

**Public Works Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600**

ROBERTSON BARRACKS REDEVELOPMENT, Darwin NT

1. As residents of Knuckey Lagoon, we wish to raise, with the committee, the issues of traffic congestion and road safety in regards to defence's proposal for the Redevelopment of Robertson Barracks.
2. When Robertson Barracks was first mooted the impression given to the public was that the vast majority of personnel accommodated off-base would live in Palmerston and that they would commute via Thorngate Rd.
3. The reality is that base personnel are accommodated over the entire Darwin area. Many personnel live in the Northern Suburbs of Darwin both in defence supplied housing and privately rented accommodation.
4. The most convenient road access to the base from the Northern Suburbs is via McMillans Rd and thru the residential suburb of Knuckey Lagoon onto Campbell Rd. The intention of NT Government traffic planners was for base traffic to transit Knuckey Lagoon via Steven's Rd. However the vast majority of traffic uses the slightly shorter route of Farrar & Brandt Rd's. This has lead to a large volume of road traffic on these once quiet residential streets.
5. Para 92 of defence's submission infers that additional traffic generated by the redevelopment will only access the base via the Stuart Hwy and Thorngate Road. This is plainly wrong.
6. Residents have been raising the issues of increasing traffic congestion and traffic accidents with Defence and Government for a number of years. For this to be glossed over in Defence's submission shows, in our opinion, either contempt by Defence for local residents and road users or a poorly considered proposal, or both.

7. We have no objection to the base itself and as ex defence members we recognise it's valuable contribution to the defence of Australia. However defence also needs to recognise that it has moral responsibilities as good corporate citizens to consider and where possible minimise the impact of it's facilities on the neighbouring public. Defence also has a duty of care to ensure their personnel can access facilities in as safe a manner as possible

8. The NT Government has tried for a number of years to discourage thru traffic from using Farrar & Brandt Roads but to no effect. The existing intersection of Brandt & Campbell Rd's is poorly designed, unlit and unsafe for the volume of traffic that uses it. This intersection has been the scene of numerous serious traffic accidents. We ourselves have attended 3 separate motor vehicle accidents on this corner in the last 12 months. All have involved defence personnel, alcohol & speed.

9. The most recent proposal has been for the realignment of the intersection of Brandt and Campbell Road's to make access of Campbell Rd via Brandt Rd less convenient. Prior to the last Federal election there was broad agreement between the federal government, NT government and the Litchfield Shire council for this proposal to go ahead but no word from defence. We acknowledge that the then ALP candidate Mr Damien Hale is now the local member and a member of this committee.

10. We do not expect that the current proposed redevelopment of Robertson Barracks will be the last one and that the base will continue to grow and along with it the twin issues of traffic congestion and road safety. It is high time that defence addresses these issues.

11. It is our intention to be present at the public hearing of this committee and will seek permission to address the committee personally and present the committee with a petition signed by local residents.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve', with a stylized flourish at the end that forms a triangle.A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shirley Banks', written in a cursive style.

Steve & Shirley Banks

9th April 2008.