



Australian Government

Department of Defence
Estate and Infrastructure Group

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Senator Dean Smith

Chair
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Smith,

**AIR5431 PHASE 2 AND 3 DEFENCE AIR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND
CONTROL SYSTEM FACILITIES AND AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE AIR
TRAFFIC CONTROL COMPLEX INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT**

The AIR5431 Phase 2 and 3 Defence Air Traffic Management and Control System Facilities and Australian Defence Force Air Traffic Control Complex Infrastructure Project (the Project) was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (the Committee) on 16 September 2015.

The purpose of this letter is to provide a written response to submissions received by the Committee from Hunter Water Corporation (Hunter Water) and the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

Within its submission Hunter Water requested a number of requirements be implemented by Defence for the Project. Defence acknowledges RAAF Base Williamtown is located within the Tomago Sandbeds Catchment Area and can assure the Committee that it will implement the requirements listed in the Hunter Water submission on the Project. Defence confirms construction activities undertaken as part of the Project will be performed in accordance with Project Plans including a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). The CEMP will include details on environmental controls that will be implemented throughout the Project, including incident response procedures for environmental incidents. A site induction will also be provided to people working on the Project and will include details of the sensitivity of the site. Stormwater runoff from the proposed Tower and Airfield Systems Complex site at RAAF Base Williamtown has been designed so that stormwater runoff is directed to the nearest swale drain west of the site.

The NSW EPA has raised a series of points within its submission relating to the management of contamination at the proposed works site at RAAF Base Williamtown, in particular the management of Perfluorooctane Sulphate (PFOS) and Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) contaminated groundwater. Defence has worked with the NSW EPA on appropriate contamination management strategies as part of the New Air Combat Capability (NACC)

facilities project that is currently under construction. Defence will work with the NSW EPA to implement a similar approach to the management of contamination for this project. This approach will include:

- The development of a Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) by environmental consultants taking into consideration site conditions, legislative and Defence requirements. Contamination testing in accordance with the SAP will be carried out before starting construction. The sampling will be performed in a grid pattern to map the zones of various levels of contaminant across the site to establish the degree and location of contamination.
- In line with current agreements with the NSW EPA on the NACC facilities project, Defence proposes that soil with low PFOS/PFOA concentrations will be removed from site as general solid waste. If soil contains higher concentrations of PFOS/PFOA than permitted by the NSW EPA, the soil will be stockpiled on site, ensuring that the material is appropriately contained so as to prevent leaching into the surrounding area.
- If dewatering is required in areas where groundwater contains PFOS/PFOA at levels that exceed the screening criteria adopted by Defence, Defence intends to treat the groundwater to within accepted screening criteria levels prior to re-injecting the water into the vicinity where it was extracted. Trial PFOS and PFOA filtration methods are currently underway as part of the NACC facilities project and it is currently intended these methods will be used on the Project. If no contamination is present, groundwater will be managed in accordance with the Contractors Stormwater and Erosion Management Plan requirements.

I trust that this information clarifies the Defence position with respect to the Hunter Water and NSW EPA submissions and will assist the Committee in its consideration of the Project.

Yours sincerely,

(RICHARD LANZNER)
for N.F. Beutel (Absent on Duty)
Brigadier
Director General Capital Facilities and Infrastructure

19 November 2015

ATTACHMENT A

SITE PLAN OF THE PROPOSED AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER AND AIRFIELD SYSTEMS COMPLEX STORMWATER DRAINAGE

