



Australian Government

Department of Defence

Defence Support Group

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(Defence LMA)

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Ms Janelle Saffin MP

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

Parliament House

CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Saffin

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT FOR THE LIVERPOOL MILITARY AREA HIGH VOLTAGE ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION UPGRADE (LMA HVU) PROJECT

This letter is to inform the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC) about the nature and extent of community consultations undertaken as part of the LMA HVU project and the issues that have been raised by stakeholders and community members.

No significant issues have been raised by the community in relation to this project. Defence has undertaken wide spread community consultations and has found that there is support for the project. For potential issues such as construction noise and traffic congestion, local residents and businesses appear to be satisfied that strategies have been developed by Defence that will provide appropriate mitigation.

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

- ensuring that the community was informed about the project using effective, proven communication channels; and
- ensuring that the community had every opportunity to raise issues of concern so that wherever feasible they could be addressed by the LMA HVU project in its program of works.

Five main activities were undertaken under the consultation plan, namely:

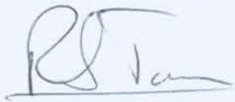
- stakeholder briefings (listed in Annex A);
- establishment of a project-specific telephone number for inquiries and comments;
- direct mail to approximately 900 residents living near Holsworthy Barracks;
- advertisements in the local newspapers; and
- a community information session (held in Moorebank on Wednesday 11 July 2012).

The four people who attended the community information session did not raise any issues regarding the LMA HVU project.

Defence is satisfied that it has taken all reasonable steps to inform the community about the LMA HVU project and to provide opportunities for the community to raise its concerns. The lack of response to the telephone enquiry service and extremely low turn out to the Community Information Session suggests that the key issues have been adequately addressed and that the benefits of the project are generally recognised and not considered contentious.

A table summarising the issues raised by stakeholders and how these have been addressed by Defence is provided for your reference at Attachment 1. A more detailed briefing on methodology, the LMA HVU Community Consultation Plan and outcomes can be provided to the committee upon request.

Yours sincerely,



R. TANZER

Acting Director General

Capital Facilities and Infrastructure

26 July 2012

Annex:

A. List of Stakeholders Consulted

Attachment:

1. Summary of Issues Table

ANNEX A TO

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT FOR LMA HVU PROJECT

LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED

Following is a list of stakeholders who were approached and offered the opportunity for consultation by the LMA HVU Project Team:

- The office of Ms Melanie Gibbons MP, State Member for Menai;
- Mr Farooq Portelli, General Manager, Liverpool City Council; and
- Mr Len Blair-Hickman, Major Projects and Customer Manager, Network Connections, Endeavour Energy.

The following stakeholders were originally to be consulted by the LMA HVU Project.

- NSW Fire Brigade; and
- the NSW Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities.

Following further advice it was confirmed that consultation with these entities was not required as the works took place on Defence Land and did not impact on the local region.

Of all stakeholders only Endeavour Energy requested a detailed briefing on the project. The LMA HVU Project Team has maintained regular contact with Endeavour Energy with the most recent meeting occurring on 12 July 2012.

Issues Matrix		
Issues raised that have been addressed during the consultation period		
Issue:	Discussed with:	How each issue has been addressed:
The impact of construction on the local community	Members of the local community	- All construction works will take place on Defence land, so there should be minimal community impact. - There will be minimal construction traffic on surrounding roads. - The Department of Defence will comply with all Federal and State environmental and construction standards to mitigate any impacts when delivering the LMA HVU Project.
Traffic impacts	Members of the local community	- There will be minimal construction traffic on surrounding roads. - All construction traffic will be via the Holsworthy back gate.
Value for money	Members of the community	- The LMA HVU Project is consistent with the Department of Defence's long-term intention to progressively consolidate in fewer larger bases as it supports the relocation of SME to Holsworthy Barracks. - The Holsworthy Barracks electrical distribution infrastructure is ageing and inefficient and would have required further capital investment in the future.
Impact of increased power requirement within the LMA	Endeavour Energy	- Endeavour is currently upgrading the available power supply to Holsworthy and Wattle Grove. - The Project Team will continue to inform Endeavour Energy of future power requirements and work with Endeavour Energy to ensure the local community and military needs are taken into account.
Impact on employment in the local community	- Defence personnel - Members of the local community	The onsite construction workforce for the proposal is anticipated to be approximately 20-30 people.
Longevity of the Defence presence in the Liverpool Military Area	Defence personnel	The LMA HVU Project supports Defence in sustaining a significant capability in the LMA for the long term.