

Submission No. 8

(RAAF East Sale)

Date: 3/11/11

03 November 2011

Committee Secretary
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT OF RAAF BASE EAST SALE

RAAF Base East Sale has for over 65 years been a valued part of the Sale community and the regional economy. During all of these years, Council has protected the base from urban encroachment.

There are over 600 uniform and civilian staff permanently based at RAAF Base East Sale along with approximately 200 uniformed students attending training at the base. As such, RAAF Base East Sale is one of the largest employers in Wellington Shire.

Council has worked closely with the Department of Defence to make RAAF Base East Sale a posting where families are welcomed and supported. The Council website www.raafbaseeastsaleregion.com.au provides information on employment for partners, schools for children, lifestyle attractions and real estate.

Wellington Shire Council endorses the redevelopment of infrastructure at the Base to ensure that working and living conditions of the service men and women and the contractors meet modern standards.

The proposed project comes at a time when there is significant insecurity among businesses as a result of putting a price on carbon and anticipated impact on businesses in and around the Latrobe Valley.

A Community Consultation meeting held in Sale on October 26 attracted over 70 business and community registrations. The majority of these were business owners from the Latrobe City, Wellington and East Gippsland Shire Council areas, reflecting the desire of local businesses to tender for the proposed works.

Council and the Industry Capability Network will work together to ensure that local and regional businesses are fully aware of and educated about OH&S and National Code of Practice requirements for working on a Defence base. This is expected to maximize the potential for local businesses to participate in the tender when the project is approved.

Council has worked closely with Thiess and Aurecon to ensure that any residents are informed and potential traffic challenges associated with the project are addressed well in advance.

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Should you wish clarification on any of the aspects raised in this submission, please contact Senior Economic Development Officer Ian Campbell on (03) 5142 3602 or email ian.campbell@wellington.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

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LESLEY FAIRHALL

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