



Australian Government

Department of Defence

Defence Support Group

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Ms Kirsten Livermore MP

Chair

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

Parliament House

CANBERRA ACT 2600

Submission No. 01

(Tarin Kot)

Date: 24/04/13

Dear Ms Livermore,

**MULTI NATIONAL BASE TARIN KOT REMEDIATION PWC PROJECT
REFERRAL – PUBLIC STATEMENT.**

The purpose of this letter is to provide the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (the Committee) with a public statement regarding the referral of the Multi National Base Tarin Kot (MNB-TK) Remediation Project.

On 26 March 2013, the Minister for Defence announced the closure of MNB-TK, Australia's main operating base located within the Uruzgan Province of Afghanistan, by the end of 2013. This situation has resulted from the transfer of Uruzgan provincial security responsibility from the International Security Assistance Force to the Afghanistan National Security Force.

Australia has occupied MNB-TK since 2005. Over the ensuing period, Australia has invested in the development of support infrastructure and facilities for the conduct of security operations. This includes protected living and working accommodation for Defence personnel and other Australian Government employees.

As part of the closure of MNB-TK by the end of 2013, the Department of Defence is required to undertake the necessary remediation activities in a safe and environmentally compliant manner to ensure the base is returned to Afghan control in a condition suitable for future Afghan use.

The closure of MNB-TK will be managed by a Force Extraction Unit. The Force Extraction Unit will manage the transfer of suitable Australian legacy infrastructure and facilities to the Afghanistan National Security Force and the deconstruction of all other infrastructure and facilities that are not suitable for transfer.

The deconstruction work is anticipated to be performed by both Defence and contracted labour. A specialist environmental officer has been deployed to MNB-TK to assist with environmental clearance activities prior to the transfer of the base back to Afghan control.

The MNB-TK remediation works are estimated to cost up to \$47m, exclusive of Goods and Services Tax.

The project was referred to the Committee on 24 April 2013 for consideration. Defence officials are available to provide further information in support of this proposal as the Committee may require.

Yours sincerely,

D.S. Naumann
Brigadier
Director General Capital Facilities and Infrastructure

24 April 2013