



Australian Government
Department of Defence
Estate and Infrastructure Group

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DGCFI-ID/OUT/2016/AF24699350

Senator Dean Smith

Chair

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

Parliament House

CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Smith,

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT FOR PUCKAPUNYAL MILITARY AREA
HIGH VOLTAGE POWER SUPPLY UPGRADE PROJECT**

This letter is to inform the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC) about the nature and extent of community consultation undertaken as part of the Puckapunyal Military Area High Voltage Power Supply Upgrade Project (the Project).

Broadly, the strategy for community consultation adopted by Defence was undertaken with the objectives of:

- ensuring that the Community are informed about the project using effective and proven communication channels; and
- providing opportunities to the Community to raise issues and concerns about the Project that could be addressed by Defence as part of this Project.

Defence informed and subsequently conducted briefing sessions upon request for the identified key stakeholders as detailed at annex A.

Two public information sessions were held on 22 March 2016 at the shopping precinct within the Puckapunyal Military Area and at the central shopping district in Seymour, Victoria. The Puckapunyal Military Area session was advertised in the Base Information Circular and the Seymour session was advertised in the Seymour Telegraph Newspaper on 16 March 2016. No members of the public attended or approached the Project team during these two consultation sessions.

The high voltage works that are required to be delivered by the Power Authority, AusNet Services, does impact four property owners along the high voltage power line route known as 'Seymour 4' (SMR4). During design development, these property owners were consulted and the line layout adjusted to suit landowner requirements. In accordance with AusNet Services standard operating practices, no further engagement with these landowners is required until the Project is approved for delivery.

In conclusion, nil issues have been identified during Defence's community consultations that will impact on the proposed works, and Defence is satisfied that it has taken all reasonable

steps to inform the Community about the Project and to provide opportunities for the Community to raise concerns.

Yours sincerely,

N.F. BEUTEL

Brigadier

Director General Capital Facilities and Infrastructure

| April 2016

Annex:

A. List of Key Stakeholders Consulted

**ANNEX A TO
DGCFI/OUT/2016/AF24699350
DATED 1 APR 16**

LIST OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED

Defence consulted with the following stakeholders:

- The Federal Member for McEwan, Mr Rob Mitchell MP, no response was provided to Defence's offer for a meeting, a follow up call was made by Defence on the 29 March 2016. Defence called once again on 30 March 2016 and as a result of this call, the Project Team will provide a briefing on 13 April 2016.
- The Victorian Member for Euroa, Ms Stephanie Ryan MLA, no response was provided to our offer for a meeting. A follow up call was made on the 29 March 2016. Their office advised that no Project brief is required.
- The Mayor of Mitchell Shire Council, Councillor Sue Marstaeller, advised that a meeting to discuss the Project is not required.
- Headquarter Operations Manager Country Fire Authority Region 12, Mr Robert Van Dorsser was briefed on the Project on 13 January 2016.
- AusNet Services, during design development, engaged with four private property owners along SMR4 in relation to easements. AusNet Services subsequently made adjustments to easement lines as required.