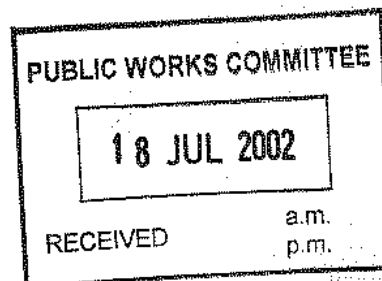




The Secretary  
Public Works Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

15 July 2002

Dear Sir/Madam,



**STAGE 1 - WILLIAMTOWN AIRFORCE BASE REDEVELOPMENT**

The estimated \$149m to be expended on Stage 1 of the RAAF Base redevelopment at Williamtown, NSW, is an economic investment by the Government in the Hunter Region.

To ensure the economic investment has longer term benefits for the Hunter Region, Hunter Valley Training Company Pty. Ltd (HVTC) recommends that all tenders contain a clause which calls for the employment and training of apprentices and trainees – whether engaged directly, through contractors, subcontractors or labour hire firms.

HVTC recommends that the formula of 1 x apprentice year per \$2m per year be attributed to the project. That is, for every \$8m spent in total, at least one apprentice would complete their trade training of four years, totalling 18 apprentices completions for the entire project. Traineeships, which generally have a duration of one year per level, can also be incorporated in the mix.

The employment of apprentices and trainees is an important issue in anticipating, maintaining and sustaining the supply of skilled labour to current and future project developments. The Government, as a model employer, has the opportunity to lead best practice in this instance, and subsequent stages.

Hunter Valley Training Company Pty Ltd, as a leader in group training, is well placed to provide the Public Works Committee with further information on the skills base and skills shortages of the Hunter Region, and we look forward to your reply to our recommendation.

Yours sincerely

Suzanne Riley  
Manager, Strategic Initiatives

Hunter Valley Training Company Pty Limited ABN 45 002 226 619

- Specialising in...
- Employment and training options
  - Apprenticeships • Traineeships
  - School-based part-time traineeships
  - Personnel services



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