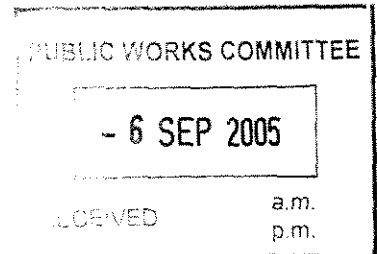


**Australian Government****Department of Defence**
Corporate Services &
Infrastructure GroupDirector General
Infrastructure Asset Development
Department of Defence
CANBERRA ACT 2600Tel: 02 6266 8101
Fax: 02 6266 8103

DGIAD/2005/154

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

Dear Ms Courto,

RAAF COLLEGE RELOCATION PROJECT – SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSION 14

Thank you for providing an opportunity to present a supplementary submission in response to the submission provided by the Wellington Shire Council in regard to the relocation of the RAAF Officer Training School to RAAF Base East Sale.

The comments of strong support from the Wellington Shire Council and the whole community is received with gratitude. I am also pleased that the presence of the RAAF Base at East Sale is seen as a major driver of economic growth in the area and I am sure the project will generate valuable employment opportunities for the skilled workforce located in Wellington Shire.

The offer of providing extensive access to Council's aquatic and gym complex in Sale is appreciated. I understand that the Council's facilities are currently being used from time to time in order to supplement aquatic and gym facilities located at the RAAF Base. I would think that this arrangement would continue. However, I would expect that the main use by RAAF personnel and the families would be on an individual basis and not as an organised part of the RAAF Base physical training program. This later requirement would usually occur when base facilities are fully booked or do not have capacity for the activity, for example a Base swimming carnival. I reject the Council offer of Defence using the Council facilities instead of providing Defence's own pool and fitness facilities. Defence retains the responsibility of providing adequate fitness facilities for its people and for providing appropriate easy access to these facilities:

- A new pool is not proposed to be included in the scope of works. There is an existing pool at RAAF Base East Sale. However, I would anticipate that there would be an increase in requests for the use of the Council pool facilities as a result of the relocation proposal.
- Additional fitness facilities are proposed as part of the project. This requirement will be provided by converting existing facilities that will become vacant as part of the overall project. This approach will minimise the overall cost to the project.



- Physical fitness facilities will be used irregularly throughout the day and night and need to be readily available. Timings also need to be scheduled within an overall intensive teaching / training program where time is always short and considerable time constraints are imposed. Facilities should also be available for private use when staff and trainees have an opportunity.
- The Council facilities are approximately seven km, or about 10 minutes drive away. Many of the officer candidates and some of the other personnel on the Base do not have their own vehicles. Transportation requirements would incur an additional overhead and transportation time would provide unacceptable programming constraints in the tight training schedule.
- Nevertheless, I would anticipate the facilities at the Council's Aquatic and Gym Complex and the various other recreational and sporting facilities would be extensively used and enjoyed by the wider Defence community on an individual basis.

Defence looks forward to continuing the strong relationship that has been long established and appreciates the strong and widespread support that has been identified.

Yours Sincerely

P.J. (Hutch) Hutchinson
Brigadier
Director General Infrastructure Asset Development

6th September 2005