



BUNDABERG DISTRICT WOMEN VETERANS INC

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President Leone Wilson OAM

Secretary Mary-Rose Mulvaney OAM

24 September 2025

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee Department of the Senate
GPO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600 By email: fadt.sen@aph.gov.au

Attn: Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

Re: Defence Amendment (Defence Honours and Awards Appeal Tribunal) Bill 2025

Bundaberg District Women Veterans Inc expresses angst and disappointment at the subject amendment which we believe undermines the independence of the Defence Honours Awards Tribunal.

We see the lack of consultation with veterans and veteran organisations such as ours as government making a decision that affects veterans such as our members, from an uninformed position. It displays a deliberate lack of transparency.

Commemoration of the service to their nation of all Australian Defence Force members and veterans should be without limitation and likewise recognition of individuals through Defence Honours and Awards.

Veteran awareness of their rights and opportunities varies between individuals transitioning from the ADF. It is a recognised fact that many become focused on new careers or family matters, putting them ahead of personal issues such as support under the Department of Veterans Affairs Acts. We contend that applying for and subsequently appealing a decision regarding recognition under the Defence Honours and Awards could often be a process delayed for the same reason.

Our association objects strongly to any enforced time limit as proposed by this amendment.

Yours sincerely,

Leone Wilson OAM
President

