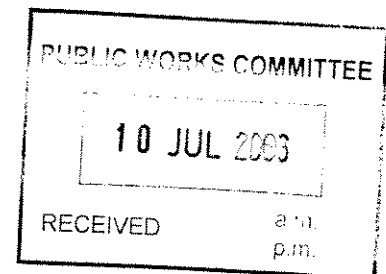


**Sent:** Monday, 10 July 2006 8:55 AM  
**To:** Committee, Public Works (REPS)  
**Subject:** FW: Submission: upgrade to the Shoalwater Bay Train Area

SUBMISSION .....5.....

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Emma Brindal  
**Sent:** Friday, 7 July 2006 8:20 PM  
**To:** Committee (REPS)  
**Subject:** Submission: upgrade to the Shoalwater Bay Train Area



7<sup>TH</sup> July, 2006

**The Brisbane Peace Convergence Advisory Board**  
**Board member: Adele Margaret Goldie**  
**Brisbane Peace Convergence**  
**48 Henry Street,**  
**Greenslopes, Qld, 4021**

**Goldieadele@hotmail.com**

**Mr R Knight**  
**Inquiry Secretary**  
**Joint Standing Committee on**  
**Public Works**  
**Parliament House**  
**CANBERRA ACT 2600**

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Brisbane Peace Convergence community group, I would like to state The Brisbane Peace Convergence's opposition to the facilities upgrade of the Shoalwater Bay Training Area.

**1. A facility upgrade to the Shoalwater Bay training area will be used for joint bilateral training operations. This seems to be the main objective of the ADF for the proposed facilities upgrade.**

In the objectives submitted by the ADF

"The Joint Combined training Centre project proposes to link live and simulated training to improve the effectiveness of bilateral training." "The facility enhancements proposed in the Shoalwater Bay Training Area are a key part of the Joint Combined training Centre project and will involve the construction of an Exercise Control Building and an Urban Operations training Facility." "These facilities will be constructed to support Exercise Talisman Sabre 2007 and will serve as the 'proof of concept' for the Joint Combined training centre."

10/07/2006

The ADF also comments in the Statement of Evidence to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, that the Shoalwater Bay Training area is commonly used for joint training exercises. "The Shoalwater Bay Training Area is commonly a focal point for the culmination of major national and multi-lateral combined arms exercises, such as Talisman Sabre and Wallaby series."

Joint exercises such as 'Talisman Sabre 07' are designed to practise aggression and offensive military strategies. An upgrade to the Shoalwater Bay training area would further encourage the United States Military to use Shoalwater Bay as a lilly pad for a continuation of its 'war on Terror'.

Joint training exercises like 'Talisman Sabre 07', are used to train United States and Australian troops in aggressive and offensive military attics. Joint training skills will be used in joint combat situations. A good example of this is the 2003 invasion and continuing occupation of Iraq. The invasion and occupation of Iraq, has been deemed illegal by the United Nations and under international law by law societies worldwide. The Australian Defence Force should be distancing itself from joint US operations considering the legal implications of being involved in an illegal war.

**2. The United States has a 'NCND' policy regarding nuclear weapons - that is to 'Neither Confirm Nor Deny'. The joint training facility will function as a training ground for the United States.** In Countries that have hosted the US military, there has been devastating effects on local communities involving nuclear materials. The US has used uranium coated weapons extensively in areas of both conflict and 'practice' bombing ranges. With a half-life of 4.5 billion years, uranium emitted from the explosion of these weapons has shown to cause serious health effects such as cancers and birth defects.

The US dropped napalm and depleted uranium on the island of Vieques for 20 years. In 2004 a strong community campaign forced them to leave. The cancer rate for children 11-19 years old on Vieques is 245% higher than the rest of Puerto Rico.

**3. The Shoalwater Bay Area is Traditional aboriginal land;** the caretakers are the Durumbal people. Have they been consulted? They are not listed as having been consulted.

**4. Environmental impact.** The Shoalwater Bay Training area is an area of approximately 454,500 ha, it represents the largest wilderness area on the central Queensland coast. Other areas of environmental significance in the region are national heritage listed sites including both indigenous and colonial heritage, wetlands of international importance and habitat for endangered and threatened species (land and water). This area should be preserved for future generations. The expansion of the joint facility furthers the negative impact on a fragile environment.

The Brisbane Peace Convergence would like to state its opposition to upgrading facilities in Shoalwater Bay.

Kind Regards  
Adele Margaret Goldie  
Brisbane Peace Convergence