

Sent: Monday, 15 December 2008 4:06 PM

To: Committee, Public Works (REPS)

Subject: Submission Re:Enhanced Land Force Stage 1 Facilities Project

Dear Sir

I wish to submit the following in reply to your letter dated 27 November 2008, regarding opportunity to provide a submission to the Parliamentary Standing Committee for its consideration towards the above-mentioned proposal – particularly in relation to Blamey Barracks, Kapooka, Wagga Wagga.

Riverina Water County Council is a local government authority based in Wagga Wagga, NSW, supplying treated potable water to the following local government areas under the NSW Local Government Act: Wagga Wagga, Lockhart, Urana, and parts of Greater Hume. In particular, Riverina Water also supplies water to 1) Kapooka Army Base via its rural trunk main system and 2) Forest Hill RAAF base via its urban reticulation system.

Previous experience with the recent water supply connection to RAAF Base (Forest Hill) has highlighted some confusion regarding the approval processes under the NSW Local Government Act and water supply work on Commonwealth Defense properties. Normally water supply work on any properties connected to a NSW Local Government Authority's water supply system require approval under Section 68 NSW LGA, however, Riverina Water appreciates the security issues/requirements on Commonwealth Defense properties and relies on the Defense Department to ensure on-site compliance of various plumbing regulations to protect its employees' health. However, it would be appreciated if the Parliamentary Standing Committee is able to provide further clarification regarding NSW Local Governments roles & responsibilities in providing utility services under the NSW Local Government Act with respect to Commonwealth Defense properties.

Notwithstanding the above, I would also like to make following comments:

- Various consultants have approached Riverina Water County Council and outlined the Defense Departments' intention to increase the recruitments by an estimated 25%. Riverina Water is able to continue providing water supply to Kapooka with its existing infrastructure noting the development's promotion of reuse and water efficiency measures. However, Riverina Water County Council still requires to be consulted on a case-by-case basis regarding overall water consumption requirements to ensure its strategic infrastructure planning processes are aligned with the Defense Department's timeframes and expectations.
- Riverina Water County Council supplies potable water to both RAAF Base (Forest Hill) and Army Base (Kapooka). Fire protection & safety may require further analysis with respect to:
 - Riverina Water's levels of services ie. Reliability of supply and retention of storage volumes for fire fighting, water quality
 - Internal reticulation design – mixing of potable and non-potable waters during a fire event
- It is commendable that the development includes increasing water efficiency in potable water consumption using re-use and installation of water efficient appliances and plumbing hardware. Dual reticulation systems comprising of separate potable and non-potable systems may pose higher risk of backflow contamination and require adequate backflow/cross connection prevention programmes and measures.
- Both the RAAF and Army bases independently maintain, operate and manage their own water reticulation infrastructure including pumps, reservoirs and pipework even though the potable water is supplied by Riverina Water. Riverina Water regularly test its water within our reticulation system to ensure compliance to National Drinking Water Guidelines and NSW Public Health requirements,

and it is assumed that the Defense Department is ensuring health and safety of its potable water throughout its own water supply system.

Again, I appreciate the opportunity to provide comment to the proposed development. Please contact me if you require further information.

Regards,

Jason Ip - Operations Engineer
Riverina Water County Council
P.O. Box 456
WAGGA WAGGA NSW 2650
Phone: 02 6922 0658
Fax: 02 6921 2241
Mobile: 0408 695 681
Email: jjip@rwcc.com.au