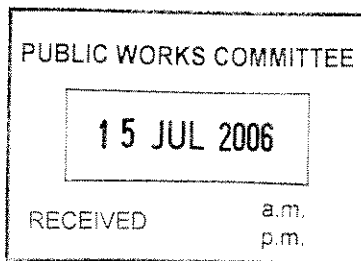




**Australian Government**  
Department of Defence  
Defence Support Group



**LETTER**

Acting Director General  
Infrastructure Asset Development  
BP-1-B001  
Department of Defence  
**CANBERRA ACT 2600**  
William.grice@defence.gov.au  
Tel: 02 6266 8101  
Fax: 02 6266 8103

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SUBMISSION .....10.....

Mr R Knight  
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir

**FACILITIES UPGRADE TO SHOALWATER BAY TRAINING AREA,  
ROCKHAMPTON (SWBTA), QLD**

Reference A PHF:MT 60/028/00206/017409 dated Jun 06 (Submission 2)

In his submission to the Public Works Committee on the matter of the Joint Combined Training Centre facilities proposed for Shoalwater Bay Training Area, the Mayor of Livingstone Shire asks for further contributions to complete the sealing of Stanage Bay Road. It is Commonwealth policy for financial assistance to be provided to State and local authorities to maintain access roads to Commonwealth establishments.

Normally, this assistance only applies to maintenance, as Defence does not normally fund capital works, which properly fall within the responsibilities of State and local authorities.

There are four access routes to Shoalwater Bay Training Area (SWBTA), namely:

- Raspberry Creek Road ('Green Route')
- Rossmoya Road ('Brown Route')
- Stanage Bay Road ('Grey Route')
- Byfield/Yeppoon Road ('Blue Route')

Defence primarily uses two of these roads - Raspberry Creek Road and Rossmoya Road.

A third route - Stanage Bay Road (Grey Route) - has been closed to military traffic since 1999, with the exception of agreed use during major exercises during which maintenance arrangements are agreed with local authorities. The road is the western boundary of the Training Area, and has value for Defence in special circumstances, like major Exercises.

In May 2005, the then Minister for Defence – Senator Robert Hill - approved a \$7.4M Commonwealth grant of capital funds over two years for the upgrade and selective sealing of the access roads to SWBTA as Defence's specific contribution to Livingstone Shire's roads of access upgrade programme. In so doing, the Minister agreed to fund the total cost of capital upgrades to the two main access roads, and made a contribution to capital works on Stanage Bay Road.

This grant will enable the Livingstone Shire Council to focus its own resources on meeting the needs of its ratepayers and enable Defence to continue to safely access SWBTA for training purposes.

The grant will produce a total upgrade of the gravel sections of Raspberry Creek Road and Rossmoya Road, and complete the selective sealing of agreed areas along parts of both roads. It also provides an allocation of \$2M for the selective sealing (10 kilometers) of parts of the road to improve amenity in front of homes along Stanage Bay Road.

As a condition of the grant, the Council will undertake, at its cost, a program of works on culverts, floodways and bridges on the Green, Brown and Grey Routes before 30 June 2007.

The matter of upgrading and sealing the Stanage Bay road is, and remains, the responsibility of the Livingstone Shire Council.

I trust that this additional information satisfies the Committee.

Yours sincerely



**William Grice**

Colonel

Acting Director General Infrastructure Asset Development

13 July 2006