
The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

Referrals tabled March 2008

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

June 2008
Canberra

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ISBN 978-0-642-79059-0 Printed Version

ISBN 978-0-642-79060-6 HTML Version



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Membership of the Committee

Chair Mr Mark Butler MP

Deputy Chair Senator the Hon Judith Troeth

Members Mr Nick Champion MP

Senator Mark Bishop

Mr John Forrest MP

Senator Michael Forshaw

Mr Damian Hale MP

Hon Peter Lindsay MP

Hon Peter Slipper MP

Committee Secretariat

Secretary James Catchpole

Inquiry Secretary Siobhán Leyne

Senior Research Officer Mark Rodrigues

Research Officer Belynda Zolotto

Administrative Officer Gaye Milner



List of abbreviations

AEW&C	Airborne Early Warning and Control
Defence	Department of Defence
DMO	Defence Materiel Organisation
Enoggera redevelopment	Enoggera Redevelopment Stage 1 Project, Gallipoli Barracks
HNA	Hardened and Networked Army
HNA Edinburgh	Hardened and Networked Army Facility, Edinburgh Defence Precinct
LMC	Land Management Corporation
MRH90	Multi Role Helicopters
PWC	Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works
RAAF Base Darwin	RAAF Base Darwin Redevelopment Stage 2
The Act	<i>Public Works Committee Act 1969</i>
Tindal Stage 5	RAAF Base Tindal Redevelopment Stage 5



List of recommendations

2 Hardened and Networked Army Facility, Edinburgh Defence Precinct, South Australia

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the Minister for Defence progress negotiations for the reacquisition of land in the Edinburgh Defence Precinct known as Area 9C/D as a matter of priority.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government, in contracts for major capital infrastructure developments, include a requirement for the provision of employment and training opportunities to the local community wherever possible.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that the House of Representatives, pursuant to Section 18 (7) of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, resolve that it is expedient to carry out the following proposed work: Hardened and Networked Army Facilities at Edinburgh Defence Precinct, South Australia.

3 RAAF Base Darwin Redevelopment Stage 2, Northern Territory

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that the House of Representatives, pursuant to Section 18 (7) of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, resolve that it is expedient to carry out the following proposed work: RAAF Base Darwin Redevelopment Stage 2, Northern Territory.

4 Developments at Robertson Barracks, Northern Territory

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends that the Department of Defence facilitate discussions with the relevant local council and local government authorities to resolve the issue of traffic control in Knuckey Lagoon and actively engage local residents in this process.

Recommendation 6

The Committee recommends that the House of Representatives, pursuant to Section 18 (7) of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, resolve that it is expedient to carry out the following proposed works: Robertson Barracks Redevelopment, Robertson Replacement Tank Facilities and Hardened and Networked Army Projects, Darwin, Northern Territory.

5 RAAF Base Tindal Redevelopment Stage 5, Northern Territory

Recommendation 7

The Committee recommends that the House of Representatives, pursuant to Section 18 (7) of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, resolve that it is expedient to carry out the following proposed work: RAAF Base Tindal redevelopment Stage 5, Northern Territory.

6 Airborne Early Warning and Control Facilities, RAAF Base Tindal, Northern Territory

Recommendation 8

The Committee recommends that the House of Representatives, pursuant to Section 18 (7) of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, resolve that it is expedient to carry out the following proposed work: Airborne Early Warning and Control Facilities, RAAF Base Tindal, Northern Territory.

7 Multi Role Helicopter Facilities

Recommendation 9

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government negotiate protocols with State and Territory governments in relation to developments on land that may impact on the activities of Defence establishments.

Recommendation 10

The Committee recommends that the House of Representatives, pursuant to Section 18 (7) of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, resolve that it is expedient to carry out the following proposed work: Multi Role Helicopter Facilities.

8 Enoggera Redevelopment Stage 1 Project, Queensland

Recommendation 11

The Committee recommends that the House of Representatives, pursuant to Section 18 (7) of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, resolve that it is expedient to carry out the following proposed work: Enoggera Redevelopment Stage 1 Project, Gallipoli Barracks, Brisbane, Queensland.

Introduction

- 1.1 Pursuant to Section 17 (1) (b) of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969* (the Act), the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works is required to inquire into and report on public works referred to it through either House of Parliament.
- 1.2 All public works that have an estimated cost exceeding \$15 million must be referred to the Committee and cannot be commenced until the Committee has made its report to Parliament and the House of Representatives resolves that it is expedient to carry out the work.¹
- 1.3 Under the Act, a public work is a work proposed to be undertaken by the Commonwealth, or on behalf of the Commonwealth concerning:
 - the construction, alteration, repair, refurbishment or fitting-out of buildings and other structures;
 - the installation, alteration or repair of plant and equipment designed to be used in, or in relation to, the provision of services for buildings and other structures;
 - the undertaking, construction, alteration or repair of landscaping and earthworks (whether or not in relation to buildings and other structures);
 - the demolition, destruction, dismantling or removal of buildings, plant and equipment, earthworks, and other structures;
 - the clearing of land and the development of land for use as urban land or otherwise; and

¹ The Act, Part III, Section 18 (8). Exemptions from this requirement are provided for work of an urgent nature, defence work contrary to the public interest, repetitive work, and work by prescribed authorities listed in the *Regulations*.

- any other matter declared by the regulations to be a work.²
- 1.4 The Act requires that the Committee consider and report on:
- the purpose of the work and its suitability for that purpose;
 - the need for, or the advisability of, carrying out the work;
 - whether the money to be expended on the work is being spent in the most cost effective manner;
 - the amount of revenue the work will generate for the Commonwealth, if that is its purpose; and
 - the present and prospective public value of the work.³
- 1.5 The Committee pays attention to these and any other relevant factors when considering the proposed work.

Timing of referrals

- 1.6 When appointed in March 2008, the Committee inherited a number of inquiries that had been referred shortly prior to the dissolution of the 41st Parliament. The Committee was conscious of the delays incurred due to the election period and has made every effort to complete these inquiries in a timely manner.
- 1.7 However, on a number of occasions during public hearings for the works addressed in this report, the proponent agency noted the need to amend evidence, either project costs or construction timeframes, submitted in the original evidence due to this delay.
- 1.8 Although there is no fixed date for federal elections, there is a fixed term in which an election can be called. Any referrals made in this period may be subject to lengthy delay and proponent agencies should be cognisant of this if considering referrals in the latter part of the parliamentary cycle.
- 1.9 In addition, while the Committee is conscious of its responsibility to consider works expeditiously, in practical terms, it has an extremely heavy workload which on occasion results in a lengthy inquiry process. This, in combination with constraints imposed by the parliamentary sitting calendar, means that proponent agencies should factor four to six months into project work plans from the earliest stage for the parliamentary approval process to occur.
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2 The Act, Section 5.

3 The Act, Section 17.

- 1.10 Parliamentary scrutiny is not a bureaucratic hurdle. It is an essential part of any major capital work proposed by the Commonwealth. The Committee will not accept the failure to consider the approval process as an excuse for unexpected cost or timeframe escalation.

Matters addressed in this report

- 1.11 Works considered in this report were referred to the Committee in March 2008 by the Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, the Hon Dr Mike Kelly MP.
- 1.12 In considering works, the Committee analysed the evidence presented by the proponent agency, public submissions and evidence received at in-camera and public hearings.
- 1.13 In consideration of the need to report expeditiously as required by Section 17 (1) of the Act, the Committee has only reported on major issues of concern. Other issues raised through the inquiry process where the Committee was able to satisfy itself will be addressed appropriately by the proponent agency are not reported.
- 1.14 The Committee appreciates, and fully considers, the input of the input of the community to its inquiries. Those interested in the proposals considered in this report are encouraged to access the full inquiry proceedings available on the Committee's website.⁴

Structure of the report

- 1.15 Chapter 2 addresses the proposed Hardened and Networked Army Facility development, Edinburgh Defence Precinct, South Australia. This proposal has an estimated expenditure of \$623.68 million (excluding GST) for the co-location of Army facilities on the RAAF Base Edinburgh. The proposal also provides for facilities at Murray Bridge and Cultana Range, South Australia.
- 1.16 Chapter 3 addresses the proposed developments at RAAF Base Darwin, Northern Territory. This proposal has an estimated expenditure of \$49.832 million (excluding GST) for the provision of upgraded facilities aimed at improving the operational capacity of the base.

4 <www.aph.gov.au/pwc>

- 1.17 Chapter 4 addresses the proposed developments at Robertson Barracks, Darwin, Northern Territory. With an estimated expenditure of \$72.126 million (excluding GST), this proposal comprises three parts, namely the Robertson Barracks Redevelopment (\$30.198m), Robertson Replacement Tank Facilities, including minor works at Mount Bunday Training Area (\$6.715m) and Hardened and Networked Army Projects (\$35.213m.)
- 1.18 Chapter 5 addresses the proposed RAAF Tindal Redevelopment Stage 5, Northern Territory. At an estimated cost of \$58.7 million (excluding GST), this proposal aims to improve the facilities which support the overall capability of the base.
- 1.19 Chapter 6 addresses the proposed Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) Facilities at RAAF Base Tindal, Northern Territory at an estimated cost of \$64.2 million (excluding GST.) The proposal aims to provide facilities to support the operation of the AEW&C aircraft.
- 1.20 Chapter 7 addresses the proposed Multi Role Helicopter Facilities at Nowra, Townsville, Oakey, Enoggera and Sydney at an estimated cost of \$168.7 million (excluding GST.) The purpose of the proposed facilities is to support the introduction and operation of 34 new Multi Role Helicopters (MRH90) due to be delivered after 2010.
- 1.21 Chapter 8 addresses the proposed Enoggera Redevelopment Stage 1 Project, Gallipoli Barracks, Brisbane, Queensland at an estimated cost of \$80.2 million (excluding GST.) The aim of the Enoggera redevelopment is to rationalise and upgrade the current messing arrangements.
- 1.22 Appendix A lists submissions for all inquiries and Appendix B contains a list of witnesses at all public hearings.

Hardened and Networked Army Facility, Edinburgh Defence Precinct, South Australia

- 2.1 The Hardened and Networked Army Facility, Edinburgh Defence Precinct, South Australia (HNA Edinburgh) development proposes to provide new Army working accommodation and training facilities as well as joint Army and RAAF on-base community facilities. The estimated cost of the project is \$623.68 million (excluding GST.)
- 2.2 HNA Edinburgh was originally referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC) of the 41st Parliament on 9 August 2007. The inquiry lapsed with the dissolution of the 41st Parliament on 17 October 2007. The proposal was referred to the PWC of the 42nd Parliament for inquiry on 13 March 2008.

Conduct of the inquiry

- 2.3 The inquiry was initially advertised in *The Australian* on 15 August 2007 and in the *Adelaide Advertiser* on 18 August 2007. The inquiry was readvertised in the *Adelaide Advertiser* on 22 March 2008. The Committee received two submissions, one confidential submission and three supplementary submissions, including a confidential supplementary submission regarding the project costs. A list of submissions can be found at Appendix A.
- 2.4 The Committee undertook a site inspection, in-camera hearing and public hearing on 1 April 2008 in Adelaide. A list of witnesses can be found at Appendix B.

- 2.5 The transcript of the public hearing as well as the submission to the inquiry are available on the Committee's website¹. Plans for the proposed works are detailed in Submission 1, Department of Defence (Defence.)

Need for works

- 2.6 The proposed works aim to support the Army's Hardened and Networked Army (HNA) initiative which is in response to the need to fight on a more complex and lethal battlefield. It will provide increased combat weight through a redistribution of combat vehicles. It will also generate greater organisational depth in Army and a greater focus on combined arms battle groups rather than infantry battalion groups. HNA will provide increased options for Government in terms of both the combat weight of the force that can be deployed and the duration that forces can be sustained on operations.²
- 2.7 As part of the restructuring occurring under the HNA initiative, a battalion group is to be established at the Edinburgh Defence Precinct, Adelaide. This requires 1 200 1st Brigade personnel to relocate to Adelaide from January 2011.
- 2.8 The proposed works aims to provide necessary facilities and infrastructure to meet the aims of the HNA initiative at the Edinburgh Defence Precinct.
- 2.9 The Committee supports the HNA initiative as part of the Army's response enhancing the nation's defensive capabilities in response to developments in the global security situation. The Committee finds that there is need for the proposed works.

Scope of works

- 2.10 The proposed scope of works is detailed in Submission 1, Department of Defence.³ In short, the works propose the following:
- New working accommodation for Headquarters 1st Brigade Forward Detachment;

1 <www.aph.gov.au/pwc>

2 Submission 1, Department of Defence, p 1.

3 The submission is available on the Committee's website or by contacting the Committee Secretariat.

- New working accommodation for 7 RAR mechanised infantry battalion;
- New working accommodation for the Medium Artillery Battery (self propelled);
- New working accommodation for the Combat Engineer Squadron;
- New working accommodation for the Combat Services Support Team;
- A new combined mess facility;
- A new physical fitness centre, including a swimming pool and other training and recreational facilities;
- A new combined health facility, plus training and support facilities;
- New vehicle wash and fuel facilities;
- Demolition of redundant facilities, remediation of contamination and heritage preservation works where required;
- Upgrading of site infrastructure including high-voltage electrical, emergency power generation, communications and civil infrastructure including a new roads network, water, sewer, stormwater and gas supply; and
- Off-site works consisting of a new Marksmanship Training Range at Murray Bridge Field Firing Range and a new vehicle wash point at Cultana Range, South Australia.⁴

2.11 The Committee has assessed the scope of works and finds them suitable to provide the facilities necessary to meet the needs of the HNA initiative at the Edinburgh Defence Precinct.

2.12 The Committee notes that a number of facilities are included in these to allow base capacity in the longer term.⁵ The Committee is pleased to note the comprehensive nature of the works rather than works being undertaken on an ad-hoc basis at potentially greater cost.

Cost of works

2.13 The total out-turn cost of this work is scheduled to be \$623.68 million (excluding GST) which includes construction costs, management and

⁴ Submission 1, Department of Defence, pp 3-4.

⁵ For example, Element K – Site Infrastructure. See Submission 1, Department of Defence, p 13.

design fees, internal fit-out, information and communication technology and contingency allowance.⁶

- 2.14 The Committee received detailed cost plans for the project and held an in-camera hearing with Defence on the full project costs.
- 2.15 Some members of the Committee expressed concern about the cost of individual project elements being comparatively high when viewed against similar projects in other locations. Defence did give an explanation of why this was necessary to the satisfaction of the Committee. However, the Committee reiterates the need for project planners to seek efficiencies in all elements of project planning.
- 2.16 The Committee is satisfied that the costings for the project are adequate and that suitable contingency planning is in place (including deferring non-essential works should there be budget over-runs in any area) to ensure the overall budget is not compromised.

Project issues

Acquisition of land

- 2.17 As part of the project Defence is negotiating the purchase of land adjacent to the Edinburgh Defence Precinct boundary known as Area 9C/9D. The acquisition of this land will reduce the need for personnel to leave the base for training, therefore eliminating the risks associated with transporting heavy vehicles on public roads.
- 2.18 This land is currently owned by the South Australian Land Management Corporation (LMC). When the LMC purchased the land from the Commonwealth in 2005, a buyback provision was inserted in the contract to allow Area 9C/9D to be reacquired for use by the Edinburgh Defence Precinct.⁷
- 2.19 Without acquisition of the land, future development at the Edinburgh Defence Precinct may be compromised due to the need to locate training facilities within the existing Precinct area.⁸
- 2.20 The Committee believes that the acquisition of the land is important to the provision of appropriate training facilities in the Edinburgh

6 Submission 1, Department of Defence, p 27.

7 Brig W Grice, Department of Defence, Proof Transcript of Evidence, 1 April 2008, p 9.

8 Brig W Grice, Department of Defence, Proof Transcript of Evidence, 1 April 2008, p 5.

Defence Precinct and in the long-term will result in savings by the centralisation of training resources.

- 2.21 Although initial planning for this project began in 2005, it was not factored in to land sales, and the Commonwealth is now facing additional costs to buy back this land. The Committee was told that the detailed plans for the precinct were not drawn up until 2007 and it was not known until this time that the land would be required.⁹
- 2.22 However, the Committee is concerned about the short-sightedness in planning that allowed Area 9C/9D to be initially sold at the same time as the then Minister for Defence was announcing a major Army relocation to Edinburgh Defence Precinct.
- 2.23 The Committee understands that negotiations are underway regarding the reacquisition of this land and is recommending the Minister for Defence progress this as a matter of priority to ensure that no further costs are incurred by delay in construction works.
- 2.24 Further, the Committee understands that with any evaluation of the needs of defence establishments, the disposal of land may be under consideration. The Committee urges Defence to act more strategically regarding land disposal in future.

Recommendation 1

- 2.25 **The Committee recommends that the Minister for Defence progress negotiations for the reacquisition of land in the Edinburgh Defence Precinct known as Area 9C/D as a matter of priority.**

Common use facilities

- 2.26 The Committee is pleased to note the increased use of common use facilities as part of this development but noted that the majority of the development consists of separate buildings.
- 2.27 Defence noted that where efficiencies were to be gained by combining functional areas, this would be done, but in the majority of cases,

⁹ Brig W Grice, Department of Defence, Proof Transcript of Evidence, 1 April 2008, p 9.

buildings reflect the functional nature of the units concerned. Brigadier Krause, Commander 1st Brigade also noted:

Our experience shows that the more ownership people have of their equipment, particularly from an accountability and corporate governance point of view, the better that equipment is maintained. So the design of the facility, where the armouries are right next door to the company that is responsible for those weapons, for example, gives me increased confidence that the weapons will be well maintained and, above all, secure.¹⁰

- 2.28 While the Committee accepts that there are operational reasons for the layout of buildings on defence establishments, it cautions that consideration must be given to common use facilities at all times, including ensuring that buildings are laid out in such a manner to reduce the duplication of utilities.

Community impact

- 2.29 The Committee considers that this development will add significant value to the local community in terms of employment opportunities and population increase.
- 2.30 The development is being undertaken in a part of Adelaide that has been heavily affected by the downturn in employment in the manufacturing industry and consequently has high levels of unemployment, in particular youth unemployment.
- 2.31 When asked if consideration had been given to drawing local unemployed people into the labour market for this project, Defence advised the Committee that although a resourcing plan had not yet been finalised, the majority of contract registrants had indicated involvement with State training and apprenticeship programs.¹¹
- 2.32 The Committee is concerned that when major Defence redevelopments take place, that Defence consider its role as a tenant of the local community both in terms of physical impact and adding value to the community in areas such as local employment opportunities. Wherever possible, contractual conditions should ensure to reflect this role.

10 Brig M Krause, Department of Defence, Proof Transcript of Evidence, 1 April 2008, p 6.

11 Mr D Ellis, Sinclair Knight Merz Pty Ltd, Proof Transcript of Evidence, 1 April 2008, p 12.

Recommendation 2

- 2.33 **The Committee recommends that the Australian Government, in contracts for major capital infrastructure developments, include a requirement for the provision of employment and training opportunities to the local community wherever possible.**

Committee comment

- 2.34 Overall, the Committee is satisfied that this project has merit in terms of need, scope and cost.
- 2.35 The Committee received only one public submission other than those submitted by Defence on this development. This submission requested that consideration be given to the inclusion of a rail spur at the site.¹² In response, Defence noted that this option had been considered but it was regarded that there was no operational imperative for the inclusion of a rail spur.¹³
- 2.36 No other submissions were received raising issues with the proposed works and the Committee is aware of the South Australian Government's strong support for Defence developments in the State. Therefore, the Committee is satisfied that there are no reasons to object to the proposed work proceeding.
- 2.37 Having examined the purpose, need, use, revenue and public value of the work, the Committee considers that it is expedient that the proposed works proceed.

Recommendation 3

- 2.38 **The Committee recommends that the House of Representatives, pursuant to Section 18 (7) of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, resolve that it is expedient to carry out the following proposed work: Hardened and Networked Army Facilities at Edinburgh Defence Precinct, South Australia.**

12 Submission 2, Mr M Pickering.

13 Submission 3, Department of Defence (Supplementary).

RAAF Base Darwin Redevelopment Stage 2, Northern Territory

- 3.1 RAAF Base Darwin Redevelopment Stage 2, Northern Territory (RAAF Base Darwin) proposes to improve the operational capability and rectify occupational health and safety and environmental deficiencies currently existing at the base. The estimated cost of the project is \$49.832 million (excluding GST.)
- 3.2 RAAF Base Darwin was referred to the Committee for inquiry on 18 March 2008.

Conduct of the inquiry

- 3.3 The inquiry was advertised in the *Northern Territory News* on 29 March 2008. The Committee received one submission and a confidential supplementary submission regarding the project costs. A list of submissions can be found at Appendix A.
- 3.4 The Committee undertook a site inspection, in-camera hearing and public hearing on 16 April 2008 in Darwin. A list of witnesses can be found at Appendix B.
- 3.5 The transcript of the public hearing as well as the submission to the inquiry are on the Committee's website.¹ Plans for the proposed works are detailed in Submission 1, Department of Defence.

1 <www.aph.gov.au/pwc>

Need for works

- 3.6 The Department of Defence (Defence) states that the proposed works are necessary to upgrade the base in response to changing operational needs and improve base capability to respond to increasing demands.²
- 3.7 Further, Defence states that works are necessary due to the fact that most facilities on base were originally constructed in the 1940s to 1960s with repairs following Cyclone Tracy in the 1970s. Facilities are now considered to be 'well below current industry and defence standards.' It was not considered cost effective to upgrade existing facilities in the majority of cases due to the age.³
- 3.8 The Committee undertook a site inspection of the proposed works and noted the age of base and the number of demountables being used as offices. The Committee considers this to be substandard, particularly given the weather conditions in Darwin. The Committee finds that there is need for the proposed works.

Scope of works

- 3.9 The work consists of five elements as follows:
- Joint Logistics Unit (North) Headquarters: a single-level building for the co-location of 70 staff including office space, conference rooms, secure operations area, ablutions, amenities and parking;
 - fuel storage and reticulation: decommissioning of three small fuel farms and replacement with new fuel storage facility and associated pumps, services and pipe connection to existing services and aprons;
 - mechanical equipment workshop: drive-through workshop bays, lubrication/inspection pits and associated workshops, centralised administrative facility, petrol, lubricant and battery stores and roads;
 - administrative facility for fuel equipment maintenance section: extension of existing facility to provide office, library, first aid and storage; and

2 Submission 1, Department of Defence, p 2.

3 Submission 1, Department of Defence, p 2-4.

- vehicle wash bay.⁴

3.10 The Committee has assessed the scope of works and finds them suitable to provide the facilities necessary to meet the needs of RAAF Base Darwin.

Cost of works

3.11 The total out-turn cost of the work is scheduled to be \$49.832 million (excluding GST) which includes construction costs, management and design fees, internal fitout, information and communication technology and contingency and escalation allowance.⁵

3.12 The Committee received detailed cost plans for the project and held an in-camera hearing with Defence on the full project costs.

3.13 An estimated saving of \$700 000 per annum is expected being the current maintenance costs of the three fuel tanks that will be decommissioned as part of the project.⁶ In addition, savings are expected through the provision of a purpose-built mechanical equipment workshop given the increased operating costs imposed by the current inadequate facility.⁷

3.14 The Committee is satisfied that the costings for the project are adequate and that suitable contingency planning is in place, including deferring non-essential works should there be budget over-runs in any area, to ensure the overall budget is not compromised.

Committee comment

3.15 Some concerns were raised about the need to demolish decommissioned structures rather than put them to alternative use, for example as shade structures. Defence noted that the age of the structures made it cost prohibitive to upgrade them and in their existing state they posed a hazard to those outside the base in the event of a cyclone due to the risk of flying debris.⁸

4 Submission 1, Department of Defence, p 8-9.

5 Brig W Grice, Proof Transcript of Evidence, 16 April 2008, p 1-2.

6 Brig W Grice, Proof Transcript of Evidence, 16 April 2008, p 5.

7 Submission 1, Department of Defence, p. 5

8 Brig W Grice, Proof Transcript of Evidence, 16 April 2008, p 8-9.

- 3.16 While in this instance the Committee agrees with Defence's assessment, its preference is that re-use of existing structures be given priority consideration in all instances.
- 3.17 The Committee also notes that common-use facilities are less apparent in these redevelopment plans than on other bases. Defence explained that there was only one project element suitable to be used as a common-use facility.⁹ The Committee urges the ongoing consideration of common-use facilities wherever possible.
- 3.18 Overall, the Committee is satisfied that this project has merit in terms of need, scope and cost. No other submissions were received raising issues with the proposed works. The Committee is therefore satisfied that there are no reasons to object to the work proceeding.
- 3.19 Having examined the purpose, need, use, revenue and public value of the work, the Committee considers that it is expedient that the proposed redevelopment at RAAF Base Darwin proceed.

Recommendation 4

- 3.20 **The Committee recommends that the House of Representatives, pursuant to Section 18 (7) of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, resolve that it is expedient to carry out the following proposed work: RAAF Base Darwin Redevelopment Stage 2, Northern Territory.**

⁹ Brig W Grice, Proof Transcript of Evidence, 16 April 2008, p 9.

Developments at Robertson Barracks, Northern Territory

- 4.1 The following developments at a total estimated out-turn cost of \$72.126 million (excluding GST) are proposed to be undertaken at the Robertson Barracks Army Base in Darwin, Northern Territory:
- Robertson Barracks Redevelopment (estimated \$30.198m);
 - Robertson Replacement Tank Facilities, including minor works at Mount Bundy Training Area (estimated \$6.715m); and
 - Hardened and Networked Army (estimated \$35.213m.)
- 4.2 The proposal was originally referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC) of the 41st Parliament on 21 June 2007. The inquiry lapsed with the dissolution of the 41st Parliament on 17 October 2007. The proposal was referred to the PWC of the 42nd Parliament for inquiry on 13 March 2008.

Conduct of the inquiry

- 4.3 The inquiry was initially advertised in the *Northern Territory News* on 30 June 2007 and in *The Australian* on 4 July 2007. The inquiry was readvertised in the *Northern Territory News* on 29 March 2008. The Committee received 13 submissions and two supplementary submissions, including a confidential supplementary submission regarding the project costs. A list of submissions can be found at Appendix A.

- 4.4 The Committee undertook a site inspection, in-camera hearing and public hearing (including a community statement session) on 16 April 2008 in Darwin. A list of witnesses can be found at Appendix B.
- 4.5 The transcript of the public hearing as well as all submissions to the inquiry are available on the Committee's website¹. Plans for the proposed works are detailed in Submission 1, Department of Defence (Defence) also available on the Committee's website.

Need for works

- 4.6 The Committee was advised that the proposed works support the operations of units based at Robertson Barracks and will:
- rectify deficiencies in working accommodation as part of the Robertson Barracks Redevelopment;
 - provide facilities to support the operation and maintenance of new tank capability as part of the Robertson Replacement Tank Facilities; and
 - provide the required facilities to support the Army's Hardened and Networked Army (HNA) initiative as outlined in Chapter 2 of this report.²
- 4.7 In assessing existing facilities, the Committee finds that there is need for the proposed redevelopment at Robertson Barracks and the Robertson Replacement Tank Facilities.
- 4.8 Further, and as stated previously in the report, the Committee supports the HNA initiative as part of the Army's response enhancing the nation's defensive capabilities in response to developments in the global security situation. The Committee finds that there is need for the proposed works to support this initiative at Robertson Barracks.

Scope of works

- 4.9 The proposed scope of works is detailed in Submission 1, Department of Defence.³ In short, the works propose the following:

1 <www.aph.gov.au/pwc>

2 Submission 1, Department of Defence, pp 1-2.

3 The submission is available on the Committee's website or by contacting the Committee Secretariat.

- Robertson Barracks Redevelopment: expansion of existing office and operational facilities to support the 1st Combat Signal Regiment, 1st Combat Service Support Battalion, 1st Troop Emergency Response Squadron Land Warfare Centre and the Australian Army Band – Darwin comprising office accommodation, vehicle and equipment storage, teaching and music rehearsal facilities, additional car parking, civil and services works and alteration to existing buildings;
- Robertson Replacement Tank Facilities at various sites within the base: three repair bays, ‘new vehicle shelter, office, ablutions and hardstand for parking and turning circles’ and upgrade of the range control tower at the Mount Bundy Training Area; and
- Hardened and Networked Army initiative: ablutions, working accommodation and offices, equipment storage facilities, vehicle hangars and car parking across the base to service six regiments and battalions and an upgrade of headquarters buildings for 1st Brigade.⁴

4.10 The Committee has assessed the scope of works and finds them suitable to provide the facilities necessary to meet the needs of Robertson Barracks and to implement the HNA initiative.

Cost of works

4.11 The total out-turn cost of this work is scheduled to be \$72.126 million (excluding GST) which includes construction costs, management and design fees and contingency allowance. Overall net personnel and operating costs are expected to increase by \$1.8m per annum.⁵

4.12 Costs for the three projects separately are:

- Robertson Barracks Redevelopment - \$30.198m (excl GST);
- Robertson Replacement Tank Facilities - \$6.715m (excl GST); and
- Hardened and Networked Army - \$35.213m (excl GST).

4.13 Defence stated that by combining all three projects, efficiencies are expected in project management and administration costs and through packaging similar works together.⁶

4 Submission 1, Department of Defence, p 9-12 outlines the scope of works in greater detail.

5 Submission 1, Department of Defence, p 19.

6 Submission 1, Department of Defence, p 19.

- 4.14 The Committee notes the foresight in undertaking the project this way, particularly as the Robertson Replacement Tank Facilities as a standalone project falls beneath the PWC threshold for inquiry.
- 4.15 The Committee received detailed cost plans for the project and held an in-camera hearing with Defence on the full project costs.
- 4.16 The Committee is satisfied that the costings for the project are adequate and that suitable contingency planning is in place (including deferring non-essential works should there be budget over-runs in any area) to ensure the overall budget is not compromised.

Project issues

Community impact

- 4.17 The Committee received twelve submissions and heard from five individuals at a community statement session held as part of the public hearing on 16 April 2008 in Darwin. Residents were also represented at the public hearing by a member of the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly, Mr Gerry Wood MLA. The submissions and individuals all raised concerns about the impact of base-related traffic on local residential roads.⁷
- 4.18 Concerns include:
- increased traffic resulting in a reduction in pedestrian safety, particularly at peak hours;
 - an increase in traffic accidents, including one fatality resulting in some residents redefining property boundaries at some expense as a safety measure;
 - antisocial attitudes of drivers, including littering and inappropriate language towards young women; and
 - general disturbance of the peace by the volume, speed and noise of through traffic.⁸
- 4.19 The Committee heard that official military vehicles are banned from using the roads concerned but the base had no jurisdiction to prevent soldiers using the roads in their private vehicles. Residents claimed

7 Namely: Brandt, Stevens and Campbell Roads, Knuckey Lagoon, Northern Territory

8 Submissions 2-13; Community Statement Session, Transcript of Evidence, 16 April 2008, pp 11-22.

that the majority of the antisocial behaviour was from young men in uniform in private cars.⁹

- 4.20 The Committee acknowledges that the concerns of residents are serious. It also notes that the Robertson Barracks Base Commander, Brigadier Krause, shares the safety concerns of residents. At the hearing he stated:

There are also the safety aspects for my soldiers coming to and from work. I believe the situation at the moment is suboptimal for that as well – the safety not only of my own soldiers but also of the residents, as is evident through those submissions.¹⁰

- 4.21 Some residents objected to the base redevelopment citing concerns that an increase in personnel will lead to an increase in traffic. However, while base growth is expected under this proposal, with the relocation of 1 200 personnel of the 7 RAR Battle Group to South Australia in 2011, there will be no overall base population increase.¹¹
- 4.22 The Committee heard conflicting evidence and could not determine whether traffic increases were directly base related or not. While acknowledging the serious concerns of residents, the Committee does not believe there is sufficient evidence or justification for a cessation of growth at the base particularly in light of the significant contribution the Defence Force makes to the local economy.
- 4.23 Being local roads, the local council (at present Litchfield Shire¹²) has the responsibility for any upgrades. This Committee has no jurisdiction to compel action by the council. However, Defence indicated that it is keen for the matter to be resolved and to work with local residents to this end. Further, Defence informed the Committee that an offer of funding had been made in 2007 but no action was taken by the council and subsequently the funding lapsed.¹³
- 4.24 Clearly residents are frustrated about a perceived lack of communication and the seeming ‘fobbing off’¹⁴ of their concerns at

9 Submissions 2-13; Community Statement Session, Transcript of Evidence, 16 April 2008, pp 11-22; Brig M Krause, Proof Transcript of Evidence, 16 April 2008, p 6.

10 Brig M Krause, Proof Transcript of Evidence, 16 April 2008, p 6.

11 Brig M Krause, Proof Transcript of Evidence, 16 April 2008, p 8.

12 The Council is undergoing amalgamation and as such chose not to comment on this issue.

13 Brig W Grice, Proof Transcript of Evidence, 16 April 2008, p 8.

14 Trevor, Community Statement Session, Transcript of Evidence, 16 April 2008, p 20.

various levels of government. To this end, the Committee is recommending that Defence engage the relevant local council on this issue and actively inform residents of these negotiations.

Recommendation 5

- 4.25 **The Committee recommends that the Department of Defence facilitate discussions with the relevant local council and local government authorities to resolve the issue of traffic control in Knuckey Lagoon and actively engage local residents in this process.**

Committee comment

- 4.26 Overall, the Committee is satisfied that this project has merit in terms of need, scope and cost and it supports the capacity of the Defence Force to meet the growing needs of the Army.
- 4.27 Other than the community impact as detailed above, no significant concerns were raised in the Committee's examination of the proposed works.
- 4.28 Therefore, having examined the purpose, need, use, revenue and public value of the works, the Committee considers that it is expedient that the proposed works proceed.

Recommendation 6

- 4.29 **The Committee recommends that the House of Representatives, pursuant to Section 18 (7) of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, resolve that it is expedient to carry out the following proposed works: Robertson Barracks Redevelopment, Robertson Replacement Tank Facilities and Hardened and Networked Army Projects, Darwin, Northern Territory.**

RAAF Base Tindal Redevelopment Stage 5, Northern Territory

- 5.1 The RAAF Base Tindal Redevelopment Stage 5, Northern Territory (Tindal Stage 5) proposes to improve the facilities which support the overall capability of the base. The estimated cost of the project is \$58.7 million (excluding GST.)
- 5.2 The Tindal Stage 5 works proposal was referred to the Committee for inquiry on 19 March 2008.

Conduct of the inquiry

- 5.3 The inquiry was initially advertised in the *Northern Territory News* on 28 June 2007. The inquiry was readvertised in the *Katherine Times* on 26 March 2008 and the *Northern Territory News* on 29 March 2008. The Committee received one submission to the inquiry and one confidential supplementary submission detailing the project cost estimates. A list of submissions can be found at Appendix A.
- 5.4 The Committee undertook a site inspection, in-camera hearing and public hearing on 17 April 2008 in Katherine. A list of witnesses can be found at Appendix B.
- 5.5 The transcript of the public hearing as well as the submission to the inquiry are on the Committee's website.¹ Plans for the proposed works are detailed in Submission 1, Department of Defence (Defence).

1 <www.aph.gov.au/pwc>

Need for works

- 5.6 The Committee was advised that the proposed works would address existing limitations and deficiencies in base facilities following an increase in use of the Base. The project elements aim to improve quality to current industry standards, address occupational and health and safety risks, develop more usable facilities with appropriate security protection.²
- 5.7 The Committee recognises the need to maintain defence establishments to current industry and occupational regulatory requirements and ensure that facilities continue to be fit for their purpose and are safe and effective for Australian defence force personnel. The Committee finds that there is need for the proposed works and supports this redevelopment initiative.

Scope of works

- 5.8 The proposed scope of works are detailed in Submission 1, Department of Defence. The works consist of the following 12 project elements:³
- Security fence extension: extend the existing base security fence to enclose the explosive ordnance storage and preparation areas. approximately 7.2km of fencing is to be constructed;
 - Central emergency power station: supply and install an additional 1MW diesel generator in the emergency power station;
 - Ordnance loading apron water supply: reticulate mains water to the 75 Squadron aprons to replace the current reliance on tank water;
 - Liquid dry breathing oxygen facility: construct a covered area for two 7000L storage tanks, a drive through facility for off-loading liquid oxygen from road trains and a covered parking area for the trolleys and tow motors which handle the transfer of oxygen to the flightlines. Construct an evaporation pit, security fencing, security lighting, lightning protection and a light vehicle access road to connect the facility to the 75 Squadron precinct;

2 Submission 1, Department of Defence, p 3.

3 Submission 1, Department of Defence, p 3-6.

- Aircraft maintenance annexes: extend each annex, to rearrange some internal spaces and to construct new toilet, shower and locker facilities adjacent to each annex;
- Inflight and surge catering: construct a new facility for the preparation of meals for crew and passengers, operational sites personnel and a sit down dining area for operational staff. This element includes a central, common stores area, and separated kitchen areas for domestic and inflight preparation and distribution operations;
- Ordnance loading apron security: construct a security system comprising one fixed and two pan tilt zoom CCTV cameras with motion detection fitted to the roof of each of the ten ordnance loading aprons;
- Tanker maintenance and refuelling facilities: construct a tanker maintenance and tanker drivers' facility providing four fire separated maintenance bays, a small parts repair workshop, a store and a vehicle wash bay. A separate building will provide offices, training, amenities and change facilities;
- Fire station: upgrade fire facilities including two additional fire fighting vehicle bays, a stores area and a new change/toilets/laundry area. Construct a two metre wide awning on both sides of the existing vehicle bays to accommodate the new, larger fire trucks;
- Supply services warehouse: extend the existing warehouse to increase pallet racking space and to provide additional receipt and dispatch floor area. Refurbish office space, replace the carousel and refurbish and augment the warehouse fire protection system;
- Messing improvement: replace worn and obsolete equipment and undertake a general refurbishment of all finishes in the Airmen's, Sergeants' and Officers' messes; and
- Passenger terminal: expand both indoor and outdoor spaces in the current terminal. Enclose existing baggage collection space and relocate baggage collection to an outside, partially covered area.⁴

5.9 The Committee has assessed the scope of works and finds them suitable to improve the overall capability at RAAF Base Tindal.

4 Submission 1, Department of Defence, pp 8-10.

Cost of works

- 5.10 The total out-turn cost of this work is estimated to be \$58.7 million (excluding GST) which includes construction costs, management and design fees, internal fit-out, information and communication technology and contingency allowance.⁵
- 5.11 The Committee received detailed cost plans for the project and held an in-camera hearing with Defence on the full project costs.
- 5.12 The Committee is satisfied that the costings for the project are adequate and that suitable contingency planning is in place (including deferring non-essential works should there be budget over-runs in any area) to ensure the overall budget is not compromised.

Project issues

Consultations on the project

- 5.13 In addition to the local construction industry briefings for the four Northern Territory Defence referrals discussed in Chapter 6, Defence informed the Committee that they have ongoing consultations with the following bodies in relation to Tindal Stage 5:
- Northern Territory Department of Defence Support;
 - Northern Territory Department of Planning and Lands;
 - The Chamber of Commerce Northern Territory;
 - The Australian Industry and Defence Network in the Northern Territory;
 - The Member for Lingiari, the Hon Warren Snowdon MP;
 - The Member for Katherine (Northern Territory); and
 - The Katherine Town Council.⁶
- 5.14 The Committee notes that consultations have not taken place with the Northern Territory Departments of Business and Economic Development and Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage despite efforts to arrange a meeting by Defence.

5 Submission 1, Department of Defence, p 27.

6 Brig W Grice, Department of Defence, Proof Transcript of Evidence, 17 April 2008, p 5. A more expansive list of external authorities consulted by Defence for this project is located at Submission 1, Department of Defence, p 7.

- 5.15 The Committee considers that it is important for Defence to consult with all relevant external authorities, particularly Northern Territory Government Departments, and Defence should continue to ensure that necessary consultations are undertaken.

Local wallaby population

- 5.16 Recent environmental conditions in Northern Australia have led to a rapid increase in the wallaby population creating a hazard for both civilian and military aircraft at Tindal. In 2007, Defence were forced to cease all night flights due to the risk of aircraft hitting the animal. Medical rescue planes were also diverted following two collisions with wallabies.
- 5.17 Defence considers that media reports have exaggerated claims that the existing fence at RAAF Base Tindal was responsible for increasing the risk of aircraft collision with wallabies by trapping them on the base.⁷
- 5.18 Wing Commander Rohan Gaskill, RAAF Base Commander, advised the Committee:
- Last year on four occasions aircraft operating at Tindal did strike wallabies. A wallaby management program has been developed and is being implemented. That was in consultation with the RSPCA, a local vet and all the appropriate organisations. This has seen the removal of over 700 wallabies from inside the security fence using both lethal and nonlethal means.⁸
- 5.19 The Committee was concerned that the proposed security fence extension would be of the same design as the existing fence and may not adequately prevent the entry of wallabies.
- 5.20 The Committee heard that there had always been a population of wallabies at the Base and the fence did function to both restrict the entry of wallabies and trap wallabies held within. The Committee acknowledges that it is very difficult to eliminate the wallaby population within the Base because of the size of the property and the

7 M Cunningham, 'Mob of wallabies grounds RAAF Fighters', *Northern Territory News*, 25 January 2008. A Barker, 'Wallaby cull at NT Air Force base', *AM (Radio National)*, 29 March 2008.

8 Wing Cmdr Gaskill, Department of Defence, Proof Transcript of Evidence, 17 April 2008, p 8.

variety of locations for the animal to hide, such as spear grass and limestone caves.

- 5.21 The Committee is satisfied with the wallaby management plan at the Base and considers that the wallaby population does not pose a significant issue for the proposed extension of the perimeter fence. Further, Defence considers that it is now safe for the Northern Territory Department of Health to resume emergency medical evacuation flights to and from the Base.

Committee comment

- 5.22 Overall, the Committee is satisfied that this project has merit in terms of need, scope and cost. No other submissions were received raising issues with the proposed works. The Committee is therefore satisfied that there are no reasons to object to the work proceeding.
- 5.23 Having examined the purpose, need, use, revenue and public value of the work, the Committee considers that it is expedient that the proposed redevelopment at RAAF Base Tindal proceed.

Recommendation 7

- 5.24 **The Committee recommends that the House of Representatives, pursuant to Section 18 (7) of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, resolve that it is expedient to carry out the following proposed work: RAAF Base Tindal redevelopment Stage 5, Northern Territory.**

Airborne Early Warning and Control Facilities, RAAF Base Tindal, Northern Territory

- 6.1 The Airborne Early Warning and Control Facilities, RAAF Base Tindal, Northern Territory development proposes to provide facilities to support Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) aircraft operations from the base. The estimated cost of the project is \$64.2 million (excluding GST.)
- 6.2 The proposed AEW&C works was originally referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC) of the 41st Parliament on 21 June 2007. The inquiry lapsed with the dissolution of the 41st Parliament on 17 October 2007. The proposal was referred to the PWC of the 42nd Parliament for inquiry on 13 March 2008.

Conduct of the inquiry

- 6.3 The inquiry was initially advertised in the *Northern Territory News* on 28 June 2007. The inquiry was readvertised in the *Katherine Times* on 26 March 2008 and the *Northern Territory News* on 29 March 2008. The Committee received one submission to the inquiry and one confidential supplementary submission detailing the project cost estimates. A list of submissions can be found at Appendix A.
- 6.4 The Committee undertook a site inspection, in-camera hearing and public hearing on 17 April 2008 in Katherine. A list of witnesses can be found at Appendix B.

- 6.5 The transcript of the public hearing as well as the submission to the inquiry are on the Committee's website.¹ Plans for the proposed works are detailed in Submission 1, Department of Defence (Defence).

Need for works

- 6.6 The aim of these works is to provide facilities at RAAF Base Tindal to support the operation of the AEW&C aircraft enabling the base to be used as a forward operating base for exercise, training and contingency purposes.
- 6.7 In December 2000, the then Minister for Defence, the Hon John Moore MP, announced the Government's decision to acquire four Wedgetail AEW&C aircraft to form 'the cornerstone of Australia's air and maritime surveillance, and early warning and detection capability, well into this century.'² The aircraft's radar and electronic warfare systems are expected to significantly improve Australia's air defence command and control and strike capability.
- 6.8 The home base for the aircraft will be RAAF Base Williamtown, New South Wales. In September 2002, the Committee reported on the facility modifications required to support the introduction of the AEW&C at Williamtown.³ Evidence to that inquiry foreshadowed the potential need for additional facilities to support the aircraft at RAAF Base Tindal.
- 6.9 Defence anticipates operations of up to 900 flying hours per year for the aircraft, involving short term deployments of up to 120 personnel from Tindal.⁴ While many of the facilities to support AEW&C operations already exist at RAAF Base Tindal, there is a need for specific facilities to ensure safe and effective operations. The first AEW&C aircraft are scheduled for delivery in March 2009 with initial operational capability planned for mid-2010.⁵
- 6.10 The works are scheduled to commence in early 2009 and be completed by late 2010.⁶

1 <www.aph.gov.au/pwc>

2 The Hon John Moore MP, Minister for Defence, Media Release, 20 December 2000.

3 PWC report, *RAAF Base Williamtown Redevelopment Stage 1 and Facilities for the Airborne Early Warning & Control Aircraft*, September 2002

4 Submission 1, Department of Defence, p 2.

5 Submission 1, Department of Defence, p 2.

6 Brig W Grice, Department of Defence, Proof Transcript of Evidence, 17 April 2008, p 2.

- 6.11 Although the capability of the aircraft and the need for its operation at RAAF Base Tindal was not sufficiently outlined in the evidence provided by Defence, the Committee generally recognises the strategic importance of supporting the AEW&C aircraft capability in Northern Australia.

Scope of works

- 6.12 The proposed scope of works are detailed in Submission 1, Department of Defence. In short, three main projects are proposed as part of these works:
- taxiways, aprons and two aircraft shelters: three dispersed, drive through aircraft parking aprons, including one open and one enclosed shelter;⁷
 - technical support facilities: facilities for flight line crew, planning, maintenance, communications and life support equipment to be housed in an earth covered building with an attached workshop and stores facility. An ordnance pre-load facility is also planned near aircraft parked locations;⁸ and
 - hydrant refuelling: underground stainless steel pipe to connect the existing fuel farm 1 to the AEW&C precinct to provide a hydrant point for each aircraft parking location.⁹
- 6.13 An operations facility is also planned to accommodate mission control and communications equipment for the aircraft. In May 2006, this Committee's predecessor agreed to the commencement of the proposed operations facility as a medium work at an estimated cost of \$4.95 million. These works will be completed by June 2008.¹⁰
- 6.14 The Committee has assessed the proposal and considers the works appropriate to support the introduction of the AEW&C aircraft.

Cost of works

- 6.15 The total out-turn cost of this work is estimated to be \$64.2 million (excluding GST) which includes construction costs, management and
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7 Submission 1, Department of Defence, p 6.

8 Submission 1, Department of Defence, p 6; Brig W Grice, Department of Defence, Proof Transcript of Evidence, 17 April 2008, p 2.

9 Submission 1, Department of Defence, p 6.

10 Brig W Grice, Department of Defence, Proof Transcript of Evidence, 17 April 2008, p 6.

design fees, internal fit-out, information and communication technology and contingency allowance.¹¹

- 6.16 The Committee received detailed cost plans for the project and held an in-camera hearing with Defence on the full project costs.
- 6.17 The Committee is satisfied that the costings for the project are adequate and that suitable contingency planning is in place (including deferring non-essential works should there be budget over-runs in any area) to ensure the overall budget is not compromised.

Project issues

Land acquisition

- 6.18 In its submission, Defence stated that the land at RAAF Base Tindal was Commonwealth owned and Defence controlled with 'no requirements to seek planning approvals'.¹² At the public hearing, Defence advised the Committee of a potential zoning and approvals issue that had come to light in the intervening period. A small part of the land within the base now appears to be Northern Territory vacant crown land, previously the site of the old northern railway line. As a consequence, Defence sought to amend its submission with the replacement of paragraphs 35 and 36 with the following respective paragraphs:

The property is owned by the Commonwealth and controlled by the Department of Defence, with the exception of the Northern Territory portion 4323, which is understood to be Northern Territory vacant crown land. On survey plans it is marked as the disused Northern Territory railway. Northern Territory portion 4323 bisects RAAF Base Tindal. Defence will comply with all national, territory and municipal requirements.

Defence is currently liaising with the Northern Territory government and is seeking to acquire freehold tenure for the former rail corridor.¹³

- 6.19 When the base was established in the 1980s Defence sought to relocate the old Stuart Highway and the old northern railway line. A land

11 Submission 1, Department of Defence, p 27.

12 Submission 1, Department of Defence, p 8.

13 Brig W Grice, Department of Defence, Proof Transcript of Evidence, 17 April 2008, p 2.

swap between the Commonwealth and Northern Territory was undertaken to facilitate the relocation of the Stuart Highway, however no land swap occurred for the former rail corridor. The new rail corridor is not located on Defence land.¹⁴

- 6.20 Defence initiated discussions with the Northern Territory on acquiring the land in February 2008. At this stage, Defence are not aware of any particular problems with securing the land and have advised the Committee that the issue would not impede the implementation of the proposed works.
- 6.21 The Committee notes that Defence was unaware of this issue prior to preparing for the site inspection and hearings. The Committee would prefer to see this issue resolved without additional cost to the Commonwealth.

Capacity of local construction industry

- 6.22 In relation to the four separate public works referrals before the Committee in the Northern Territory, Defence advised the Committee that it had attended the following consultations with the local construction industry:
- Northern Territory Defence and Industry briefing Darwin, 24 August 2006;
 - Department of Defence Northern Territory Construction Industry Briefing, Darwin 27 March 2007 and in Katherine 28 March 2007; and
 - Northern Territory Defence and industry regional briefing , Darwin 27 September 2007.
- 6.23 Brigadier Grice, Director General of Defence Infrastructure Asset Development, noted:
- At those briefings, we provided advice to local contractors on the accreditation requirements that were required to qualify for Commonwealth works and provided advice to those who requested it on how to go about doing that.¹⁵
- 6.24 Defence have also engaged a market consulting firm to examine the capacity of the Northern Territory construction industry to cater for

14 Brig W Grice, Department of Defence, Proof Transcript of Evidence, 17 April 2008, p 2.

15 Brig W Grice, Department of Defence, Proof Transcript of Evidence, 17 April 2008, p 7.

the four proposals. As a result, Defence are confident that there is 'sufficient industry capacity' to concurrently deliver the four proposals. It is also expected that Katherine regional subcontractors will be competitive in relation to the Tindal projects.¹⁶ In any case, it is likely that interstate contactors would be less competitive given the costs associated with transporting labour into the Territory.

- 6.25 The Committee considers that these projects present a good opportunity to consider local employment and training needs and reiterates points made in Chapter 2, that contractual arrangements should include local employment opportunities where possible.

Committee comment

- 6.26 Overall, the Committee is satisfied that this project has merit in terms of need, scope and cost. No other submissions were received raising issues with the proposed works. The Committee is satisfied that there are no reasons to object to the work proceeding.
- 6.27 Having examined the purpose, need, use, revenue and public value of the work, the Committee considers that it is expedient that the proposed works to support the operation of the AEW&C aircraft at RAAF Base Tindal proceed.

Recommendation 8

- 6.28 **The Committee recommends that the House of Representatives, pursuant to Section 18 (7) of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, resolve that it is expedient to carry out the following proposed work: Airborne Early Warning and Control Facilities, RAAF Base Tindal, Northern Territory.**

16 Brig. W. Grice, Department of Defence, Proof Transcript of Evidence, 17 April 2008, p. 7

Multi Role Helicopter Facilities

- 7.1 The Multi Role Helicopter Facilities proposal aims to support the introduction and operation of 34 new Multi-Role Helicopters (MRH90) to be located at Nowra, Townsville, Oakey and Sydney. The estimated cost of the project is \$168.7 million (excluding GST).
- 7.2 The proposal was originally referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC) of the 41st Parliament on 16 August 2007. The inquiry lapsed with the dissolution of the 41st Parliament on 17 October 2007. The proposal was referred to the PWC of the 42nd Parliament for inquiry on 13 March 2008.

Conduct of the inquiry

- 7.3 The inquiry was advertised in the *Shoalhaven & Nowra News* on 10 April 2008, the *Toowoomba Chronicle* on 10 April 2008, and the *Brisbane Courier Mail* on 12 April 2008. The Committee received six submissions to the inquiry and one confidential supplementary submission detailing the project cost estimates. A list of submissions can be found at Appendix A.
- 7.4 The Committee inspected one of the proposed sites and undertook an in-camera hearing and a public hearing on 6 May 2008 in Brisbane. A list of witnesses can be found at Appendix B.
- 7.5 The transcript of the public hearing as well as the submissions to the inquiry are on the Committee's website.¹ Plans for the proposed works are detailed in Submission 1, Department of Defence (Defence).

1 <www.aph.gov.au/pwc>

Need for works

- 7.6 Strategic circumstances, advancements in technologies and changing priorities are the key drivers for ongoing review of Australia's military capabilities. Defence Capability Plan Project AIR 9000 aims to ensure Australia maintains an appropriate fleet of helicopters to meet a broad range of operational requirements. Part of this process is to consolidate and simplify helicopter management.
- 7.7 Project AIR 9000 consists of eight phases. Phase two of the project involved the acquisition of twelve MRH90s to function as troop-lift helicopters at RAAF Base Townsville. The Committee considered and reported on proposed works to support the introduction of the MRH90 aircraft at that Base in 2006.²
- 7.8 AIR 9000 Phase four involved the purchase of a further 34 MRH90 aircraft to replace the current Black Hawk and Sea King Helicopter fleets based at HMAS Albatross, Nowra, RAAF Base Townsville, Army Aviation Training Centre, Oakey, and Holsworthy Barracks, Sydney. Delivery of the new aircraft is scheduled over a four and a half year period commencing in 2010.
- 7.9 The proposed allocation of the MRH90 aircraft is as follows:
- 817 Squadron (HMAS Albatross, Nowra, NSW) – 6
 - B Squadron 5th Aviation Regiment (Townsville, QLD) – 10
 - Army Aviation Training Centre (Oakey, QLD) – 8
 - 171 Aviation Squadron (Holsworthy Barracks, Sydney) – 10
- 7.10 A range of facilities at each of the above locations are required to support the necessary operational, maintenance and training activities of the new helicopters.³ The works are scheduled to commence in mid-2008 and be completed by late 2010.⁴
- 7.11 The new MRH90 aircraft will lead to a net reduction in defence helicopters, provide greater flexibility over land and sea operations, can carry more equipment and troops for greater distances and

2 PWC Report, *Facilities for Troop Lift Helicopter, RAAF Base Townsville, Queensland*, September 2006.

3 Only minor works are proposed for Holsworthy Barrack due to the existing work being undertaken to re-locate the 171 Aviation Squadron from Townsville. See PWC Report, *Proposed Relocation of 171st Aviation Squadron to Holsworthy Barracks, NSW*, February 2006.

4 This is the amended project timeframe. See Brig W Grice, Department of Defence, Proof Transcript of Evidence, 6 May 2008, p 2.

incorporates cutting edge technology.⁵ The Committee appreciates the importance of the MRH90 helicopters to Australia's defence capability and recognises the need for the proposed works to take place.

Scope of works

7.12 The proposed scope of works are detailed in Submission 1, Department of Defence. In short, the main projects proposed as part of these works are:

- HMAS Albatross, Nowra
 - ⇒ new 817 Squadron Facility (comprising Squadron Headquarters, aircraft shelters and aircraft maintenance hangar/workshops)
 - ⇒ new Battery Workshop;
- RAAF Base Townsville
 - ⇒ modification to B Squadron Aircraft Shelters
 - ⇒ extension of Mission Planning Facility
 - ⇒ new Simulator Building
 - ⇒ upgraded Technical Support Troop Facility
 - ⇒ upgraded Technical Support Squadron Aircraft Life Support Equipment Workshop
 - ⇒ new Forward Repair Troop and Draft Priority 1 Store;
- Army Aviation Centre Oakey
 - ⇒ new Aircraft Maintenance Facility and Workshops
 - ⇒ MRH90 Aircraft Parking Pads
 - ⇒ new Aircraft Shelters
 - ⇒ new Simulator Building
 - ⇒ School of Army Aviation Facility Reconfiguration
 - ⇒ new Aircraft Life Support Equipment Workshop
 - ⇒ extension of Rotary Wing Aircraft Maintenance School Training Building
 - ⇒ reconfiguration/Extension of Aviation Trade Wing
 - ⇒ upgrades to the electricity supply capacity at Oakey;
- Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera

5 Brig Dudgeon, Department of Defence, Proof Transcript of Evidence, 6 May 2008, p 9.

- ⇒ new Headquarters 16th Brigade (Aviation) and elements of Defence Materiel Organisation; and
 - Holsworthy Barracks, Holsworthy Sydney
 - ⇒ provision for any minor works required at Holsworthy to modify any existing facilities to suit the MRH90 aircraft.⁶
- 7.13 At the public hearing, Defence informed the Committee that a proposed simulator building at HMAS Albatross would not be required, following the outcome of a training needs analysis.⁷
- 7.14 Defence also advised the Committee that a planned sheet metal workshop at the Army Aviation Training Centre, Oakey, would no longer proceed as a result of a cost-benefit analysis. In lieu of the workshop, Defence now proposes to build an additional aircraft shelter, bringing the number of new shelters at Oakey to three.⁸
- 7.15 The Committee has assessed the proposal and considers the works appropriate to support the introduction of the MRH90 helicopters.

Cost of works

- 7.16 The total out-turn cost of this work is estimated to be \$168.7 million (excluding GST) which includes construction costs, management and design fees, internal fit-out, information communications technology and contingency and escalation allowances.⁹
- 7.17 It is projected that the ongoing operating costs for the proposed facilities (excluding the simulators) would increase by \$2.2 million across the four bases. Each simulator would also incur an operating cost of \$0.32 million. These costs result from increased expenditure on personnel, maintenance, energy consumption, and information technology associated with the proposal.¹⁰ However, greater efficiencies and cost savings in the future would also result from the consolidation of helicopters under Project AIR 9000.¹¹
- 7.18 The Committee received detailed cost plans for the project and held an in-camera hearing with Defence on the full project costs.

6 Submission 1, Department of Defence, pp 10–11.

7 Brig W Grice, Department of Defence, Proof Transcript of Evidence, 6 May 2008, p 1.

8 Brig W Grice, Department of Defence, Proof Transcript of Evidence, 6 May 2008, p 1.

9 Submission 1, Department of Defence, p 28.

10 Submission 1, Department of Defence, p 29.

11 Brig Dudgeon, Department of Defence, Proof Transcript of Evidence, 6 May 2008, p 4.

- 7.19 The Committee is satisfied that the costings for the project are adequate and that suitable contingency planning is in place to ensure the overall budget is not compromised.

Project issues

Developments in close proximity to defence establishments

- 7.20 Concern was raised that new housing developments located close to defence establishments could adversely impact on the operation of those establishments, particularly in relation to training and other helicopter activities. The Committee heard that Shoalhaven City Council's *Nowra Bomaderry Structure Plan* includes a proposal to establish a residential housing estate close to HMAS Albatross.¹²
- 7.21 The *Nowra Bomaderry Structure Plan* states that proposed new living area 6, Crab Tree Lane, 'is located in relatively close proximity to HMAS Albatross so will be subject to military aircraft noise from time to time'.¹³ The area would comprise low and medium density housing for approximately 5,450 people in 182 hectares.
- 7.22 The Committee notes that the six MRH90 aircraft allocated to HMAS Albatross will be introduced in a staged process, the noise level of the MRH90 is similar to the existing Black Hawk and Sea King aircraft, and aircrews are briefed on 'flying friendly' in routes that avoid residential areas.¹⁴
- 7.23 Regional representatives of the Defence Support Group and the Assistant Secretary of Estate Planning in the Infrastructure Division of Defence are informed of local planning proposals and where necessary, participate in consultations and comment on development applications. Defence assured the Committee that they have a 'significant and ongoing engagement' with Shoalhaven City Council.¹⁵
- 7.24 It is nonetheless concerning that development might lead to pressure on Defence to reduce its activities or functions and ultimately constrain capability or increase costs to the Commonwealth. The Committee considers that Defence should continue to engage with the

12 Submission 2, Mr Cox.

13 Shoalhaven City Council, *Nowra Bomaderry Structure Plan*, 2008, p 23.

14 Submission 1, Department of Defence, p 28; Brig Dudgeon, Department of Defence, Proof Transcript of Evidence, 6 May 2008, p 10.

15 Cdre Barrett, Department of Defence, Proof Transcript of Evidence, 6 May 2008, p 7.

Shoalhaven City Council to ensure that its current and future operations at HMAS Albatross can proceed as appropriate without impediment.

- 7.25 The Committee is aware that this issue is wider than this particular development. There is potential for future constraints on Defence activities should residential developments continue to be built close to existing Defence establishments. Therefore, the Committee is recommending that protocols be negotiated to manage development on land surrounding Defence establishments.

Recommendation 9

- 7.26 **The Committee recommends that the Australian Government negotiate protocols with State and Territory governments in relation to developments on land that may impact on the activities of Defence establishments.**

Other matters raised by local councils

- 7.27 The Committee received three submissions from local councils concerning specific sites of the proposed works. These submissions also raised matters in relation to Defence's engagement with local councils on its proposals.
- 7.28 Shoalhaven City Council indicated its support for the proposed works at HMAS Albatross. The Council also expressed its concern that new local facilities to support the work of contractors are required.¹⁶ The Committee considers that, where possible, these issues should be addressed in the contracting process.
- 7.29 The Lord Mayor of Brisbane City Council expressed concern regarding the potential impact of helicopter activities on local residents and the ecosystem.¹⁷ In response, Defence advised that it would be rare for helicopters to visit Gallipoli Barracks and any helicopter activity would have minimal impact on the ecosystem.¹⁸

16 Submission 3, Shoalhaven City Council.

17 Submission No. 5, Office of the Lord Mayor, Brisbane.

18 Brig. Dudgeon, Department of Defence, Proof Transcript of Evidence, 6 May 2008, p 10.

- 7.30 The Toowoomba Regional Council strongly supported the proposed works at the Army Aviation Centre in Oakey. The Centre is the largest employer at Oakey and its economic impact is estimated to total \$280 million.¹⁹ Appearing before the Committee, Councillor Strohfeld spoke of the region's 'very positive relationship' with Defence.²⁰
- 7.31 The Committee notes the interest with which local councils have received the proposal and notes that the issues raised highlight the importance of maintaining open and transparent communication between Defence and local communities.

Breach of the PWC Act

- 7.32 The MRH90 project is being delivered in part by the Department of Defence's Infrastructure Asset Development Branch and in part by the Defence Material Organisation (DMO.) DMO is responsible for the delivery of two simulators and associated buildings. This delivery method was identified in order to reduce the technical risks associated with separate simulator and building design.
- 7.33 On 6 May 2008, the Committee received advice from Defence that in December 2007, DMO had entered into a contract for the design and construction of two MRH90 simulators and their housing facilities. The Committee requested that legal advice be sought by the DMO on whether this was a breach of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969* (the Act.) Subsequent legal advice confirmed that the entering into of this contract is a clear breach of the Act.
- 7.34 According to Section 18 (8) of the Act:
- A public work that has been referred to the Committee shall not be commenced unless, after the report of the Committee (or, if there has been a further reference of the work under the last preceding subsection, the report of the Committee on the further reference) has been presented to both Houses of the Parliament, the House of Representatives has resolved that it is expedient to carry out the work.
- 7.35 The word 'commence' is interpreted in Section 5 of the Act as:

19 Submission 4, Toowoomba Regional Council, p 2.

20 Councillor Strohfeld, Toowoomba Regional Council, Proof Transcript of Evidence, 6 May 2008, p 11.

... in relation to a public work, includes enter into a contract for the carrying out of the whole or a part of the work, and commencement has a corresponding meaning.

- 7.36 In response, the Committee wrote to the Minister for Defence and the Minister for Finance and Deregulation requesting that they remind agencies of their obligations under the Act.
- 7.37 The Committee has received assurances from DMO at a private briefing that measures had been put in place to prevent such a breach occurring in future.
- 7.38 The Committee considers any breach of the Act to be a very serious matter. The Committee has decided not to pursue further action in this case, but reminds DMO to proceed with more consideration to its legislated responsibilities in future.

Committee comment

- 7.39 Overall, the Committee is satisfied that this project has merit in terms of need, scope and cost. No submissions were received raising significant issues with the proposed works. The Committee is satisfied that there are no reasons to object to the work proceeding.
- 7.40 Having examined the purpose, need, use, revenue and public value of the work, the Committee considers that it is expedient that the proposed works to support the operation of the MRH90 aircraft proceed at Nowra, Townsville, Oakey, Enoggera and Sydney.

Recommendation 10

- 7.41 **The Committee recommends that the House of Representatives, pursuant to Section 18 (7) of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, resolve that it is expedient to carry out the following proposed work: **Multi Role Helicopter Facilities.****

Enoggera Redevelopment Stage 1 Project, Queensland

- 8.1 The Enoggera Redevelopment Stage 1 Project, Gallipoli Barracks, Brisbane, Queensland (Enoggera redevelopment) aims to rationalise the messing arrangements in line with moves to increase overall Defence efficiencies and reduce resources allocated to support functions. Other associated projects are included in these works. The estimated cost of the project is \$80.2 million (excluding GST.)
- 8.2 The Enoggera redevelopment was referred to the Committee on 19 March 2008.

Conduct of the inquiry

- 8.3 The inquiry was advertised in the *Brisbane Courier Mail* on 12 April 2008. The Committee received four submissions to the inquiry and one confidential supplementary submission detailing the project cost estimates. A list of submissions can be found at Appendix A.
- 8.4 The Committee undertook an inspection of the proposed site, in-camera hearing and public hearing on 6 May 2008 in Brisbane. A list of witnesses can be found at Appendix B.
- 8.5 The transcript of the public hearing as well as the submission to the inquiry are on the Committee's website.¹ Plans for the proposed works are detailed in Submission 1, Department of Defence (Defence).

1 <www.aph.gov.au/pwc>

Need for works

- 8.6 The aim of these works is to rationalise the messing arrangements in line with moves to increase overall Defence efficiencies and reduce resources allocated to support functions. Other associated works include constructing office accommodation for the Headquarters of the 7th Brigade, upgrading existing electrical and waste systems, demolishing redundant buildings and constructing temporary facilities.²
- 8.7 The submission from Defence outlined the following need for each component of the proposed works:
- reduction of costs through economies of scale by combining the existing ten messes into a total of three;
 - existing Headquarters 7th Brigade facilities are in a poor state, contain asbestos and are located on the proposed site of the new Combined Mess;
 - upgrade to the electricity and waste water services; and
 - decanting of units affected by the project into refurbished and demountable facilities until their permanent buildings are completed. The units affected by the works are Headquarters 7th Brigade, Australian Defence Force Investigative Services, 8th Personnel Support Company, Deployable Force Cash Office and 139th Signals Squadron.³
- 8.8 The works are scheduled to commence in mid to late 2008 and be completed by 2011.⁴
- 8.9 The Committee believes that Defence personnel should have access to appropriate and functional facilities that comply with applicable building, safety and service regulations and recognises the need for these works to be undertaken.

Scope of works

- 8.10 The proposed scope of works are detailed in Submission 1, Department of Defence. In short, four main projects are proposed as part of these works:

2 Submission 1, Department of Defence, p 2.

3 Submission 1, Department of Defence, pp 2-4.

4 Brig W Grice, Department of Defence, Proof Transcript of Evidence, 6 May 2008, p 1.

- combined messing facility: construct a facility consisting of a central kitchen and separate wings for the Officers, Senior Non Commissioned Officers and Other Ranks with recreation, lounge and bar facilities;
- Headquarters 7th Brigade: construct a new headquarters building including office and support spaces, car parking for visitors and staff, allowing for future expansion;
- engineering services and demolition: upgrade existing infrastructure and demolish existing mess and office accommodation. Improve the condition of existing engineering services, including high voltage power, sewer, storm water and communications, to meet current demands and the requirements of this project; and
- temporary facilities and minor units: provision of temporary refurbished and demountable facilities.⁵

8.11 The Committee has assessed the scope of the proposal and considers them appropriate to rationalise the current messing arrangements, modernise accommodation and upgrade services at the Barracks.

Cost of works

- 8.12 The total out-turn cost of this work is estimated to be \$80.2 million (excluding GST) which includes construction, furniture, fittings and equipment, management and design fees, and contingency and escalation allowances.⁶
- 8.13 The Committee heard that the proposed rationalisation of messing arrangements would lead to an operating cost reduction of nearly \$300,000 per year. Furthermore, expected savings from a reduction in catering staff could be up to \$1.25 million per year.⁷
- 8.14 The Committee received detailed cost plans for the project and held an in-camera hearing with Defence on the full project costs.
- 8.15 The Committee is satisfied that the costings for the project are adequate and that suitable contingency planning is in place to ensure the overall budget is not compromised.

5 Submission 1, Department of Defence, pp 8-11.

6 Brig W Grice, Department of Defence, Proof Transcript of Evidence, 6 May 2008, p 1.

7 Brig W Grice, Department of Defence, Proof Transcript of Evidence, 6 May 2008, p 3.

Project issues

Impact on local traffic

- 8.16 In earlier chapters of this report the Committee expressed the view that Defence should be mindful of its role as a tenant of the local community. The Lord Mayor of Brisbane City Council observed that this inquiry appeared to be 'inward-focused' and that further research was needed to assess the impact of the proposal on external infrastructure including traffic networks.⁸ The Committee does not accept the assertion that its inquiries are inwards focussed and is always conscious of its responsibility to consider the concerns of the local community.
- 8.17 The Committee heard that Defence had indeed conducted an analysis of traffic flows in relation to this proposal. However, apart from the construction phase, there would be no net increase in traffic in and out of the Barracks as a result of this proposal.⁹
- 8.18 Defence assured the Committee that it consults with local councils as a matter of course and where projects propose to substantially increase base personnel, an assessment of the impact of traffic infrastructure would be undertaken.¹⁰

Other issues

- 8.19 The Committee was also interested in exploring the proposal in terms of the habitat for the local population of tusk frogs, the asbestos remediation and removal plan, and the use of solar hot water and water harvesting facilities.¹¹ The Committee commends Defence for its initiatives in these areas.¹²

Committee comment

- 8.20 Overall, the Committee is satisfied that this project has merit in terms of need, scope and cost. No submissions were received raising

8 Submission 2, Office of the Lord Mayor, Brisbane.

9 Brig W. Grice, Mr G. Hurcum, Department of Defence, Proof Transcript of Evidence, 6 May 2008, pp 5-6.

10 Brig W Grice, Department of Defence, Proof Transcript of Evidence, 6 May 2008, p 6.

11 Mr R Zentelis, Mr R Simpson, Department of Defence, Proof Transcript of Evidence, 17 April 2008, pp 3-5.

12 The Lord Mayor of Brisbane City Council also expressed support for the planned frog habitat restoration works. See Submission 2, Office of the Lord Mayor, Brisbane.

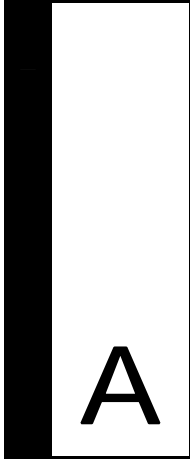
significant issues with the proposed works. The Committee is satisfied that there are no reasons to object to the work proceeding.

- 8.21 Having examined the purpose, need, use, revenue and public value of the work, the Committee considers that it is expedient that the proposed Enoggera redevelopment proceed.

Recommendation 11

- 8.22 **The Committee recommends that the House of Representatives, pursuant to Section 18 (7) of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, resolve that it is expedient to carry out the following proposed work: Enoggera Redevelopment Stage 1 Project, Gallipoli Barracks, Brisbane, Queensland.**

Mark Butler MP
Chair
19 June 2008



Appendix A – List of submissions

Hardened and Networked Army, Edinburgh Defence Precinct Facilities, South Australia

- 1 Department of Defence
 - 1.1 Department of Defence (supplementary)
 - 1.2 Confidential (supplementary)
 - 1.3 Department of Defence (supplementary)
- 2 Mr Michael Pickering

RAAF Base Darwin, Redevelopment Stage 2, Northern Territory

- 1 Department of Defence
 - 1.1 Confidential
 - 1.2 Confidential

Robertson Barracks Redevelopment, Darwin, Northern Territory

- 1 Department of Defence
 - 1.1 Confidential
 - 1.2 Confidential
- 2 Mrs Jane Palmer
- 3 Mr Trevor Davey
- 4 Mr Cam Rathie
- 5 Ms Enid Howlett
- 6 Mrs Louise Rathie
- 7 Mr Steve Banks
- 8 Mr Brett Pen-Dennis
- 9 Mr Jav Jovanovich
- 10 Mr Garry Penno
- 11 Ms Trish Gray
- 12 Mr Tim Baldwin
- 13 Mr Steve Banks

RAAF Base Tindal, Redevelopment Stage 5, Northern Territory

- 1 Department of Defence
 - 1.1 Confidential
 - 1.2 Confidential

Airborne Early Warning and Control Facilities, RAAF Base Tindal, Northern Territory

- 1 Department of Defence

1.1 Confidential

1.2 Confidential

Multi role Helicopter Facilities

1 Department of Defence

1.1 Confidential

2 Mr Ray Cox

3 Shoalhaven City Council

4 Toowoomba Regional Council

5 Brisbane City Council

6 Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

Enoggera redevelopment Stage 1 Project, Gallipoli Barracks, Brisbane, Queensland

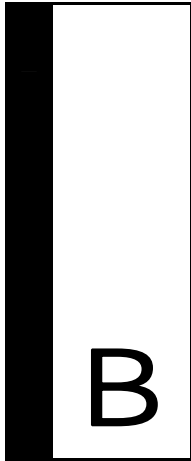
1 Department of Defence

1.1 Confidential

2 Brisbane City Council

3 Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

4 Energex



Appendix B – List of hearings, witnesses and inspections

Hardened and Networked Army, Edinburgh Defence Precinct Facilities, South Australia

Tuesday 1 April 2008 – Adelaide

Site inspection

RAAF Base Edinburgh

In-camera hearing

Eight witnesses

Public hearing

Department of Defence

Brigadier William Grice, Director General, Infrastructure Asset Development

Lieutenant Colonel Rupert Hoskin, Director, Hardened and Networked Army Facilities Project, IAD Branch

Brigadier Michael Krause, Commander 1st Brigade

Wing Commander Rodney Smallwood, Base Commander RAAF Edinburgh

Mr Jim Smith, Manager Technical Services, Defence Support, South Australia

Mr Rick Zentelis, Director, Heritage and Biodiversity Conservation

GHD

Mr David Pinnock, Design Manager

Sinclair Knight Merz

Mr Dechlan Ellis, Project Manager/Contract Administrator

RAAF Base Darwin, Redevelopment Stage 2, Northern Territory

Wednesday, 16 April 2008 - Darwin

Site Inspection

RAAF Base Darwin

In-camera hearing

Eight witnesses

Public hearing

Department of Defence

Lt Col Stephen Evans, Commanding Officer

Mr Greg Flanagan, Project Officer

Brig William Grice, Director General, Infrastructure Asset Development

Wg Cdr Noel Hinschen, Commanding Officer 321 Expeditionary Combat Support Squadron

Mr Rick Zentelis, Director, Heritage and Biodiversity Conservation

HASSELL

Mr Ian Calley, Principal, Architecture

Thinc Projects

Mr Ben Mackey, General Manager/Project Manager

Robertson Barracks Redevelopment, Darwin, Northern Territory

Wednesday, 16 April 2008 – Darwin

Site Inspection

Robertson Barracks

In-camera hearing

Five witnesses

Public hearing

Department of Defence

Brig William Grice, Director General, Infrastructure Asset Development

Brig Michael Krause, Commander 1st Brigade

Capt Ian Maas, Project Officer, IAD Branch

Mr Rick Zentelis, Director, Heritage and Biodiversity Conservation

Woods Bagot

Mr Gary Faehse, Senior Associate

Individual

Mr Gerry Wood MLA

RAAF Base Tindal, Redevelopment Stage 5, Northern Territory

Thursday, 17 April 2008 - Katherine

Site Inspection

RAAF Base Tindal (Redevelopment Stage 5)

In-camera hearing

Six witnesses

Public hearing

Connell Wagner

Mr Mike Palmer, Northern Territory Manager

Department of Defence

Wg Cdr Rohan Gaskill, CO No 322 Expeditionary Combat Support Squadron RAAF, Base Commander RAAF Base Tindal

Brig William Grice, Director General, Infrastructure Asset Development

Mr Chris Harper, Project Director NT 2, Project Development and Delivery (North West)

Mr Rick Zentelis, Director, Heritage and Biodiversity Conservation

Thinc Projects

Mr Ben Mackey, General Manager/Project Manager

Airborne Early Warning and Control Facilities, RAAF Base Tindal, Northern Territory

Thursday, 17 April 2008 – Katherine

Site Inspection

RAAF Base Tindal (Airborne Early Warning and Control Facilities)

In-camera hearing

Seven witnesses

Public hearing

Department of Defence

Wg Cdr Rohan Gaskill, CO No 322 Expeditionary Combat Support Squadron RAAF, Base Commander RAAF Base Tindal

Brig William Grice, Director General, Infrastructure Asset Development

Mr Chris Harper, Project Director NT 2, Project Development and Delivery (North West)

Mr Bill Spencer, Deputy Program Manager, Airborne Early Warning and Control

Wg Cdr Luke Stoodley, Commanding Officer Number 2 Squadron RAAF

Mr Rick Zentelis, Director, Heritage and Biodiversity Conservation

Thinc Projects

Mr Ben Mackey, General Manager/Project Manager

Multi Role Helicopter Facilities

Tuesday, 6 May 2008 - Brisbane

Site Inspection

Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera (Air 9000 Multi Role Helicopter Facilities)

In-camera hearing

Six witnesses

Public hearing

Department of Defence

Cdre Timothy Barrett, Commander Australian Navy Aviation Group

Brig Andrew Dudgeon, Director General Army Aviation Systems

Mr Martin Greenaway, Project Officer

Brig William Grice, Director General, Infrastructure Asset Development

Mr Rick Zentelis, Director, Heritage and Biodiversity Conservation

Sinclair Knight Merz

Mr Ken Moschner, Project Manager

Toowoomba Regional Council

Mr Noel Strohfled, Councillor and Strategic Services Spokesperson

Enoggera Redevelopment Stage 1 Project, Gallipoli Barracks, Brisbane, Queensland

Tuesday, 6 May 2008 - Brisbane

Site Inspection

Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera (Redevelopment Stage 1 Project)

In-camera hearing

Six witnesses

Public hearing

Department of Defence

Mr Alan Adams, Project Officer

Brig Stephen Day, Commander 7th Brigade

Brig William Grice, Director General, Infrastructure Asset Development

Mr Gregory Hurcum, Manager Base Services

Mr Rick Zentelis, Director, Heritage and Biodiversity Conservation

John Holland Group

Mr Craig Simpson, Project Manager