

Conclusions and Recommendations

Need for the work

- 6.1 The Committee has found that there are three main factors, which provide a basis for the redevelopment of the Defence Intelligence Training Centre at Canungra to proceed. They are:
- The recognition in the White Paper on Defence 2000 that the implementation of Australia's strategic policy requires the development of an intelligence capability through the enhancement of analytical and assessment expertise in military and strategic intelligence;
 - The inadequacies of the existing facilities of the Defence Intelligence Training Centre in terms of size, security and occupational health and safety issues; and
 - The Strategic Plan for the Defence Estate has confirmed that Canungra should be retained a significant Defence training base.
- 6.2 The Committee is convinced on the evidence presented to it that there is a need to provide purpose built facilities to suit the specialised functions of the Defence Intelligence Training Centre. The new facilities will enable the Defence Intelligence Training Centre to play its part in the development of the ADF's intelligence capability.

Scope of the work

- 6.3 The primary aim of the proposal is to provide the Defence Intelligence Training Centre with the facilities to enable it to enhance the training component of the intelligence requirements of the ADF. The scope of the work will include the following elements:
- Defence Intelligence Training Centre;
 - remote training facilities; and
 - upgrading of existing Living-in Accommodation.
- 6.4 The Committee notes that Defence proposes to use a head contract delivery system to deliver this project as this will allow it to maintain maximum control over the design of the project particularly in relation to security issues.

Heritage Issues

- 6.5 The Committee notes that Defence does not believe that there are heritage considerations directly applicable to the proposed project. However, the Australian Heritage Commission (AHC) is of the view that it is not possible from a review of the Defence documentation to assess whether or not the proposal is likely to have an adverse impact on the national estate values of the Canungra Land Warfare Training Centre. The AHC also pointed to the Aboriginal and historical significance of the Canungra area.
- 6.6 The Committee notes that Defence has indicated its willingness to continue to consult with the AHC in relation to heritage issues and has agreed to put in place procedures to protect sites of both cultural and ecological significance during the design and construction phase of the project.

Recommendation 1

- 6.7 **The Committee recommends that Defence continue to consult with the Australian Heritage Commission regarding heritage issues at the Defence Intelligence Training Centre and as part of this process ensure procedures to protect sites of both cultural and ecological significance are agreed to between Defence and the Australian Heritage Commission.**

Energy Conservation Issues

- 6.8 The Committee notes that in accordance with the Commonwealth Government's commitment to ecologically sustainable development and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, maximum energy efficiency would be a key objective in the design, development and delivery of the proposed facility. While the Australian Greenhouse Office (AGO) has a number of concerns regarding the extent to which energy efficiency issues will be appropriately addressed, the Committee notes that Defence and the AGO have agreed to further develop specific guidelines for the proper application of the Commonwealth's energy policies within current and future Defence capital works projects.

Recommendation 2

- 6.9 **The Committee recommends that Defence continue to consult with the Australian Greenhouse Office on the application of the Commonwealth's energy policies to Defence capital works projects.**

Back Creek Landscape

- 6.10 The Committee notes the concern expressed by community representatives regarding the possible impact of the remote training facilities on the Back Creek Landscape. Following a decision by Defence to move the remote training facilities to site further north than was originally intended the Committee believes that the concerns of the community representatives should be allayed. It should be made clear that the remote training facilities are not in the Back Creek Landscape and will now be located in a different catchment.

Public Access and Involvement

- 6.11 The Committee notes that Defence has put in place arrangements for public access to Killarney Glen except when required for military activities. It is estimated that the public has access to the area for about nine months of the year. The Committee is aware of a recent incident when an unfortunate breakdown in range security occurred. This is now being investigated by Defence.
- 6.12 While the a commitment has been made by Defence to consult with interest groups and the local community on matters affecting future access

to Killarney Glen, it must be recognised that the Army has a right to use the area without the prospect of potentially dangerous training activities endangering members of the public. It must also be recognised that while Defence should establish an environmental advisory committee to provide a forum at which local environment issues can be discussed, this does not equate to a role in the management of Killarney Glen.

Recommendation 3

- 6.13 **The Committee recommends that Defence establish as a matter of urgency an environmental advisory committee for the Canungra Close Training Area to provide a forum at which local environmental issues can be discussed.**

Conclusion

- 6.14 The Committee has conclude that, on the basis of the evidence presented to it and the findings from its inspection of the existing facilities at Canungra that the redevelopment of the Defence Intelligence Training Centre should proceed.

Recommendation 4

- 6.15 **The Committee recommends the proposed redevelopment of the Defence Intelligence Training Centre at Canungra proceed at a cost of \$17.745 million.**

Hon Judi Moylan MP

Chair

20 September 2001