



**Senator the Hon John Faulkner  
Minister for Defence**

Mrs Julia Irwin MP  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Petitions  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mrs Irwin

Thank you for your letter of 1 June 2010 concerning a petition for the Australian Defence Force Basic Flying Training School to remain at Tamworth, NSW.

The Interim Basic Flying Training Request for Tender closed on 11 February 2010. Completion of the tender evaluation process is anticipated in late June 2010 and the contract is expected to be signed in September 2010.

There are a number of factors that must be balanced in determining the location of flying training units. All relevant factors will be considered by Defence in assessing the responses received from industry to ensure efficient, effective and ethical procurement outcomes are achieved as required by Section 44 of the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*.

While the Tamworth region may be suitable for future Australian Defence Force pilot training, until Defence has fully assessed the responses from industry, it is too early to confirm the basing location for the Interim Basic Flying Training School.

Your interest in this matter is appreciated.

Yours sincerely

**JOHN FAULKNER**

**17 JUN 2010**

