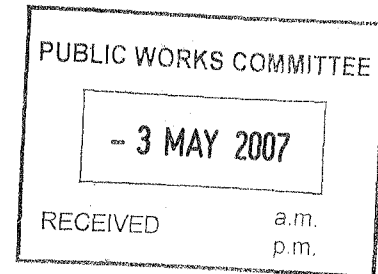


**Australian Government****Department of Defence**
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Strategic Infrastructure Projects
BP3-2-A039
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DGSIP/OUT/2007/140SUBMISSION**6**.....**The Hon Judi Moylan MP**
The Chair
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works
Department of House of Representatives
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Moylan,

Re: PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR PROJECT SINGLE LEAP – PHASE 2

I am writing in response to Submission No. 3 from Mr Tony Zappia, the Mayor of Salisbury in relation to the proposed Project Single LEAP Phase 2 project.

Background

In Submission No.3, Mr Zappia raises some important issues relating to proposed provision of permanent living in accommodation at RAAF Base Edinburgh.

Supplementary Submission

Defence acknowledges the supportive submission of the City of Salisbury and agrees there will be a positive economic and social benefit to the local community from the implementation of the proposed project.

In response to specific issues raised by Mr Zappia, Defence offers the following comments:

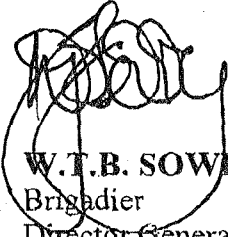
- In the 2004-05 Budget, the Government agreed to provide \$113.2m over the following four years for Project Single LEAP, with an annual ongoing funding commitment, to provide modern accommodation to Australian Defence Force (ADF) members without dependants, potentially through Public Private Partnership arrangements.
- Living in accommodation (LIA) is a key contributor to enhancing recruitment and retention of ADF personnel. The standard of LIA to be provided under Single LEAP is for those ADF members required to live on base for operational or 'duty of care' reasons.
- Under Public Private Partnership arrangements and subject to Government approval of this approach, Defence proposes to contract through one single entity which would

generally operate as a 'Special Purpose Vehicle' known as Defence's strategic partner. The strategic partner would be supported by debt and equity financiers and sub-contractors for the design, construction, operations and maintenance of the facilities over the 30 year duration of the contract. As stated in the Statement of Evidence, it is anticipated that a considerable number of job opportunities for local workers would be generated during the construction period. Furthermore, it could be expected that Defence's strategic partner would provide job opportunities to the local community during the operational phase of the contract (post construction) in the areas of whole-of-life maintenance and accommodation services.

- Defence is committed to reducing the environmental impact of its land, building and infrastructure assets, which form the largest property portfolio in the Commonwealth. The Defence Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) Strategy defines one of Defence's strategic initiatives as: "*Defence is to conserve water and energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions*". The Defence ESD Strategy recognises the importance of addressing ESD principles and a whole-of-life approach during all phases of asset development.
- Project Single LFAP Phase 2 will be undertaken in accordance with Defence ESD policies, the Defence Green Building Requirements and the Defence Environmental Management System (EMS), which is consistent with International Standards Organisation (ISO) 14001. Defence's EMS incorporates a Sustainable Water Management Strategy to guide responsible water usage practices.
- Accordingly, sustainable water management practices will be incorporated into the Single LEAP development from the planning and design stages right through to daily operation. Stormwater flows from the Single LEAP site at RAAF Base Edinburgh will be modelled in the context of downstream loads and potential stormwater harvesting and on-site reuse opportunities will be investigated and incorporated where appropriate.
- With regards to flora and landscape development, Single LEAP is aiming to optimise the construction footprint at the detailed design stage to minimise, wherever possible, the loss of mature trees, as it is recognised that these will add to the amenity of the accommodation for residents, provide shade and erosion protection and provide habitat for local fauna. Additional new landscaping around the accommodation blocks will utilise local native drought-tolerant plantings which will require minimal-to-no watering and be suitable for the Adelaide environment. Where possible, any removed native vegetation will be mulched for grounds maintenance, and replanting will be commenced as soon as possible after completion of construction works to minimise erosion potential. Effective groundcover will be maintained around the LIA during its lifespan, and ongoing weed management strategies and vegetation selection guidance will ensure that the landscape remains populated with valuable and suitable native vegetation.
- In recognition of the significant scope of works being undertaken at RAAF Base Edinburgh over the coming years, Defence is currently drafting a Communications Plan to further guide, develop and facilitate community consultation over this period of significant investment in the region. Defence looks forward to continuing its association with the City of Salisbury through existing interactive fora such as the Greater Edinburgh Parks Steering Group and the Land Management Corps Strategic Meeting and

establishing additional communications to further enhance assimilation into the local community, should the City of Salisbury desire.

Yours sincerely,



W.T.B. SOWRY
Brigadier
Director General Strategic Infrastructure Projects

3 May 2007