



Australian Government

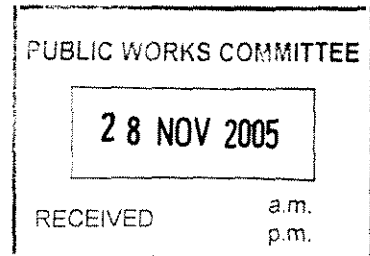
Department of Defence
Corporate Services &
Infrastructure Group

SUBMISSION 7

Brigadier Peter (Hutch) Hutchinson
Director General Infrastructure Asset
Development
BP-1-8001
Department of Defence
CANBERRA ACT 2600
peter.hutchinson@defence.gov.au
Tel: 02 6266 8101
Fax: 02 6266 8103

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



Dear Ms Courto,

RESPONSE TO CUBBITCH BARTA NATIVE TITLE CLAIMANTS

The Department of Defence would like to take the opportunity to reply to the submission of the Cubbitch Barta Native Title Claimants dated 15th November 2005 concerning the Relocation of the 171st Aviation Squadron to Holsworthy Barracks. It remains the clear intention of the Department of Defence to respect and preserve the heritage and the environment of the area, while at the same time achieving the objectives of national security.

The submission from the Cubbitch Barta Native Title Claimants highlights the importance of the Holsworthy Barracks as an area of high Aboriginal cultural significance, namely the Cubbitch Barta National Estate Area. The role of Holsworthy Army Base has not changed over the years; that is, it exists for national Defence purposes. While the internal organisation of the base may change over time, the fundamental purpose of the base has not changed. The vast majority of the work proposed is on existing developed areas of the barracks and will not effect areas of cultural significance.

Helicopters have regularly operated from Holsworthy Barracks since 1974. All of the works at Holsworthy are part of the ongoing and essential modernisation of the Australian Defence Force. Defence respects the cultural heritage of the range area and will adopt procedures to minimize the impact of the aviation squadron.

The Department of Defence will contact the Cubbitch Barta Native Title Claimants to discuss the details of the Relocation of the 171st Aviation Squadron to Holsworthy Barracks.

Yours sincerely,

P.J. Hutchinson, DSC
Brigadier

25th November 2005