

General comments

- 3.1 As with the Committee's Inquiry into the proposed development of apartments in Carey Street, the consideration of responses prepared by the Defence Housing Authority (DHA) has presented certain challenges.
- 3.2 The Committee has found DHA willing to comply with all of its recommendations and recognises the efforts of the current Managing Director in seeking to improve the organisation.
- 3.3 DHA's willingness to comply with the Committee's recommendations has been evident in the provision of its detailed response, including the AC Nielson survey and the URS environmental report. This willingness was also evident from the 7 February 2001 meeting with all members of the DHA Board of Directors, led by the Chairman of the Board.
- 3.4 The Committee recognises that there are challenges for a Commonwealth agency, such as DHA, which is charged with operating in a commercial environment while remaining accountable to the Parliament. The Committee is firmly of the view that, while at times it may be difficult to achieve an appropriate balance, it is not impossible to do so.
- 3.5 Since tabling its Tenth Report of 2000, the Committee has expended significant effort in further examination of the proposed apartment towers at the Carey Street site. At this time the Committee has some reluctance in approving the proposed work, which primarily is linked to:
 - the need for the work; and
 - the operation of the rental assistance program.
- 3.6 These issues leave unresolved the matter of the value for money of the work from the taxpayers' point of view.

- 3.7 Following approval by the Committee the DHA Board of Directors will proceed to consider whether the work proceeds. The Board of Directors will accept responsibility for the success or otherwise of the work. The Committee concludes that the Parliament should not delay the Board from its final consideration of the proposal.

Hon Judi Moylan MP
Chair

1 March 2001