



Ref:

The Secretary  
Public Works Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: Provision for collocation and re-equipping of the 1st Aviation Regiment, Darwin.**

The Northern Territory Government supports the proposal for collocation and re-equipping of the 1st Aviation Regiment, Darwin. The proposed development at Robertson Barracks will have benefits for the Northern Territory economy and the security of the nation.

The construction phase of the planned development at Robertson Barracks will provide a substantial financial injection to the Northern Territory economy, creating employment in a range of industries, primarily construction. Projects of this size also bring with them opportunities for enhancing the capabilities of local industry. The use of local businesses in the supply of materials and labour is encouraged and considerably multiplies the benefit of such projects to an economy the size of the Northern Territory.

Defence personnel and their families are an integral part of the Darwin community and contribute to the local society in many ways such as participation in sporting groups. The additional Defence personnel will bring benefits to the retail industry, and the additional housing requirements for these personnel will provide a stimulus to the local housing industry.

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The decision to base 17 Tiger Armed Reconnaissance Helicopters at Robertson Barracks will provide opportunities for development of the Aerospace support industry in the Northern Territory. The through life support needs and a variety of training requirements will support local efforts to build capability and capacity.

In considering the proposal we note that a range of infrastructure, planning and environment issues have been discussed in relation to the siting of the facility at Robertson Barracks. The Government is aware of air safety issues raised and understands that Defence is addressing these.

At a meeting held 6 November 2002, representatives of Army Aviation Capability Development Group, NT Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development, NT Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment and NT Department of Community Development, Sport and Cultural Affairs discussed the proposal and resolved any concerns outstanding at that time.

The Northern Territory Government is confident that any issues relating to the proposed development that may arise in the future, can be resolved. Should the Public Works Committee consider it necessary, the Government can have representatives attend the hearing to provide further information.

Yours sincerely

JOHN CARROLL  
A/Chief Executive Officer  
Department of Business, Industry  
and Resource Development

June 2003

BARRY CHAMBERS  
Chief Executive  
Department of  
Infrastructure, Planning  
and Environment.

June 2003