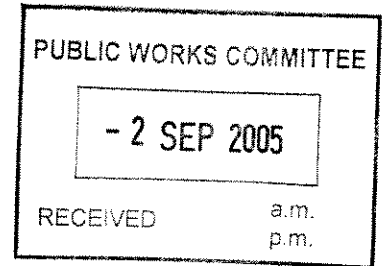




SUBMISSION ..... 14



**WELLINGTON SHIRE COUNCIL  
SUBMISSION  
FOR  
THE RELOCATION OF THE RAAF OFFICER TRAINING SCHOOL  
TO  
THE RAAF BASE EAST SALE**

**Overview**

1. Wellington Shire Council and the whole community strongly support the proposal to relocate the RAAF Officer Training School from Point Cook to the RAAF Base East Sale.
2. The RAAF Base East Sale is the ideal location for the Officer Training School given it is already a significant RAAF training establishment with four major schools: Headquarters Air Training Wing, Central Flying School, School of Air Navigation and School of Air Traffic Control.
3. The aim of the relocation is to replace inadequate training facilities and infrastructure at the Point Cook Base which do not meet new occupational health and safety standards with modern, purpose-built facilities at East Sale that include new administration training and accommodation facilities.
4. It is important to note that RAAF Base East Sale has not had any major development projects undertaken in the past ten years.
5. RAAF Base East Sale has been identified as a long-term centre for RAAF training and offers the Federal Government an ideal opportunity to achieve cost efficiencies, dramatically improve the current training facilities and provide personnel with an enviable lifestyle in a strong and welcoming community.

6. The new RAAF Officer Training School facilities will also provide the potential for the suggested relocation of training facilities at Tamworth and Pearce to be housed at Sale.
7. Wellington Shire Council's proposal to offer extensive access to Council's redeveloped aquatic and gym complex in Sale would save the Government the cost of establishing its own pool and fitness facility as well as significant savings in Occupational Health and Safety and public liability overheads. The appendix to this submission outlines in summary the economic benefits of Wellington's proposal to provide Aquatic, Health and Fitness Facilities and Programs for the RAAF Officer Training School at the RAAF Base East Sale.

### ***Economic Benefits***

8. The economic impact of the relocation will be quite significant as the RAAF Base East Sale is the region's second largest employer and has been a major driver of economic growth in the area.
9. The relocation of the RAAF Officer Training School is set to make this community even stronger and provide a significant boost to the Wellington economy and its business sector, which has been gearing up for the proposed \$65.6 million expansion of the Base for some time now.
10. The project is expected to generate valuable employment opportunities for Wellington's skilled workforce, which includes local builders, trades people, retailers, professionals, restaurateurs and entertainment outlets.
11. In the Council's submission of December 2002, (see attachment) it was estimated that the Base injected spending of more than \$15 million a year directly into the community – this equates to more than \$16 million in today's terms. Further, the Base indirectly

generates an additional 210 jobs and more than \$6.8 million in expenditure into the local economy. The benefit to the area is expected to escalate significantly with the relocation of the RAAF Officer Training School to East Sale.

### ***Savings Available Through Support of Community Aquatic and Gymnasium Facilities***

12. The 600-plus new junior officers who will be attending the relocated Officer Training School could also take advantage of the exciting \$6.7 million redevelopment of the Lex Glover Regional Aquatic Centre in Sale.
13. This regional facility, only five minutes from the RAAF Base East Sale will have the capacity to provide personnel and their families with high quality, modern aquatic and fitness-related programs.
14. Key features of the redeveloped Lex Glover Regional Aquatic Complex will include a 25m six-lane indoor heated pool, a program pool for exercise and rehabilitation, a 50m outdoor Olympic pool, diving pool, modern gym, cardio equipment and fitness facilities.
15. Wellington Shire Council has lodged a proposal through the Federal Member for Gippsland, the Hon Peter McGauran MP, that the redevelopment of the Council's Aquatic Complex be included as a cost-effective part of the relocation of the RAAF Officer Training School. The proposal offers an opportunity to avoid the duplication of similar facilities on the RAAF Base East Sale at significant capital and ongoing operational savings to the Government.
16. As detailed in the attached 'Funding Submission to provide Aquatic, Health and Fitness Facilities and Programs for RAAF College Headquarters and Officer Training School East Sale RAAF Base' (attached), junior officers, instructors and families can access



Gold memberships plus 39,000 sessions of specialist training worth more than \$4.17 million over five years with an estimated net saving of \$3.3 million.

### ***Great Schools, Health Services and Accommodation***

17. RAAF personnel and their families have access to high quality education facilities which are among the best in Victoria and cover primary, secondary (both state and private), tertiary and adult education levels and include the highly rated Gippsland Grammar and the multi-million dollar East Gippsland TAFE facilities - which are proposed for relocation from the outskirts to the centre of Sale.
18. The Federal Government has also announced that it will be establishing one of its 24 new Australian Technical Colleges at Sale and Bairnsdale next year.
19. Wellington has excellent health and community services, employment and business development opportunities, professional services, regional shopping facilities and an affordable range of housing and accommodation options. Most Defence members and their families live off the Base and available properties range from classic Federation and Victorian to new and modern in a choice of urban, rural, coastal or alpine locations.
20. Exciting developments within Wellington Shire include coastal regional expansions and the multi-phased Port of Sale upgrade to include exceptional boating facilities and waterfront living at the start of the magnificent Gippsland Lakes.

### ***The Tradition Lives On***

21. Over the 62 years since it opened, RAAF Base East Sale has become a highly valued and integral part of the Wellington Shire and the Sale community.

22. Its significance was highlighted when hundreds of people lined the streets of Sale to cheer the RAAF when they exercised their right of Freedom of the City on 18 June, 2004. The 'freedom parade' featured the internationally renowned RAAF Roulettes aerobatic display team and the RAAF Armed Forces Band. It reflected the pride the local municipality has in its long association with the Base and was welcomed by the community as an expression of the RAAF's appreciation of Sale.

### ***A Strong, Welcoming Community***

23. RAAF officers and their families have long been an important part of the Wellington community and spend a lot of their social time in Sale and surrounding towns attending local churches, contributing to the community through their membership of service clubs and shopping in the local area.
24. A high proportion of RAAF personnel are involved in cultural activities (theatre and the creative arts) in Sale, which is the home of the superb Gippsland Regional Art Gallery • Sale and the award-winning ESSO BHP Billiton Wellington Entertainment Centre - Gippsland's premier venue for performing arts.

### ***Wellington Lifestyle***

25. Thousands of personnel have discovered over the years that Sale, as the centre of Wellington Shire, has a relaxed lifestyle and many have returned here to live after leaving the service. Sale has a low crime rate and is a safe place to live and a great place to raise a family.
26. Strategically located just two hours drive east of Melbourne, Wellington offers a host of magnificent natural attractions including the Ninety Mile Beach, world-renowned wetlands and close proximity to Alpine and Coastal National Parks.

27. Wellington has a wealth of excellent recreation and sporting facilities available for RAAF personnel including golf, sailing, water sports and fishing plus a wide range of tennis, Australian Rules, cricket, gymnastics, baseball, netball and basketball facilities. Many current RAAF personnel are welcome members of local sporting clubs, all of which strongly support the relocation of the RAAF Officer Training School to East Sale.

### **Conclusion**

28. Wellington and the RAAF have a lot to offer each other. The strong relationship between the two has been established over the past six decades – it is now time to take the next step and build on that relationship for the benefit of everyone concerned.

### **Appendices**

29. Executive Summary – *Economic Impacts of Relocation of the RAAF Officer Training School to RAAF Base East Sale* - Wellington Council's Submission to the Commonwealth Government - December 2002.
30. Executive Summary – *The Benefit to the RAAF of Relocation to Sale (Living and Working in Sale)* – March, 2003.
31. Executive Summary – *Funding Submission to provide access to Aquatic, Health and Fitness Facilities and Programs for RAAF College Headquarters and Officer Training School East Sale RAAF Base* – August 2005.

## **Attachments**

32. Report - *Economic Impacts of Relocation of the RAAF Officer Training School to RAAF Base East Sale - December 2002.*
33. Report - *The Benefit to the RAAF of Relocation to Sale (Living and Working in Sale) – March, 2003.*
34. Report - *Funding Submission to provide access to Aquatic, Health and Fitness Facilities and Programs for RAAF College Headquarters and Officer Training School East Sale RAAF Base - August 2005.*
35. Brochure - *Wellington Shire: The Land of Contrasts – Lifestyle, Community, Business.*