



Infrastructure Division
R4-2-040
Russell Offices
CANBERRA ACT 2600

DGIAD/2003/101
2002/115146/1

SUBMISSION 10

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

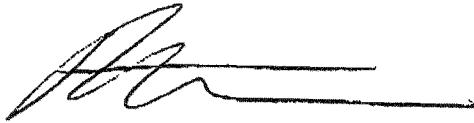
Attention: Ms Margaret Swieringa

DEFENCE RESPONSE TO PWC SUBMISSION FROM MR KERRY BARTLETT MP

1. Thank you for referring a copy of the letter dated 27 August 2003 from the office of Mr Kerry Bartlett MP concerning the RAAF Base Richmond Reinvestment project.
2. Defence appreciates the strong support of Mr Bartlett with respect to this proposal. Defence acknowledges that Mr Bartlett has maintained a long standing close relationship with RAAF Base Richmond and is a dedicated advocate for the retention of a RAAF presence at Richmond.
3. Mr Bartlett, along with the Member for Londonderry, Mr Alan Shearin MLA, the Mayor of City of Hawkesbury, Dr Rex Stubbs, representatives from NSW Government agencies and Hawkesbury City Council were briefed by Defence on the proposed RAAF Base Richmond Reinvestment project on 8 August 2003. At this briefing, Defence advised its intention, subject to Parliamentary approval, to initiate a limited reinvestment at the Base to ensure operational capability is maintained in the medium term.
4. Defence recognises the need to consider the broader regional issues when delivering the works for the Base, and will endeavour to maximise the opportunities for local industry through its method of procuring the proposed works.
5. Defence acknowledges the level of support Mr Bartlett has demonstrated in his submission for Defence personnel. The works proposed for the Reinvestment project aim to address deficiencies in functionality and occupational health and safety in working accommodation at the Base. The project seeks to maintain current levels of capability at the Base until the Government makes a decision on the longer term future of RAAF Base Richmond.
6. Mr Bartlett raises concerns over the state of living-in accommodation at the Base. Defence has recently conducted a detailed review of all living-in accommodation across

the nation. This, coupled with any outcomes from the current Force Disposition Review, will set the priorities for any future investment in living-in accommodation.

7. Defence notes Mr Bartlett's interest in the long-term future of RAAF Base Richmond. The benefits of an on-going RAAF presence to the social and economic fabric of the region are well understood and are important factors which will be considered, along with a range of other relevant factors, in the current Force Disposition Review.



P. J. Hutchinson
Brigadier
Director General Infrastructure and Asset Development
(02) 6266 8101

4 September 2003