

Submission No. 5  
(Robertson Barracks)

9<sup>th</sup> April 2008.

Siobhan Leyne  
Inquiry Secretary  
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works  
House of Representatives  
P O Box 6021  
Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Siabhan,

**Re: Robertson Barracks Redevelopment**

My name is Enid Howlett of I am writing to Formally  
object to the proposed redevelopment on the following grounds.

In the " STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE TO THE PARLIMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS " page 13, ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACTS, the statement is made that " The increase in personnel will result in an increase in vehicular traffic in and out of the base via the main gate and Thorngate Road. Thorngate Road connects directly to the Stuart Highway through scrubland and a small amount of light industrial development just north of Palmerston, and its primary purpose is for access to Robertson Barracks. It is not a busy road and the potential increase in vehicle numbers will have a minimal impact on overall traffic volume and local residents and businesses".

I believe this statement to be at best considerably out of date or deliberately misleading for the following reasons,

1) Thorngate Road on the southern boundary is where the main gate is located and does have some light industrial properties close to its junction with the Stuart Highway, along with Wallaby Holtze Road (with residential properties). Opposite the base the scrubland mentioned is mainly comprised of mining leases, many of which are owned by the army and have recently been reclaimed from the businesses operating them.

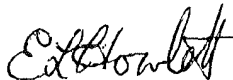
However a very large proportion of the personnel both military and civil do not use the Thorngate Rd exit as they live to the North and use a gate on Campbell Rd, on the Eastern Boundary then either Brandt / Farrar Roads to join onto McMillan's Road or use Stevens Road to join onto McMillan's Road and then travel to Darwin or the Northern Suburbs. Brandt, Farrar and Stevens Roads are just small roads originally designed for local traffic not for large volumes of traffic. This has not been mentioned at all in the statement of evidence therefore I can only assume that the planners were not made aware of this information or else they have deliberately chosen to ignore it. Many of the residents of Knuckey Lagoon have been trying for many years to have this traffic issue dealt with.

2) Safety, there have been many accidents with soldiers along Campbell Rd, and its intersection with the Stevens Rd, Brandt Rd sweeping bend, I live next door to the house on the corner and know of four incidences of cars crashing through their fence. One of these incidences resulted in a fatality, I had an unused axe- handle driveway

onto my property from Brandt Rd and eventually realigned my boundaries ( at great expense due to the rezoning requirements, permits and stamp duties for both parties ) with my neighbour to allow them to put a safety barrier ( very large pile of dirt approximately 2 metres high) in place and since then they have already had one soldier crash through their fence one morning at 3.00am, the car crested the top of the dirt pile and fortunately became bogged before being able to run down the house side of the barrier. Fences of properties along Brandt Rd have been damaged when cars have careered out of control after misjudging the bend at high speed, with or without the drivers having consumed alcohol. The speeding vehicles are not restricted to any one period of the day, one of the cars that crashed through a fence on Brandt Rd, did so during the day and narrowly missed the family's dog and ended up not far from where the kids were playing in the yard.

While this redevelopment is only supposed to include another 400 personnel, to the existing 3,500 personnel already employed on base, nothing is being done to resolve the traffic issues that already exist, and if nothing is done to prevent any additional upgrades with its increase in personnel, the problems for the residents of Knuckey Lagoon will only increase, therefore I feel that I have no choice but to lodge this objection to the planned redevelopment.

Yours Sincerely



Enid L Howlett