

SUBMISSION .....14.....

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

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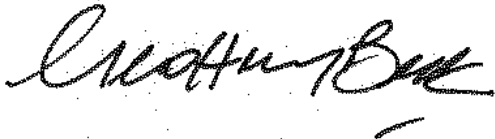
The Secretary  
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Attention: Ms Margaret Swieringa

### **RESPONSE TO PWC FROM THE HUNTER WATER CORPORATION**

1. Thank you for referring a copy of the letter dated 26 July 2002 from the Hunter Water Corporation concerning the RAAF Base Williamtown Redevelopment Stage 1 and Airborne Early Warning and Control Aircraft Facilities project.
2. Hunter Water Corporation has drawn to our attention the importance of the Tomago Sandbeds Water Supply Source, and the potential impact of this proposal on that source and the Corporation's operations within the Tomago Sandbeds. Defence acknowledge the potential for contamination of the waters in the sandbeds due to normal operations and through construction related activities. The Base Environmental Management Plan that is currently under development will include management and mitigation measures to mitigate potential impacts on the Tomago sandbeds as a result of Defence operations. Likewise, contractors will be required to develop site specific Environmental Management Procedures to cover their construction activities. Defence would consult with Hunter Water Corporation when these Environmental Management Procedures become available.
3. Defence acknowledges the Corporation's comments concerning development proposals currently under consideration by Port Stephens Council and will consult with the Corporation and the Council during detailed design of the sewerage facilities. Defence will consider as part of these consultations the apportionment of costs associated with the overall servicing strategy.
4. Defence is well aware of the Corporations's requirements for access to infrastructure associated with Bore Station 7 and other Corporation facilities in the area. Defence will consult with the Corporation during design of the Ordnance Loading complex to best satisfy the Corporation's requirements, within the constraints associated with the handling and storage of explosive ordnance.

5. Defence acknowledges the Hunter Water Corporation's occupational health and safety responsibilities for its employees, particularly while working within specified explosive ordnance safeguarding arcs. Defence will consult with the Corporation on this issue. Indications are that the access arrangements currently in place should be able to continue during construction and after completion of this project.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. R. Beck', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

**G. R. Beck**  
Brigadier  
Director General Capital Infrastructure  
62657481

2 August 2002