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(Defence MUR)

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Ms Janelle Saffin MP
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Saffin

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT FOR THE MOOREBANK UNITS
RELOCATION (MUR) PROJECT**

This letter is to inform the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC) about the nature and extent of community consultations undertaken as part of the MUR project and the issues that have been raised by stakeholders and community members.

In general, no significant issues have been raised through Defence's comprehensive and wide spread community consultations and mostly there is support for the project as it will generate wide scale employment for local small to medium sized businesses. For potential issues such as construction noise and traffic congestion, local residents and businesses appear to be satisfied that strategies have been developed by Defence that will provide appropriate mitigation.

Broadly, the strategy for community consultation adopted by Defence was undertaken with the objectives of:

- ensuring that the community was informed about the project using effective, proven communication channels; and
- ensuring that the community had every opportunity to raise issues of concern so that wherever feasible they could be addressed by the MUR project in its program of works.

Six main activities were undertaken under the consultation plan, namely:

- stakeholder briefings (listed in Annex A);
- media information sessions (6 media articles were published in the period leading up to 12 July 2012 regarding MUR or the broader Defence presence in the Liverpool Military Area);
- establishment of a project web page including e-mail facility for inquiries and comments;

- direct mail to approximately 900 residents living near Holsworthy Barracks;
- advertisements in the local newspapers; and
- a community information session (held in Moorebank on Wednesday 11 July 2012).

The main issues discussed with the four people who attended the community information session were:

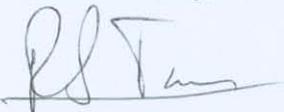
- general information regarding the project scope, including clarification that the project did not involve loss of any Defence facilities from the area;
- the impact of changes to Heathcote Road; and
- the impact on existing Defence heritage items.

Information was sought about the proposed Moorebank Intermodal Terminal Project. These inquiries were referred to the Moorebank Project Office.

Defence is satisfied that it has taken all reasonable steps to inform the community about the MUR project and to provide opportunities to raise any concerns they may have. The lack of response to the email inquiry service and extremely low turn out to the Community Information Session suggests that the key issues have been adequately addressed and that the benefits of the project are generally recognised and not considered contentious. The lack of engagement by all but a very small, but vocal, number of opponents of the Moorebank IMT project is suggestive that the proposed MUR project is seen in an overwhelmingly positive light in terms of investment by Defence in the south west region of Sydney.

A table summarizing the issues raised by stakeholders and how these have been addressed by Defence is provided for your reference at Attachment 1. A more detailed briefing on methodology, the MUR Stakeholder Consultation Plan and outcomes can be provided to the committee upon request.

Yours sincerely,



R. TANZER
Acting Director General
Capital Facilities and Infrastructure

26 July 2012

Annex:

A. List of Stakeholders Consulted

Attachment:

1. Summary of Issues Table

Annex A
(MUR Stakeholder Consultation)

List of Stakeholders Consulted

Following is a list of stakeholders consulted by the MUR Project Team:

- The office of Ms Melanie Gibbons MP, State Member for Menai;
- Mr Farooq Portelli, General Manager, Liverpool City Council;
- Lt Gen (ret) Ken Gillespie, Advisor to the NSW Government on Defence matters;
- Ms Anne Glover, Director of Investment and Export Services, NSW Trade and Investment, responsible for the State's Defence program, and other officials;
- Ms Karin Bishop, Deputy CEO, Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils; and
- Mr Kerry Bartlett, CEO, Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils.

Issues Matrix		
Issues raised that have been addressed during the consultation period		
Issue:	Discussed with:	How each issue has been addressed:
The impact of construction on the local community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the local community • The media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Besides Heathcote Road works, all construction works will take place on Defence land, so there should be minimal community impact. • While there may be a marginal increase in construction traffic along Heathcote Road and Moorebank Avenue, there will be minimal construction traffic on Anzac Road. • The Department of Defence will comply with all Federal and State environmental and construction standards to mitigate any impacts when delivering the MUR Project.
Traffic impacts and changes to Heathcote Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the local community • Political stakeholders • The media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While there may be a marginal increase in construction traffic along Heathcote Road and Moorebank Avenue, there will be minimal construction traffic on Anzac Road. • The proposed upgrades have been designed using complex traffic models that aim to alleviate congestion on Heathcote Road at the Macarthur Drive intersection. • The changes to the barracks entry on Heathcote Road will also aim to alleviate existing traffic congestion. • Members of the community are still able to comment on the upgrade to Heathcote Road as part of the Development Application process.
Heritage concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of local the community • Defence personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A detailed Heritage Impact Assessment has been prepared for the new works. This has been drafted for Defence by expert professionals to address likely concerns of Defence and the community. • Items which have been identified as having heritage value have been accounted for, and either retained or relocated as part of the works.
Environmental concerns – general	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the local community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Environmental Impact Statement for the MUR Project concluded that there would be minimal environmental impact as a result of the works. • Targeted surveys have also been conducted studying the threatened species potentially present in the vicinity of the development. These surveys have considered the potential impact of the project including air, water, noise and light. • The MUR project has been referred by Defence under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999 (Cwlth)</i> due to the heritage values of the proposed development site at Holsworthy and need to clear 11.1Ha of Castlereagh Scribbly Gum Woodland in establishing that site. • The decision to undertake works on a brown field site has minimised any potential environmental

		<p>impact.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Project will not impact the threatened Cumberland Plain Woodland ecological community that exists in surrounding parts of bushland near Holsworthy Barracks. • All works will be managed in accordance with the Defence Environmental Management Framework.
Environmental concerns – Cumberland Plain Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political Stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Project will not impact on the Cumberland Plain Woodland.
Value for money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political stakeholders • Members of the community • The media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MUR Project is consistent with the Department of Defence’s long-term intention to progressively consolidate in fewer larger bases to improve operational efficiencies through increased co-location of Defence units. • The Moorebank site is ageing and would have required significant capital investment in the future. • The MUR Project provides an opportunity for cost effective capability upgrades and consolidation of military capability and support elements in one location at Holsworthy.
Impact on employment in the local community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defence personnel • Political stakeholders • Members of the local community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The onsite construction workforce for the proposal is anticipated to be approximately 2000 people.
Longevity of the Defence presence in the Liverpool Military Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defence personnel • NSW Government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MUR Project results in Defence sustaining a significant component of capability in the LMA for the long term. • The Project involves a relocation of units from Moorebank to Holsworthy, not a reduction in units or personnel.
Visual amenity of proposed changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community member 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All construction works will take place on Defence land and should not affect the visual amenities of local residents.
Location of explosive detection dog kennels and training areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The issue of noise relating arising from the proximity of explosive detection dog kennels and training areas to residential areas was raised during one stakeholder briefing. • The new location of the explosive detection dog kennels and training areas has been strategically located so as not to adversely affect training activities at Holsworthy or neighbouring activities and complies with NSW planning guidance for noise impacts. • Noise monitoring has been undertaken to ensure a compliant design eventuates.
EOD and counter IED (explosive demolitions) training and range facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proximity of EOD, counter IED and (explosive demolitions) training and range facilities was raised during one stakeholder briefing. • All training involving explosive demolition will be conducted on existing ranges at Holsworthy as is currently the case and no change to impact is anticipated.

Issues raised that have not been addressed during the consultation period		
Removal of the School of Military Engineering golf course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the local community • The media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice was provided that the golf course does not contribute to Defence force generation, as such is not a core Defence activity, and consequentially will not be relocated to Holsworthy.
The provision of access for cyclists/pedestrians within the Heathcote Road upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All works to date have been consistent with requirements of the Liverpool City Council and Roads and Maritime Services.
Issues that cannot be addressed		
Moorebank Intermodal Terminal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the community who attended the information session • Political stakeholders • The media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inquiries about the Moorebank Intermodal Terminal were directed to the Moorebank Project Office as they not included in the scope of this project.