

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Petition of the Tamworth and District Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Tamworth Regional Development Corporation, their Directors, members, and businesses and community of Tamworth and the Tamworth region

Draws to the attention of the House:

The Australian Defence Force Basic Flying Training School (BFTS) has been operated by BAE Systems Australia (BAE) in Tamworth, NSW since 1999. For seven years prior to that, BAE had conducted the Army flying training in Tamworth. The current contract is due to end soon and there has been a request for tenders. There is therefore the risk that the BFTS is relocated.

BFTS contributes in excess of \$20m to the local economy and employs around 135 local people. A relocation of BFTS will therefore have a serious impact on Tamworth's local economy and create a substantial loss of jobs in the area, both directly and indirectly. Furthermore, a relocation of BFTS would be extremely costly in terms of having to replicate the existing Tamworth facilities elsewhere.

BAE is the only company in NSW participating in the Interim Basic Flying Training tender, which, if successful will ensure the BFTS stays in Tamworth.

We therefore ask the House to:

Consider the significant contribution that Tamworth and its regional communities have made to the success of the Army Flying Training and then the Australian Defence Force Basic Flying Training School over the last 18 years and therefore support the BFTS remaining in Tamworth.