



SUBMISSION 12

Infrastructure Division
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Russell Offices
CANBERRA ACT 2600

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

Attention: Ms Margaret Swieringa

RESPONSE TO PWC FROM THE PORT STEPHENS COUNCIL

1. Thank you for referring a copy of the letter dated 26 July 2002 from the Port Stephens Council concerning the RAAF Base Williamtown Redevelopment Stage 1 and Airborne Early Warning and Control Aircraft Facilities project.
2. Defence appreciates the support of the Port Stephens Council with respect to this proposal. Defence is aware from Council's draft Urban Settlement Strategy that Council had identified the area south of the Base as an investigation area for airport related employment generating activities. In its submission to Council on this Strategy, Defence indicated willingness to participate in the investigations proposed in the Strategy, and recommended that the Strategy propose the preparation of a master plan to guide the development of the investigation area.
3. Council, along with representatives from other NSW Government departments and agencies, Newcastle City Council, and other infrastructure bodies were briefed by Defence on the draft RAAF Base Williamtown Master Plan on 20 May 02. At this briefing Defence advised its intention, following completion of the Master Plan, to produce a master plan information package for State departments and agencies, local government and other infrastructure bodies. This package will be made available to Council upon its completion, before the end of the year.
4. Defence acknowledges the need to consider the broader regional issues when defining the essential services works for the Base, and undertakes to consult with Council during this process.
5. Defence acknowledges the long standing stormwater drainage and water table problems in the Williamtown area. Initial results from the stormwater study indicate that through the use of water-cycle sensitive stormwater management techniques, it is possible to maintain flows and volumes at current levels, even with increased site development, thus avoiding further adverse impacts on surrounding properties. Measures

to address stormwater contamination issues will be examined during detailed design of the facilities.

6. Defence notes Council's concerns over the traffic levels on Medowie Road and advises that although improvement measures are not included within the scope of this proposal, they have been addressed in the RAAF Base Williamtown Master Plan and will be considered for inclusion in subsequent stages of Base Redevelopment. These measures include provision of a new Base entrance with appropriate off-street parking arrangements to permit processing of security requirements. Defence is consulting with Council to determine appropriate measures to address the immediate problems.

7. Defence notes Council's proposals for alternative transport options and will continue to consult with Council over these issues. Defence acknowledges the benefits of the proposed cycleway and will consult with Council to examine options for possible provision of this facility for the benefit of the Base and other users.



G. R. Beck
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2 August 2002