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HQJOC Project 109/2004

Ms Vivienne Courto

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

Dear Ms Courto

**HEADQUARTERS JOINT OPERATIONS COMMAND PROJECT
RESPONSE TO PWC SUBMISSION FROM NSW ROADS AND TRAFFIC
AUTHORITY**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the submission dated 21 May 2004 from the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority.

As part of the development of the Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement, preliminary traffic studies were undertaken by a consultant engaged by Defence. Key locations along the Kings Highway were identified and assessed for impacts, both with and without the proposed Headquarters traffic.

The impact of the Headquarters on traffic management and road capacity on the Kings Highway and Queanbeyan was also discussed with applicable NSW statutory authorities at a Planning Focus Meeting held at the Yarrowlumla Shire Council offices on 28 April 2003. A NSW Roads and Traffic Authority representative attended the meeting.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement was placed on exhibition for public review in accordance with the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* 1999 for a period of 35 days from 17 October 2003 to 20 November 2003. The exhibition was preceded by a media release by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence on 10 October 2003. Following the receipt of public submissions on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, further investigations were conducted to analyse the likely impacts of Headquarters traffic, together with mitigation measures, including future predictions during the construction, and post construction period between 2007 and 2017.

Any road capacity improvements that may be required would be undertaken by Roads ACT or NSW Roads and Traffic Authority as appropriate, with the exception of the Headquarters primary access road intersection onto the Kings Highway. That intersection will be constructed as part of the Project, and built to Roads ACT engineering standards. While the processes used by Roads ACT or NSW Roads and Traffic Authority in delivering any road improvement works are separate from this project approval process, it is anticipated that these works would be subject to further detailed engineering examination, detailed road safety audits, public consultation and environmental impact assessments.

Defence is committed to ensuring that the appropriate road planning authorities are provided with the necessary information on the likely and projected impacts of the Headquarters on traffic management and road capacity in a timely manner to enable their planning to proceed. This will help to ensure that any potential capacity constraints resulting from the Headquarters are identified and addressed to maintain appropriate safety and amenity levels on the affected road network.

Yours sincerely

Original signed on 30 May 2004

B.E. PLENTY

Air Commodore

Director General Headquarters Joint Operations Command Project

May 2004