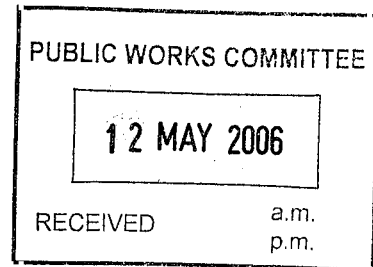


2/8 Addison Road
Manly
NSW 2095

12 May 2006

The Joint Standing Committee on Public Works
Parliament House
Canberra
ACT 2600



Submission on the Australian Institute of Police Management Redevelopment Proposal, North Head, Manly NSW

I am well aware of the very important functions carried out by the Australian Institute of Police Management and I do support the need for our Federal Police to have a modern facility for police management training. However, I do not support the proposed overdevelopment of the present North Head site or development that ignores the inevitable ongoing ecological impacts in this very sensitive area. This proposal fails on both of those criteria.

The proposed redevelopment far exceeds the existing developed footprint and will result in additional pressure on at least three endangered fauna species, the Little Penguin, the Long Nosed Bandicoot and Red Crown Toadlet, all with habitat in this immediate area. In fact one of the proposed buildings closest to the foreshore overlooks one of the main nesting habitats of the endangered Little Penguin colony and is likely to disturb the nesting and breeding habits of the colony in that location. This is the only remaining penguin colony on the mainland of NSW and the proposed development is likely to impact on the small numbers of penguins that remain.

The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust with Federal Government and State Government support has recently published its plans to create an ecological sanctuary covering the whole of North Head, in order to protect the unique indigenous flora and fauna that remains largely intact as it was before European settlement of Sydney. The redevelopment of the AIPM site is not consistent with plans to create a sanctuary at North Head and will always be at odds with the management restrictions necessary to operate the sanctuary successfully. Such considerations as increased traffic flow, noise levels and habitat disturbance will work against the success of the sanctuary.

The argument in the proposal against relocation of the facility to a less sensitive area is fatuous. The fact that "senior police in the jurisdiction regard the site highly and enjoy ownership" cannot be regarded as any basis for proper analysis of the various options. Being a prime Sydney Harbour foreshore site, it would be "regarded highly" by anyone. There is a need for a proper independent analysis of the proposed redevelopment option as against the relocation option including a cost analysis that includes the ongoing cost of operating the facility at this or some other site.

My recommendation to the Joint Standing Committee is that it reject the proposed redevelopment of the AIPM on this sensitive site and consider relocation of the Federal Police management training function to a less sensitive site in Canberra or elsewhere.

Yours sincerely

Garry Stewart