  - design costs;
  - construction costs;
  - furniture, fittings and equipment; and
  - allowances for contingency and escalation.<sup>6</sup>

## Present and Prospective Public Value

- 2.8 It is anticipated that some 50 personnel will be directly employed on-site during the three-year construction period of the proposed works. Further job opportunities may be generated off-site from the design, supply, manufacture and distribution of parts and materials.<sup>7</sup>
- 2.9 Moreover, Defence intends to divide the works into a number of packages to promote access for local small to medium enterprises.<sup>8</sup>
- 2.10 Defence's statements regarding the positive local impact of the proposed works were echoed in submissions made by Mr Kerry Bartlett MP, the Hawkesbury Economic Development Advisory Committee, the GROW Employment Council Incorporated and the Hawkesbury City Council. The submission from the GROW Employment Council stated that:

“The proposed reinvestment of \$35 million would allow local businesses to tender for the proposed works and materials required under this proposal. An injection of any proportion of this funding into the local economy would have substantial impact, as it would represent a major project for this region.”<sup>9</sup>

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6 Appendix C, Submission No. 1, paragraph 77

7 *ib id*, paragraph 78

8 *ib id*, paragraph 85

9 Submission No. 4

