



Australian Government
Department of Defence
Corporate Services &
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HI 311 /2003

24 November 2003



Mr Brenton Holmes
Secretary
Senate Legislation Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Defence and Trade
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Holmes

I write to clarify evidence that I gave at the Senate Legislation Committee budget supplementary estimates hearing on 5 November 2003 concerning the Defence land at Point Nepean (Portsea).

A. In answer to a question from Senator Allison (page 76 of *Proof Hansard* Wednesday 5 November 2003), I stated that the category of protection of the vegetation on the site is "to the extent that that natural vegetation has been identified as having an environmental value in the environment management plan".

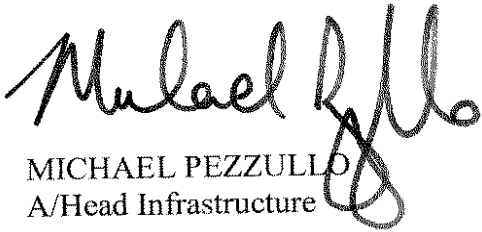
Technically an environmental management plan for the site has yet to be produced. The production of an environmental management plan is an obligation on the future lessee of the site, with the requirement that this plan be developed within 6 months of the commencement date of the lease. Protection of the vegetation, including the coastal moonah woodland, will be ensured under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999)*. The environmental value of the natural vegetation is also outlined in several site studies including the Flora and Fauna Overview Report, the Coastal Technical Status Report and the Landscape Assessment Technical Status Report, studies to which I referred in my evidence.

B. In answer to a question from Senator Evans (page 81 of *Proof Hansard* Wednesday 5 November 2003), I stated that the Evaluation Committee comprised of five people, chaired by a director within my branch, and supported by an officer from the Australian Heritage Commission. The Evaluation Committee also consisted of a property adviser and legal adviser, with a probity adviser also present to observe the proceedings.

To this information I need to add that the Evaluation Committee also included a planning and environmental adviser, making a total of six people.

I apologise for any misunderstanding that may have arisen.

Yours sincerely



MICHAEL PEZZULLO
A/Head Infrastructure