



Australian Government

Department of Defence

Defence Support Group

**Director General Infrastructure Asset
Development**

Department of Defence
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Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

ENHANCED LAND FORCE STAGE TWO

The Enhance Land Force Stage Two Project (the "Project") was presented to the Public Works Committee on 4 November 2009. At the public hearing a submission from the Brisbane Region Environment Council (BREC) was tabled raising environmental concerns associated with elements of the project located at the Greenbank Military Training Area (GMTA), Brisbane, Queensland. Similar concerns were also raised by Mr Fensom at the hearing.

The issues raised by BREC and Mr Fensom relate to potential impacts on the flora and fauna of the GMTA associated with both the construction and operation of the facility. Concerns include impacts associated with land clearing and habitat fragmentation; risks associated with increased erosion, fire, and weed introduction; and concerns relating to off site impacts such as traffic and lighting.

In relation to potential environmental impacts associated with the project Defence complies with the provisions of the Commonwealth's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act). Compliance with the EPBC Act is achieved through the Defence Environment Management System (EMS) that manages environmental values found across the Defence Estate. The EMS addresses issues such as fire management and weed control as part of routine land management activities that occur for the all Defence sites including GMTA.

In relation to the GMTA project elements these will be designed to ensure that a significant impact to the environment values of GMTA will not occur during both their construction and operation. Environmental studies are currently underway that will ensure compliance with the EPBC Act. These studies will inform the final design and siting of these project elements. It is a standard Defence requirement that Construction and Environment Management Plans (CEMPs) will need to be developed and approved by the Project Director prior to construction commencing. The CEMPs will detail the environmental controls to be put in place during construction of the project elements. The CEMPs will also address off-site impacts such as construction vehicle traffic and lighting.

Yours sincerely

William Grice
Brigadier

Director General Infrastructure Asset Development

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