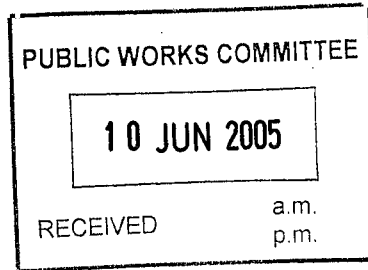




Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Heritage

Ms Vivienne Courto
Inquiry Secretary
Parliamentary Standing Committee
on Public Works
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



SUBMISSION 4

Dear Ms Courto

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE - HOLSWORTHY STAGE 1 REDEVELOPMENT, NSW

I refer to your letter of 20 May 2005 to the Secretary of this Department inviting comment on the above proposal.

This Department administers the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) on behalf of the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Senator the Hon Ian Campbell.

The EPBC Act provides for the protection of certain defined matters of national environmental significance as well as the more general 'environment' where a development activity is to be taken by an agency of the Australian Government. Agencies are required to refer proposals with potential significant impacts on the 'environment' to this Department for consideration under the EPBC Act.

Formal assessment and approval is needed under the Act for proposals likely to have a significant impact ('controlled actions'). Proposals that are determined not likely to have a significant impact do not need any further consideration under the EPBC Act.

In this case, the Department of Defence referred the Holsworthy Redevelopment Project under the EPBC Act on 1 March 2004. A decision was made on 17 May 2005 that the works are not likely to have a significant impact on the 'environment' and that approval under the Act is therefore not needed (copy of decision attached).

Yours sincerely


Steve Mercer
Director
EPBC Act Referrals Section
Approvals and Legislation Division

7
June 2005

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ACT 1999

DECISION THAT ACTION IS NOT A CONTROLLED ACTION

Pursuant to section 75 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, I, MARK FLANIGAN, Assistant Secretary, Policy and Compliance Branch, Department of the Environment and Heritage, decide that the proposed action, set out in the Schedule, is not a controlled action.

SCHEDULE

The proposed action by the Department of Defence to undertake the Holsworthy Redevelopment Project Program of Works, involving refurbishment work, infrastructure upgrades and the construction of facilities for Incident Response and Counter Terrorist capabilities, and as described in the referral received under the Act on 1 March 2004 and the response to requests for further information as received on 20 April 2004 and 10 May 2004 (EPBC 2004/1391).

Dated this 17 day of MAY 2004


.....
**ASSISTANT SECRETARY
POLICY AND COMPLIANCE BRANCH
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE**