

# *Moverly Precinct Committee*

PO Box 31, Maroubra NSW 2035

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Ref: 04/018  
1 March 2004

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

## **SUBMISSION RE: SITE REMEDIATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE DEFENCE SITE AT RANDWICK BARRACKS, SYDNEY NSW**

Dear Ms Courto

I refer to the Department of Defence's (DOD) Statement of Evidence and Supporting Plans for Presentation to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for the abovementioned proposal. The executive of the Moverly Precinct Committee has read the documentation supplied by Defence in February 2004 and wishes to make the following general comments.

1. Although the request for approval of funds to the PWC was withdrawn prior to approval in March 2003, we note that work has continued unabated on the site. The Committee calls upon the PWC to cause an investigation to be made as to where the funds have been coming and whether they have been obtained and expended in accordance with the PWC guidelines and Department of Finance guidelines.
2. The Committee is unable to ascertain the ambit of the proposals. It is unclear to us what work is being proposed and what sum of money is being requested and how much of the proposal has already been approved.
3. The quality of the documentation is poorly defined and the attachments do not support the points raised in the text.
4. The proposals continue to ignore the findings of the Land and Environment Court judgement (Commonwealth of Australia V Randwick City Council [2001] NSW LEC 79 (27 April 2001)) and the findings of the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee (Inquiry into the Disposal of Defence properties 2001).
5. The DOD has ignored community concerns expressed over an eight year period. It began with a model that was unacceptable to the community and has persisted with it.
6. The community is under the impression that the DOD has committed to paying for and conducting works for the Randwick Environment Park. In fact, some of the works were supposed to have been completed by

November 2003. These works have not been conducted and yet other works are proceeding on the site. This latest Statement of Evidence gives the impression that the DOD are reneging on their commitment to the works on the Park. If this is the case, how can they be trusted to expend the funds requested in accordance with the approval?

7. There is a complete absence of specific commitments as to expenditure, deadlines and descriptions of tasks to be performed.
8. The Committee is totally opposed to the relocation and rearrangement of the army base at a cost of the funds promised for the Randwick Environment Park. None of the justifications for the relocation of the 9<sup>th</sup> Force Support Battalion are plausible.
9. The Committee repeats its concerns about the contamination on the site both in the soil and in the groundwater.
10. For the past five years residents have been subjected to dust being generated on the site by the works being conducted by the DOD. This is a high wind area and the continued threat to the health of residents is unacceptable.
11. For the past five years the DOD has been wantonly stripping the site of natural vegetation and fauna. This proposal states that DOD intends to continue this practice.

Yours sincerely

Felicia Harris  
Secretary, Moverly Precinct

