

Submission No. 11

(HMAS Penguin)

Date: 2/11/10

R & M Rasdall

16TH July 2010

Committee Secretary
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

**RE: HMAS PENGUIN AND PITTWATER ANNEXE REDEVELOPMENT,
CLAREVILLE, NSW**

We are writing to express our concerns over the proposed re-development of the HMAS Penguin Pittwater Annexe and request that these concerns be considered and addressed by the Parliamentary Standing Committee.

1. Firstly we'd like it noted that the HMAS Penguin Annexe is situated right in the midst of an extremely quiet and peaceful residential area and consequently the Navy's day-to-day activities and building works, have a direct impact on its neighbours – especially those in the immediate vicinity.
2. We live **directly across the road** from the Annexe in Hudson Parade and, along with other neighbours, are especially affected by the Navy's activities so we would like to draw attention to some of the ways in which we will be impacted by this re-development.
3. **Noise.**
This is our primary concern. With regard to the proposed development itself, we would like to see that the Navy complies with the relevant Australian Building Codes of Practice to minimize noise emanating from within the building.
 - a) This especially relates to the air tank compressor currently located in the south east corner. We note that it is proposed to move this compressor even closer to the street in a new enclosure. Whilst this compressor is not supposed to be used at night, it is often used at all hours and is very loud to those living nearby when in operation. We ask that an alternative location at the northern end of the building be found to re-locate the compressor.
 - b) As the diver training courses operate at all times of the day and night, we also ask that adequate soundproofing of the building is undertaken so that the Navy's activities can operate at all hours without disturbing sleeping neighbours.
 - c) During construction. We ask that the building contractors be bound to the Council's restrictions on hours of operation and in particular that the coming and

going of trucks, machinery and workers etc be monitored to ensure that these restrictions are adhered to.

- d) We also ask to be provided with the contact details of a senior person in the Navy or construction department who the neighbours can contact if issues arise during construction.

4. Lighting

The published plans give no indication as to the intended installation of exterior and interior lighting, so we cannot comment on this specifically. However in general terms we wish to draw attention to the negative impact that nighttime lighting will have on the neighbourhood if it is installed with no regard to residents in the immediate vicinity.

Whilst we appreciate that a naval facility must be lit adequately for security and functional reasons, we cannot stress strongly enough how important this issue is to the residents who simply will not tolerate trying to sleep at night with the invasion of poorly planned lighting into their homes.

5. Communication.

The Navy has got off to a poor start with its neighbours so far with this proposed re-development due a poor lack of communication. A small notice in the local paper that covers the entire Northern Beaches was not seen by the few in the immediate surrounds of the Annexe, announcing a public hearing.

Surely a letter-box drop to the small number of houses concerned would have communicated the public meeting adequately and with maximum effect. One is left to wonder whether the Navy really wished to engage in adequate public consultation at all ...

So moving forward, we wish to request that the Navy respects the fact that the Annexe resides in the midst of a quiet residential enclave, and in future makes all possible attempts to communicate effectively and directly with its neighbours.

Other than the above, we generally like the proposed improvements. We hope that the new facility will vastly improve HMAS Penguin's requirements and that the Navy and its residential neighbours can continue to co-exist harmoniously in this pristine and glorious waterway.

Yours sincerely,

Richard & Meredith Rasdall