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30th July, 2002

The Secretary,
 Public Works Committee,
 Parliament House,
 Canberra.

WILLIAMTOWN AIR FORCE BASE REDEVELOPMENT

As per your telephone call, the following is an expansion of my interests :-

- (i) Direct and indirect employment.
 At present the Hunter has an unemployment rate of about 11%. What is the anticipated flow on of indirect jobs that will result from the proposal?
- (ii) Social Infrastructure.
 Does Defence envisage an increase in the needs such as pre-school, child care etc and how are these needs to be financed?
- (iii) Avionics Industries.
 Does Defence plan to establish maintenance and future development of the program within RAAF Williamtown? Will there be an ongoing commitment to the avionics industry such as the development of the next generation of fighter jets?
- (iv) Roads.
 As Defence policy is to integrate RAAF families into the local community, does Defence require upgrading of the existing road and cycleway network to accommodate the increase in road usages?

Drainage.

Drainage has always been a problem in the Williamtown/Salt Ash area. Upgrading and maintenance of the existing system should be a priority and discussions should be held with various stakeholders in the drainage systems to define precisely the areas of responsibilities of each user.

Planning.

A complex issue with regard to aircraft noise. Whereas the noise generated by the aircraft will no doubt fall within the ANEF of the FA/18 and Hawk, Port Stephens Council should devise a strategy with Defence that no inappropriate development occurs within the area. Some areas such as Dun's Creek, while not inside the ANEF of the Williamtown Base, is a sensitive area with regard to aircraft movements. Having been a witness at the 1983 inquiry at

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Williamtown, I am appalled that no statutory body has devised a plan for consumer (home and land buyers) protection with regard to aircraft noise outside the present ANEF system.

Yours faithfully,

Vicki R. Tupman

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P.S. Original Letter following by Mail.