

SUBMISSION7.....



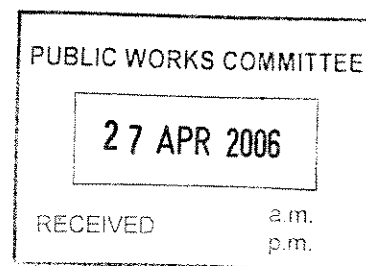
Australian Government

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The Hon Judi Moylan MP
Chair
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Ms Moylan

HMAS CAIRNS REDEVELOPMENT – SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSION

I am writing in response to Submission No. 3 from the Training Ship (TS) Endeavour Australian Navy Cadets Unit Support Committee Incorporated in relation to the HMAS CAIRNS Redevelopment.

Background

The Committee's Inquiry Secretary forwarded to us a copy of Submission No. 3 by facsimile on 21 April 2006. In their submission, the TS Endeavour Unit Support Committee advises that under the proposal there will be a problem of access for cadets and parents to TS Endeavour, and that the current facilities do not meet requirements for cadet accommodation, catering, ablutions, boat storage and associated equipment.

Supplementary Submission

The guiding and overriding Defence policy principle is to ensure that Cadet units are accommodated in a safe and healthy environment which provides basic functionality to conduct cadet activities in an appropriate venue suitable for youth activities.

Defence, in partnership with the community, will assist Cadet units to operate in accommodation that is conducive to a positive experience in a military-like environment, and in the case of Navy Cadet Units, the preference is for the unit to be located near water to support Navy cadet activity programs. Defence encourages units to develop community-assisted solutions to their accommodation needs. However, Defence will work with the community to develop solutions that are appropriate, cost-effective and compliant with local legislation.

Defence recognises that although TS Endeavour is generally a sound cadet training facility, there are a number of accommodation shortcomings which require to be addressed, in particular the requirement for separate staff and cadet overnight accommodation and supporting infrastructure such as ablutions.

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Consistent with this policy, Defence re-affirms its commitment to TS Endeavour by working with the HMAS CAIRNS, the Cairns Navy League, the Unit Support Committee, the Cadet Unit and other interested stakeholders to assess and prioritise accommodation requirements within the project budgetary constraints.

The Unit Support Committee has been advised that we have an allocation in our project budget for modest improvements to the cadet facilities, which we will disclose in the confidential briefing to the Parliamentary Committee.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or Alan McGrath on 02 6266 8546 if you have any questions regarding this request.

Yours sincerely



William Grice
Colonel

Acting Director General Infrastructure Asset Development

27 April 2006