

Issues

Environment

- 5.1 The Land Warfare Centre, Canungra, was listed as a place on the Register of the National Estate as “an area of natural significance” in 1996 and is therefore subject to the provisions of the *Australian Heritage Commission Act (1975)*. The area nominated for the Register includes all of the Land Warfare Centre except for the Cantonment (Kokoda Barracks) and a grazing lease on the eastern side of the Close Training Area. The site selected for the proposed Defence Intelligence Training Centre is within the Cantonment area, while the site for the proposed field training facilities is within the area listed on the Register of the National Estate.
- 5.2 Defence advised the Committee that an internal assessment by an appropriately qualified environmental officer determined that the works in this proposal would have no significant environmental impacts. Defence therefore concluded that the project did not require referral to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Senator the Hon Robert Hill, in accordance with the provisions of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.¹
- 5.3 The Committee was also advised by the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency that having reviewed the Defence submission it is satisfied that the proposal is unlikely to have any significant impacts on nature conservation, cultural heritage or other environmental values.²
- 5.4 Defence is confident that any impacts during the construction period can be managed through the application of the Canungra Barracks

1 Submissions, p. 215.

2 Submissions, p. 27.

Environmental Management Plan. As a contractual obligation, the successful building contractor would be required to produce environmental management procedures for construction activities and these procedures would be audited as a component of the responsibilities of the Project Manager.³ In particular there will be a requirement to avoid sediment and eroded material being deposited in the Coomera River.⁴

Heritage

- 5.5 Canungra enjoys a special significance in the history of the Australian Army for veterans of the Second World War as well as those involved in subsequent conflicts. Several memorials have been established on the knoll immediately to the north of the existing Defence Intelligence Training Centre.
- 5.6 The officially recognised Australian Intelligence Corps Museum is located near the existing Main Instructional Facility. This museum has significant training potential for over 60% of the Defence Intelligence Training Centre courses. It is intended to relocate the Museum to a more appropriate facility but this is not within the scope of this project.
- 5.7 Defence advised the Committee that there are no heritage considerations directly applicable to the proposed project.⁵ However, the Australian Heritage Commission (AHC) in its submission indicated that a review of the Defence documentation indicates that it is not possible to assess whether or not the proposal is likely to have an adverse impact on the national estate values of the Canungra Land Warfare Training Centre.
- 5.8 The Committee is aware that the Register of the National Estate (RNE) indicates that place may contain Aboriginal heritage values that are possibly of National Estate significance. However the AHC has not identified, documented or assessed these values.⁶
- 5.9 The AHC noted that the proposed development is close to the bank of the Coomera River. Its location on the floodplain of this river places it within an area which has a very high to high likelihood of containing Aboriginal heritage sites
- 5.10 The AHC also noted that the historical heritage significance of the site has been identified. These values are represented by evidence of early pastoral
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3 Submissions, p. 12.

4 Evidence, p. 10.

5 Evidence, p. 12.

6 Register of the National Estate Database No. 017251

use, as well as evidence of its use more recently as a key military training centre. There are also a number of memorials on the site.⁷

- 5.11 In response to the issues raised by the AHC, Defence stressed that the main facility will be located in the Kokoda Barracks Cantonment Area, which although adjacent to, is not included in the RNE listing. Defence also fully appreciates the importance of the protection of the natural and cultural significance of this area and will ensure that construction and operation of the new main facility will not impact significantly in any way.
- 5.12 The Commission's submission also notes the lack of detail relating to the location of the field training facilities. The proposed location of these facilities was only resolved immediately prior to the public hearing. Although located within the RNE listing area, Defence believes that the impact of the proposal is not significant. The works, consisting of a bush access track, placement of four demountable buildings, a pump-out environment friendly septic tank and a small gravel based hardstand within a fenced area, are located within an area of secondary regrowth.
- 5.13 Defence believes that through strict application of the requirements of the Canungra Land Management Plan, and reinforced by the requirements of the Defence approved Certificate of Environmental Compliance, that all appropriate actions will be taken by those involved in the project, should items of Aboriginal and/or historical significance be located on site during construction.
- 5.14 Defence in response to a number of recommendations made by the AHC has indicated that:
- a survey of the vegetation and fauna of the proposed development site will be undertaken during the design phase of the project, to minimise any significant construction impacts;
 - a survey for Aboriginal artefacts by a qualified archaeologist, with the assistance of representatives of the traditional owners, will be undertaken prior to the commencement of the design phase of the project;
 - Defence will ensure the conservation of Aboriginal cultural heritage should any be identified;
 - a heritage study relating to cultural and military history of the Cantonment Area is presently being undertaken;
 - Defence appreciates the natural and cultural significance of the Canungra Close Training Area, including the Cantonment Area, and

7 Submissions, p. 12.

will take all appropriate steps to ensure that the construction, and later operation, of the new facilities does not detract from this significance.⁸

- 5.15 Subsequent to the public hearing, Defence advised the Committee that a meeting has been held with the Australian Heritage Commission to discuss the cultural and heritage aspects of the revised siting of the field training facility within the Canungra Land Warfare Centre Training Area. The Australian Heritage Commission advised Defence that the proposed location of the field training facility is acceptable subject to any conservation requirements that may arise from a cultural heritage study and a fauna study being undertaken by Defence⁹

Energy conservation measures

- 5.16 Defence stated that in accordance with Commonwealth Government's commitment to ecologically sustainable development and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through improved energy management, maximum energy efficiency would be a key objective in the design, development and delivery of the proposed facility.
- 5.17 Defence facility proposals include an analysis of energy delivery and consumption and incorporate an estimate of any additional energy consumption resulting from the implementation of the proposal. The energy efficiency of new and refurbished buildings is to be audited within twelve months of occupancy. Defence reports annually to Parliament on its energy management performance and on its progress in meeting the energy efficiency targets established by the Government.
- 5.18 The design of the proposed facility would consider the feasibility of the following measures to reduce energy consumption in a cost effective manner:
- orientation to sun and prevailing winds for temperature control and lighting;
 - insulation and weatherproofing;
 - solar energy and solar hot water systems;
 - gas-fuelled heating systems;
 - geothermal air conditioning;
 - energy efficient lighting and appropriate lighting control systems;

8 Submissions, pp. 213-214.

9 Submissions, p. 237

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- energy efficient plant and equipment;
 - zones within facilities to control energy use; and
 - building management systems as part of an area energy management strategy.¹⁰
- 5.19 In its submission to the Committee the Australian Greenhouse Office (AGO) stated that its interest in the project lies in the extent to which the Commonwealth energy policy has been observed in the planning stages for the project and in minimising greenhouse gas emissions from all stages of the project including its operational life.
- 5.20 With regard to the Canungra project, the AGO has a number of concerns regarding the extent to which energy efficiency issues will be appropriately addressed. These concerns are:
- while there is the intention to incorporate "maximum energy efficiency" in design, development and delivery, this would be balanced by cost effectiveness criteria and the feasibility of specific measures such as orientation, insulation and geothermal air conditioning systems. This suggests a potential conflict between achieving energy efficiency outcomes and restraining the costs of the project;
 - there is no expressed intention of consultation with the AGO or other relevant Commonwealth bodies regarding energy efficiency matters; and
 - there does not appear to be an appropriate mechanism to assess the extent to which "maximum energy efficiency" has been achieved.
- 5.21 Defence advised the Committee that prior to the public hearing it met with officers of AGO and both parties agreed to further develop specific guidelines for the proper application of the Commonwealth's energy policies within current and future Defence capital works projects.
- 5.22 In relation to the issues raised by the AGO in relation to the Canungra project Defence advised the Committee that:
- with regard to the incorporation of "maximum energy efficiency", Defence in developing the design of a facility must balance the purpose of the facility, the functionality and cost effectiveness of the design with the desired energy efficiency outcomes to ensure proper use of Commonwealth funds;
 - Defence has agreed to engage an expert energy adviser to achieve maximum possible energy efficiency wherever possible;
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10 Submissions, pp. 16-17.

- an energy efficiency target would be set for the design and operation of the facility at an appropriate time and the expert energy adviser would undertake periodic assessment of project progress in energy efficiency matters;
- it is the intention of Defence to include consultation with the AGO on energy efficiency matters on all other future capital works projects at the time of referral to the Committee;
- further discussion will be held on the development of an appropriate mechanism to assess the extent to which the design and construction of facilities in a project has achieved “maximum energy efficiencies”; and
- Defence would sign-off on the energy performance at the hand-over stage of the project.¹¹

Back Creek Landscape

Possible environmental impact

- 5.23 In its submission the Back Creek Gorge Conservation Association Inc. (BCGCA) raised a number of concerns regarding the impact of the Canungra project on both the Back Creek Landscape and Killarney Glen which are to the south of Kokoda Barracks. BCGCA is concerned that Defence in its submission does not identify any adverse environmental or heritage impacts arising from this proposal.
- 5.24 BCGCA notes that in its submission Defence refers only to the natural values of the Canungra listing and does not mention the Back Creek Landscape listing which BCGCA believes has social, aesthetic, historical and natural estate values. In this context the Committee notes that the Register of the National Estate listing for the Back Creek Landscape indicates that it is possible that indigenous cultural values of national estate significance may exist in the area but as yet the Australian Heritage Commission has not identified, documented nor assessed these values.¹²
- 5.25 Particular concern was expressed at the proposal by Defence to establish new remote facilities. BCGCA pointed out that Defence in its submission did not specify the exact location of these facilities and it was concerned that these remote facilities could have serious adverse environmental and

11 Submissions, pp. 217-218.

12 Register of the National Estate Database No. 014735.

heritage consequences for the Back Creek Landscape listed area and the adjoining Commonwealth land in Back Creek Gorge.¹³

- 5.26 BCGCA stressed that it is not opposed to any justified redevelopment of the Defence Intelligence Training Centre that is in the national interest and does not result in adverse impacts on Killarney Glen or Back Creek Gorge.¹⁴
- 5.27 Many of the concerns expressed by BCGCA were also shared by the Beechmont Community Association Inc. It stressed that the Defence Intelligence Training Centre proposal must be carefully scrutinise for any possible future negative effects on Back Creek Gorge. It highlighted the importance of Back Creek Gorge to the social and economic development of the Beechmont Community.¹⁵
- 5.28 In response to these concerns, Defence made the following points.
- 5.29 The Canungra Land Warfare Centre Training Area (part) is listed on the Register of the National Estate for its natural values. This area is now known as the Canungra Close Training Area. The listing excludes the Canungra Cantonment, which is the site of the main facility within the project.¹⁶
- 5.30 However, the remote facilities for field training were to be located in the Canungra Land Warfare Centre Training Area that is listed in the Register of the National Estate. The facilities were to be located approximately two kilometres to the north of the Back Creek Landscape that is also listed in the Register of the National Estate. Subsequently, Defence discovered that this located would conflict with other range activities and an alternative site has been identified. This site is some four kilometres to the north of the Back Creek landscape.¹⁷
- 5.31 Defence did not make reference in its Statement of Evidence to the Back Creek Landscape as the proposed facilities are not located in, nor will they affect, that area.
- 5.32 Defence, stressed that it will continues to ensure the protection of the environment in the Canungra Land Warfare Centre Training Area.¹⁸

13 Submissions, p. 31.

14 Submissions, p. 32.

15 Submissions, p. 150.

16 Submissions, pp. 169-170.

17 Evidence, p. 2.

18 Submissions, pp. 169-170.

Public access

- 5.33 Defence advised the Committee that from May 2000 the public was for the first time granted legal access to Killarney Glen. Access arrangements were developed with the intention of providing for the needs and concerns of both the Army and the public. Mechanisms were put in place to control public access to Killarney Glen so that training could be conducted safely. It is estimated that on current training levels, Army will only require exclusive access to the training area surrounding Killarney Glen for an aggregate of about three months per year.
- 5.34 While granting access, the Hon John Moore, the former Minister of Defence, stressed that the public should acknowledge that Killarney Glen and surrounding areas are, first and foremost military training areas. Army must be able to use the area uninterrupted by civilian visitors and without any prospect of potentially dangerous training activities endangering members of the public.¹⁹
- 5.35 BCGCA advised the Committee of an unfortunate incident that occurred on 13 July 2001 when a visitor to Killarney Glen reported firing in the area although the area was not closed to the public.²⁰
- 5.36 At the public hearing Defence stated that the incident is being investigated as Defence regards any breakdown in range security as a very serious matter.²¹

Public involvement

- 5.37 When the current arrangements for public access were established in May 2000, it was made clear by the then Minister for Defence that he envisaged that Army would consult with interest groups and the local community on all matters that may affect future access to Killarney Glen. However he also stressed that should a need arise in the future to increase training throughput the amount of public access to Killarney Glen may need to be adjusted.²²
- 5.38 At the public hearing Defence stated that it was proposed to establish an environmental advisory committee for the Canungra Close Training Area (CCTA) to provide a forum at which local environmental issues could be discussed. Unfortunately a letter (dated 10 April 2001) advising the

19 Submissions, pp. 16-127.

20 Evidence, p. 23

21 Evidence, p. 46.

22 Submissions, p. 127.

BCGCA of this initiative was not received. It is Defence's intention that a local community group would be included on the advisory committee.²³

- 5.39 The Committee understands that both the BCGCA and the BCA have now been provided with copies of the above correspondence.²⁴

Foreign Trainees

- 5.40 In addition to ADF trainees, the Defence Intelligence Training Centre also conducts Defence Cooperation Program sponsored training of foreign trainees. Defence advised that over the last three years some 65 foreign trainees had attended courses at the Centre. While in the last year 24 trainees attended. These trainees were from the United Kingdom, the United States of America, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Tonga, the Philippines, Malaysia and Singapore.²⁵
- 5.41 At the public hearing the representatives of Catholic Worker stated that any redevelopment of the Defence Intelligence Training Centre that includes the need for the training of foreign military forces that are engaged in human rights abuses should be scaled down by the elimination of that training. Catholic Worker made particular reference to the training of Indonesian personnel at Canungra.²⁶
- 5.42 In response to the Catholic Worker, Defence stated that the decision on which countries would receive training at the Defence Intelligence Training Centre was a matter for the Government to decide and would change with international circumstances over the years. In relation to the training of members of the Indonesian Armed Forces this had last occurred in 1997 when three were trained.²⁷

23 Submissions, p. 222.

24 Submissions, p. 220.

25 Evidence, pp. 4 and 47.

26 Submissions, p. 153.

27 Evidence, p. 47.