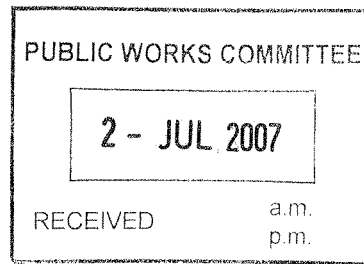


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SUBMISSION 3

Mr. J. Fuhrman,
Inquiry Secretary,
Parliamentary Standing Committee Public Works
Parliament House,
Canberra ACT 2600

29 June 2007

Dear Mr. Fuhrman,

HMAS Creswell Redevelopment - Jervis Bay Territory - Submissions

Purpose

The following Submission by Shoalhaven City Council is in response to the proposed redevelopment of HMAS Creswell as reported to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works in May 2007.

The Shoalhaven

The Shoalhaven is the fastest growing area within the Illawarra Region, one of the fastest growth areas in NSW and home to 96,000 people. The population growth will continue and projections show 124,600 people living in the City by 2026. New residents are drawn by the areas physical beauty, lifestyle and generally affordable housing costs. The Shoalhaven has a robust and expanding economy, taking advantage of its location on the fringe of the Newcastle-Sydney-Wollongong urban corridor. It has a diverse range of manufacturing operations including paper, gluten and starch, chemicals, dairy products, automotive and mining equipment, and boat-building. Other important industries include defence, education, building & construction, retailing, tourism, and agribusiness including dairying, grazing, viticulture and wine-tourism.

Shoalhaven Council is very active in regional economic development and delivers its programs through the "Shoalhaven – an enterprising alternative" economic strategy in partnership with the NSW State & Regional Development and the Shoalhaven Area Consultative Committee (Department of Transport & Regional Development). Through its strategic linkages, the Shoalhaven economic stability continues to grow through relationships with the South Coast, ACT, Southern Tablelands and Northern Illawarra.

The Defence industry is considered a critical supporting pillar of the local economy (Shoalhaven – an enterprising alternative – An Economic Development Strategy, 2005), and the Department of Defence is represented by a number of facilities in the Shoalhaven area, including HMAS Albatross, and HMAS Creswell. Defence personnel and support staff number almost 2,200 and inject over \$150 m annually into the local economy.

The local defence industry sector includes many of the world's leading defence companies (BAE Systems, Raytheon, Boeing, CSC, Tenix). The Albatross Aviation Technology Park ,adjacent to HMAS Albatross has already attracted major aviation defence operators working in electronic warfare and developing software integration systems. A South Coast Defence Industry Network is operating to enhance linkages between SMEs and Prime contractors within the sector. HMAS Albatross is also home to the Australian Museum of Flight, one of the region's premier tourist attractions.

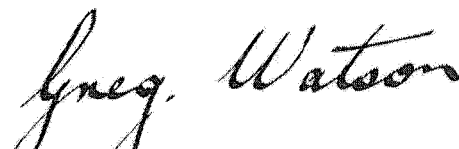
A number of opportunities have been identified to strengthen the links between the Defence Forces, industry and the community. These opportunities include supply of joint products and services, joint development facilities, education, training and research.

One key issue currently confronting the Shoalhaven is the maintenance and expansion of employment opportunities capable of attracting and retaining a skilled labour force for our key industries such as Defence. It is in consideration of this key issue that we have viewed the proposed redevelopment of HMAS Creswell.

Response to Proposal

The Shoalhaven City Council Economic Development Office considers that the proposed upgrade and modernisation of facilities will enhance the reputation of HMAS Creswell and increase its ability to attract and retain RAN personnel. Enhancing the capacity of HMAS Creswell in these areas positively reflects on the Shoalhaven Defence Industry which is considered a key regional infrastructure asset that is driving growth in our defence sector.

Kind regards


Greg Watson
Mayor

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