

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS  
CONTAINED IN REPORT 29: *SINGAPORE'S USE OF SHOALWATER  
BAY, DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION WITH PNG AND PROTECTION  
OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS - JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON TREATIES:***

**Recommendation 1:** The Department of Defence consult with the local business community during the preparation of future agreements with the Republic of Singapore and other countries on the use of Shoalwater Bay Training Area to ensure that its interests are incorporated to the maximum extent practicable (paragraph 2.148).

Defence Corporate Support staff at Rockhampton and Enoggera will continue to develop appropriate links with the local business community to ensure its interests are incorporated to the maximum extent practicable.

**Recommendation 2:** The Environment Advisory Committee hold extra-ordinary meetings prior to each major exercise to discuss potential issues if an exercise is proposed prior to the next proposed meeting (paragraph 2.166).

The Environment Advisory Committee will hold such meetings, and will continue to visit areas involved in training before and after exercises are held. Defence Corporate Support will continue to support and assist this process.

**Recommendation 3:** The Department of Defence circulate copies of all public documents concerning the environmental management of the training area to each member of the Environment Advisory Committee as soon as practicable after publication (paragraph 2.168).

- a. The Environment Advisory Committee will continue to circulate copies concerned with the environmental management of the training area to each member, supported and assisted by Defence Corporate Support;
- b. The process of circulation of relevant reports and other documentation pertaining to the environmental management of the training area will be reviewed.

**Recommendation 4:** Binding treaty action be taken on the *Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of Singapore concerning the Use of the Shoalwater Bay Training Area and the Associated Use of Storage Facilities in Australia* (paragraph 2.173).

- a. All necessary legal and constitutional processes necessary for Australia to give effect to the Agreement have been completed;
- b. A Third Party Note in these terms was forwarded to Singapore on 17 January 2000;
- c. Singapore acknowledged the Australian Note on 17 January 2000 and advised that Singapore has completed all domestic requirements for entry into force of the Agreement;
- d. Consequently the Agreement entered into force on that date.