



Submission No 4

**Review of the Defence Annual Report 2010 - 2011**

**Name:** Mr Andrew Mayfield

27 January 2012

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sirs and Mesdames

**Submission regarding the Defence Department Annual Report 2010/2011**

Reference is made to the Annual Report for 2010/2011 and in particular the Defence Cooperation expenditure for 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 in view of the closure of Mt Lofty Rifle Range at Toowoomba, Queensland.

The Report indicates spending on foreign cooperation in the 2009-2010 to be **\$70Mil** and in 2010-2011, **\$71Mil**. It also shows a budget **saving** in 2010-2011 greater than **\$11Mil** from the original budget estimate of \$82.7Mil. The necessity for assistance to our foreign defence partners and nations in need of greater internal stability is not in question.

In the midst of spending of this magnitude, the Australian Defence Force has closed Mt Lofty Rifle Range at Toowoomba, Queensland. Seizing the opportunity during the deadly flooding events in January 2011, the rifle range was closed due to "safety issues" and no indication has been given regarding reopening or disposal. Rather both outcomes have been touted during discussions with the Queensland Rifle Association representatives and site users.

While the nation celebrated Australia Day yesterday I was at a loss to understand why the Australian Defence Force has closed the Mt Lofty Rifle Range and fail to indicate the future of the range when it is also clear that the Department has made annual savings greater than \$11Mil on Defence Cooperation Expenditure alone. The Mt Lofty Rifle Range was utilised by 5 civilian target shooting clubs, who have been left without a facility. If a sporting facility was threatened in this way outside of Australia, in a Country favoured with our Defence Cooperation spending, would those locals have ADF support, funding, labour and a sporting facility back in operation?

Budget predictions have been tabled in the Department's financial report indicating the predicted annual sale of assets up to 2014. Do those predicted sales include the Mt Lofty Rifle Range and why, if civilian rifle clubs in Queensland are being approached by sniper units for a range to train on and prove their competencies.

This submission is a request to retain the Mt Lofty Rifle Range for use by Australian Defence Personnel and Australian sportsmen and sportswomen well into the future, with a large degree of openness and honesty in dealing with local stakeholders.

Should you require any further information or clarification of any point please don't hesitate to contact me on 0434 735 582.

Yours sincerely,

**Back copy:**

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