

Submission to
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

Site Remediation and Construction of Infrastructure for the
Defence Site at Randwick Barracks, Sydney NSW

1. I am pleased to accept the invitation to comment on the Statement of Evidence (the Statement), and compliment the Federal Government on its on-going policy of community consultation at all stages of this major development within the City of Randwick.
2. This Submission will address various sections of the Statement as follows:

Paragraph 3. Objectives

3. I concur with this statement. Your value-added process to obtain funds from the higher sale revenue returns rather than selling it at its unimproved state is commendable because this will not use the money from the Defence budget.

Paragraph 14. Historical Background

4. The agreement between Randwick City Council and Defence:
 - b) The transfer of the Community Centre to the Randwick City Council at no cost to Council will ultimately be beneficial to all concerned.
 - d) The budgeting for the Environmental Park and the implementation and management plan will ensure that the natural flora and fauna will be protected.

Paragraph 17. The Need

5. The decontamination and remediation of the site to meet the commitments of Randwick City Council and at the same time optimize returns from the sale of the land plus the construction of trunk infrastructure to permit the land to be sold as “super lots” is to be commended.

Paragraph 20. Options Considered

6. This option is by far the best of the three proposals for the disposal of the site.

SCOPE OF WORK

Paragraph 35. Earthworks, Re-Contouring of the Site and Landscaping

7. b) Localized filling and re-contouring to achieve near original grades and landform is very desirable.

c) The landscaping of the areas affected by the earthworks will prevent soil erosion and degradation.

Paragraph 37. Construction of a Sporting Oval, Stormwater Detention and Alteration to Facilities

8. It is great to know that the specialised detention basin will double as a sporting oval. Its excavation and re-use of the soil on site is environmentally sound and financially prudent.

Paragraph 39. Randwick Environmental Park

9. a) The establishment of the Randwick Environmental Park is a rare opportunity for conservation of the environment in a suburban setting.

c) The construction of pedestrian pathways/cycleways through the Park will give the community easy access to the site.

- d) The installation of furniture, fencing and interpretative signage will enable the citizens of the community to obtain maximum benefit from the preservation of the natural environment.
- e) The protection of the endangered Eastern Suburbs Banksia scrub by protective fencing is paramount.
- g) The timber walkways and viewing platforms will also aid in the protection of the flora and fauna yet providing easy access to view the unique features of the area.

Paragraph 41. Construction of a New Community Facility

10. It is pleasing to know that the former Naval Administration buildings which currently house the Community Centre will be demolished in favour of a modern purpose built facility; with most of the existing tenants taking up residence in the new Centre. I have been involved with the existing Community Centre as a voluntary trustee for more than 25 years.

11. The flexible grassed open space area has potential to be utilized by the community.

Paragraph 42. Construction of a New Community Facility

12. The provision of the Community facility and park will be of considerable benefit to all future residential development in the Randwick City Council area.

Paragraph 81. Heritage Considerations

13. The representative element (façade of a shed) being incorporated into the Community Centre site will be a permanent reminder of the previous site vista for the past 60 years.

CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL AUTHORITIES

Paragraph 84.

14. a) to m)

The intensive consultation process with the community, Randwick City Council and other stake holders in the planning process and in the preparation of the master plan has forged strong ties with the community.

15. As a resident in the area for approximately the same amount of time as the Naval Stores I am confident that the new era for the site will be an asset to the community. If the development had been commenced approximately 30 years ago it would have been overdeveloped; have no community facilities nor environmental park; and the contamination issues would not have been addressed.

16. The motion that was passed in the Public Meeting at the Randwick Town Hall over thirty years ago required “some active and passive recreation areas together with community facilities as well as low density housing” has now almost come to fruition.

17. I commend the Department of Defence for their approach to the redevelopment of the site which is sure to be a lasting legacy and an outstanding example of a development of a site.

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