

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

**SUBMISSION RE: SITE REMEDIATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF
INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE DEFENCE SITE AT RANDWICK
BARRACKS, SYDNEY NSW**

Dear Ms Courto

I refer to the Department of Defence's (DOD) Statement of Evidence and Supporting Plans for Presentation to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for the abovementioned proposal. The Randwick Defence Protection Group wishes to make the following general comments.

1. Although the request for approval of funds to the PWC was withdrawn prior to approval in March 2003, we note that work has continued unabated on the site. The Group calls upon the PWC to cause an investigation to be made as to where the funds have been coming and whether they have been obtained and expended in accordance with the PWC guidelines and Department of Finance guidelines.
2. The proposals continue to ignore the findings of the Land and Environment Court judgement (Commonwealth of Australia V Randwick City Council [2001] NSW LEC 79 (27 April 2001)) and the findings of the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee (Inquiry into the Disposal of Defence properties 2001).
3. The DOD has ignored community concerns expressed over an eight year period. It began with a model that was unacceptable to the community and has persisted with it.
4. The bone that was tossed to the community as compensation for the planning disaster was the Randwick Environment Park. Now it appears that DOD are renegeing on this offer. As usual this is being done by a series of misleading and delightfully vague evasions.
5. There is a complete absence of specific commitments as to expenditure, deadlines and descriptions of tasks to be performed.
6. The Group is totally opposed to the relocation and rearrangement of the army base at a cost of the funds promised for the Randwick Environment Park. None of the justifications for the relocation of the 9th Force Support Battalion are plausible.

7. The Group repeats its concerns about the contamination on the site both in the soil and in the groundwater.
8. For the past five years residents have been subjected to dust being generated on the site by the works being conducted by the DOD. This is a high wind area and the continued threat to the health of residents is unacceptable.
9. For the past five years the DOD has been wantonly stripping the site of natural vegetation and fauna. This proposal states that DOD intends to continue this practice.

Yours sincerely

Jocelyn McGirr
Chairperson
1 March 2004

Randwick Defence Site Protection Group

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