

Infrastructure Division
R4-2-040
Russell Offices
CANBERRA ACT 2600

DGIAD/2003/105
2002/115146/1

SUBMISSION 9

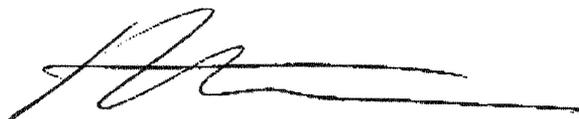
The Secretary
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Attention: Ms Margaret Swieringa

**DEFENCE RESPONSE TO PWC SUBMISSION FROM THE AUSTRALIAN
HERITAGE COMMISSION (AHC)**

1. Thank you for referring a copy of the letter dated 29 August 2003 from the Australian Heritage Commission concerning the RAAF Base Richmond Reinvestment project.
2. The Commission identifies that the majority of the proposed works are unlikely to have any significant or adverse effect on the heritage values of RAAF Base Richmond, and indeed, the proposed removal of demountable structures will enhance the heritage values. The Commission does however note that the three Bellman hangars, Buildings 311, 312, and 313, proposed for removal do have heritage significance.
3. Defence has established a dedicated Heritage Management Section within Infrastructure Division. Heritage obligations and opportunities are taken into account when decisions are taken about Defence assets. The Heritage Management section develops policies and co-ordinates outcomes that strike a balance between Defence capability, the requirements of heritage bodies and legislation, and the expectations of Australia's society now and in the future. Defence agrees that any areas of heritage significance need to be identified and managed appropriately and has consulted with the Australian Heritage Commission on the proposed works.
4. While previous Cultural and Heritage Assessments have not identified any places or items of Indigenous heritage significance, Defence notes the possibility that historical or indigenous archaeological material may be located in the area. Contractors will be required to report and protect any such sites that are uncovered during construction.

5. The Department will continue to liase with the Australian Heritage Commission regarding the proposed removal of Bellman Hangars 311, 312, and 313 to fully explore any viable alternatives to their removal.



P. J. Hutchinson
Brigadier
Director General Infrastructure and Asset Development
(02) 6266 8101

4 September 2003