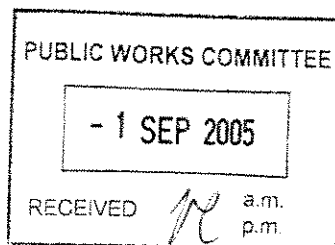


From: James Pennell
Sent: Thursday, 1 September 2005 10:13 AM
To: Committee, Public Works (REPS)
Subject: Public Works Enquiry - Relocation Of Raaf College: Raaf Base East Sale, Victoria

James (Jim) Pennell
87 Market Street
SALE VIC 3850

1 September 2005

The Secretary
Public Works Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



SUBMISSION12.....

Dear Sir/Madam

PUBLIC WORKS ENQUIRY
RELOCATION OF RAAF COLLEGE: RAAF BASE EAST SALE, VICTORIA

1. Why does Sale support the expansion of the RAAF Base which will reportedly bring an extra 600 officers to live in the community?
2. WE WANT THEM, WE NEED THEM, WE APPRECIATE THEM and, as we have demonstrated since the East Sale RAAF Base was established, WE EMBRACE THEM!
3. The expansion of the RAAF base and the likelihood of an extra 600 officers taking up residence within the district is just the stimulus Sale needs to rekindle population growth. The town's expansion couldn't be better sourced.
4. RAAF personnel have always been a very respected and valued part of Sale's community; a general acceptance and appreciation that stretches back to the base's foundation during WWII. RAAF personnel join the town's sporting and social clubs and organisations, often, happily taking on onerous leadership roles. And they are good supporters of local business. 'Raafies' (always a term of endearment) are relatively well paid and buy locally.
5. As a community, Sale takes great pride in being home to the RAAF's crack aerobatic team the Roulettes, and the team has been as much a part of Sale as anything else the town calls its own.
6. After completing their military service, a good number of Raafies' settle down' in Sale knowing they are respected, valued and living amongst friends. The district's clubs and organisations abound with former RAAF personnel.
7. The former City of Sale has the facilities and infrastructure of many cities twice its size (Sale lost its city status with amalgamation). For the past thirty years, the population has hovered around the 13,000 to 14,000 mark. Major areas of employment that have sustained the population include the following.
8. Health - Central Gippsland Health Service, which includes the large Gippsland Base Hospital and its ancillary specialist services, employs around a thousand people.
9. Education - Schools and education facilities are also amongst the largest employers in the Sale district. Over a thousand people staff the numerous preschools, primary schools, the three very large secondary colleges, East Gippsland TAFE, Adult Community Education Sale and sundry other 'special' and apprentice training facilities.

10. Oil & Gas Industry - The offshore oilfields and the Esso BHP-Billiton Oil & Gas Stabilisation plant at Longford (just outside of Sale), and the many auxiliary businesses which supply and service the oil & gas industry also give employment opportunities to many men and women.

11. Goods & Services - Sale is a large retail and commercial center. Supplying the goods and services to the town and its surrounding farming community also provides a wide range of employment.

12. Important other employment opportunities are provided by the Fulham Correctional Centre (the privately run prison) and RAAF Base East Sale, both of which provide work directly and indirectly for hundreds of locals.

13. The most valuable thing about the majority of the foregoing employment opportunities is the fact that most of the positions are paid for by 'foreign' money - money that is paid for wages and services by government or multinationals and comes from out of town.

14. However, the fact remains, despite Sale's substantial physical growth and a corresponding increase in infrastructure and amenities, the population remains static.

15. BRING ON THE RAAF BASE EXPANSION AND THE SOONER THE BETTER!

James L (Jim) Pennell
Secretary
Sale Community Business Association