

Submission No. 1.3

(Warehousing Facilities at Wadsworth Barracks)

01/08/08 *M.R.*



Australian Government
Department of Defence
Defence Support Group

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

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LETTER

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Mr Mark Butler MP
Chair

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Butler,

JOINT LOGISTICS UNIT (VICTORIA) WAREHOUSING FACILITIES, BANDIANA

I would like to provide an update on community information sessions which Defence has held for the above project.

Community information sessions chaired by Mr Brian Wicks, the Deputy Mayor of the City of Wodonga, were held at Wadsworth Barracks and Council Chambers on 8 May and 29 July 2008 respectively. The information sessions were advertised in local newspapers and were preceded by letter drops and door knocks of residents of the Killara community on Military Street and the Murray Valley highway. Approximately 30 personnel attended the 8 May 2008 information session while four personnel attended the session conducted on 29 July 2008.

Three key concerns were raised by residents of the Killara community, these were that:

- a. The proposed warehouse may overshadow their houses, leading to increased heating costs.
- b. Television and mobile phone reception may deteriorate further due to coverage interference caused by the size and position of the proposed warehouse.
- c. Water runoffs from the Northern end of the East Bandiana base into the Killara billabong may be contaminated.

At the information session on 29 July 2008 Defence advised residents that:

- a. A separate water management project to resolve existing drainage issues at the North end of the East Bandiana base was currently being tendered and was due for completion by late 2008. The scope of this project would include the construction of a stormwater retention basin and the installation of a stormwater filtration system to remove pollutants and hydrocarbons from stormwater runoff from the East Bandiana base. Defence confirmed that following completion of this project only clean roof runoff water would run directly into the Killara billabong. All other stormwater runoff would pass through a filtration system, which would remove litter, large suspended particles and hydrocarbons prior to discharging into a basin on the base to allow suspended material to settle. Clean overflow from the detention basin would be pumped to the Killara floodplains.

- b. Computerised shadow modelling studies undertaken by Defence indicated that the proposed warehouse would not cast shadows directly over Military Street houses, noting that these houses face south and are already receiving limited light in their front rooms. The proposed warehouse is positioned to the south west of the Killara community and the shadowing study demonstrated conformance to RESCODE (the State and Council local planning policy framework) for overshadowing.
- c. An assessment of mobile phone coverage from each of the local network operators (Telstra, Vodafone, Optus and 3) concluded that services from current sites are not from the south western direction of the Killara community and therefore should not be impacted by the new building.
- d. Local television stations are transmitting from sites in Yackandandah (20km SSW of Killara) and Kiewa (10km SE of Killara), servicing the entire Albury/Wodonga region, including Killara. Television reception within Killara should not be affected by the new warehouse.

Defence acknowledges that some residents may have ongoing concerns regarding mobile phone and television reception and in recognition of these concerns Defence intends to undertake studies to measure reception levels (signal strengths) for television and mobile phones at the Killara community before and after construction of the proposed warehouse at East Bandiana.

Yours sincerely



William Grice
Brigadier
Director General
Infrastructure Asset Development

31 July 2008