

The Proposed Works

Need

- 2.1 The proposed works are intended to provide improved accommodation, training and administrative facilities at HMAS Harman, ACT, for one RAAF Regular Unit and nine Reserve and Cadet units.
- 2.2 At present, these units are located at three different sites throughout the ACT, namely:
- HMAS Harman;
 - the Werriwa Training Depot in Allara Street, Civic; and
 - RAAF Base Fairbairn at Canberra Airport.
- 2.3 The requirement for the proposed work is driven by:
- the closure of RAAF Fairbairn in May 2004 and the need for units currently accommodated at Fairbairn to be relocated; and
 - the planned disposal in 2004-05 of the Werriwa Training Depot¹.

¹ Appendix C, Submission No. 1, paragraphs 2, 4 and 5

Scope

- 2.4 Works required to meet the Defence objectives comprise:
- working accommodation, including office accommodation and specialist training facilities;
 - shared training facilities such as lecture rooms, meeting/conference rooms and parade ground;
 - general and weapons storage facilities;
 - workshop facilities;
 - unit vehicle and specialist vehicle storage and maintenance facilities;
 - separate ablutions facilities for both Reserves and Cadets;
 - training areas;
 - overnight accommodation;
 - access to messing, gymnasium and medical aid facilities; and
 - access to parking².

Purpose and Suitability

- 2.5 Each Regular, Reserve and Cadet unit located at HMAS Harman will require working accommodation for the execution of command, operations, logistics and personnel management functions. In order to achieve maximum utilisation of the working accommodation, Defence intends to instigate a 'hot desk' system whereby units share office accommodation, resources and communications systems. Each unit category will be provided with some dedicated offices, as well as dedicated space for the storage of files and classified information³.
- 2.6 The new MUD will provide indoor and outdoor training facilities, including:
- classrooms;
 - syndicate rooms;

2 Appendix C, Submission No. 1, paragraphs 15 - 44

3 ib id, paragraphs 19 - 23

- a secure conference room;
- a parade ground;
- wet weather shelters;
- a run, dodge and jump course; and
- a close training area.

The classrooms, syndicate rooms and parade ground will be used by both Reserve and Cadet units⁴. Additional specialist training facilities will be provided to meet the requirements of individual units⁵. As far as is practicable, equipment associated with specialised training will be relocated from existing facilities⁶.

- 2.7 As stores are generally maintained and accounted for by individual units, each unit will require some separable storage space. The Training and Equipment Store will be shared by all user units⁷.
- 2.8 Shared facilities will also be provided for the maintenance, storage and washing of vehicles⁸.
- 2.9 Under the proposed works, overnight accommodation will be provided for 120 Cadets. This facility will allow for segregation of Cadets from adult service personnel, access to ablutions facilities and appropriate supervision⁹.
- 2.10 Users of the proposed new MUD will be able to access all the facilities currently available at HMAS Harman, including the gymnasium, messes and living-in accommodation. Defence expects that these facilities will be able to support the additional personnel associated with the MUD development without further expansion or refurbishment¹⁰.
- 2.11 A new car park currently under construction at HMAS Harman is expected to absorb the additional vehicle parking load associated with the increase in personnel.

4 Appendix C, Submission No. 1, paragraphs 24 - 27

5 ib id, paragraph 28

6 Appendix D, Official Transcript of Evidence, p. 6

7 ib id, paragraph 29

8 ib id, paragraph 30

9 Appendix D, Official Transcript of Evidence, p. 3

10 Appendix C, Submission No. 1, paragraph 33

- 2.12 Defence believes that the sharing of facilities by a number of units will not only increase utilisation of the facilities but will also mean an overall reduction in the amount of new facilities required¹¹.

Cost

- 2.13 The total estimated cost of the proposed fit-out project is \$13.5 million. These costs include:

- design;
- construction of buildings;
- demolition of existing buildings;
- external works and services;
- furniture and fittings;
- relocation;
- professional fees and charges; and
- contingency.

Value for Money

- 2.14 As described above, the collocation of the units at a single MUD facility based at HMAS Harman is expected to result in both operational and cost efficiencies for Defence.
- 2.15 The provision of dedicated facilities for each unit would entail duplication of amenities and services and would be considerably more expensive to construct. Sharing of facilities both minimises duplication and maximises use.
- 2.16 The location of the new MUD at HMAS Harman presents additional financial and operational benefits in that relocated units will have access to existing messing, accommodation and sporting facilities, and will be supported by existing essential services infrastructure, without additional expenditure by Defence¹².

11 ib id, paragraph 17

12 Appendix C, Submission No. 1, paragraphs 33 - 43

- 2.17 In a letter forwarded to the Committee subsequent to the inspection and hearing, Defence highlighted the cessation of its current lease-back payments at RAAF Base Fairbairn as an additional cost benefit attendant upon the expeditious completion of the MUD facility¹³.

¹³ Letter from Brigadier Peter Hutchinson, Director General, Infrastructure Asset Development, Department of Defence, 3 June 2003, paragraph 4

