

Ms Leyne  
Inquiry Secretary  
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works  
House of Representatives  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600

**RE: ROBERTSON BARRACKS REDEVELOPMENT, ROBERSTON REPLACEMENT  
TANK FACILITIES**

Dear Ms Leyne

Firstly let me explain the area we live in. The blocks are all approximately 5 acres. The majority of residents who live in the area are business people and have families with young children and also grand-children that visit frequently. They purchased their properties so that the children could safely ride their bikes and or horses (not live their lives stuck inside playing on computers) in the area without fear they would end up in an accident. Unfortunately this is far from the current situation.

The residents have had many meetings and invited a representative from Robertson Barracks to these meetings to make the army aware of the problems but unfortunately no one bothered to turn up. I believe they have buried their heads in the sand and hope we will go away. I can assure you this is not going to happen.

We have personally had two vehicles roll over several times within our property, not to mention the many other accidents that have occurred at the intersection of Campbell, Stevens and Brandt Roads. There has also been a motor bike fatality on Campbell Road the person involved being a member of the army.

My neighbour and myself used to walk every morning until we had several close calls where Army personnel have veered across the road and headed towards us.

Before I go any further I must explain that when I phoned the Barracks and complained I was asked "How did I know that the persons involved in the incidents were Army personnel?" my answer to this is that unless we have two thousand people out there that take the time to go to the Fancy Dress Shop every day and hire army uniforms they are definitely from Robertson Barracks!!!!

At the end of Campbell Road there is a government road sign that states "**No through road to Casuarina**" and just prior to turning Left on McMillans Road into Farrar Road there is another government road sign that states: "**No through Traffic to Robertson Barracks**". (I have attached photos of these signs and also the intersections involved) There is also a constant stream of Army Trucks, vehicles, vans, both camouflage and Defence number plated vehicles and cars carrying hierarchy through the area so the problem stems right throughout the ranks of your Army staff.

As we all have to live in the community together I would have expected that out of respect for the residents of Knuckey Lagoon the army personnel would have adhered to these signs. The strange thing is that it is no shorter to come through the area than go around. The problem is that if they turn left into Stevens Road they actually have to stop and then turn. If they turn into Brandt Road they just cut the corner and speed up.

The speed limit on Campbell Road is 80 Kph and on Brandt and Farrar Roads it is 60 Kph. Neither of these speed limits are adhered to by the personnel. We have had cars overtake us on the gravel side of the road as we are driving to the correct speed limit. At the junction of Campbell, Stevens and Brandt Roads I have had many near misses as the Army Personnel **PRESUME** that I am going to turn into Campbell Road which is not the case!!

Just for the record the same problem happens if I travel down Thorngate Road as the personnel coming out of the Main Gate presume that I am going into the Barracks and cut across in front of our vehicle. Drivers who are under the influence of alcohol are continually using these roads and this compounds the problems dramatically.

Also at the intersection of Farrar and Brandt Roads there is a small traffic island in the middle of the road. The Army personnel will cut the corner on the wrong side of the road!!

The residents of the area are very proud of Knuckey Lagoon and look after their gardens etc so it is upsetting to see the amount of rubbish that is thrown out of the vehicles using these roads as a so called short cut to the Barracks.

During the construction of the facilities for the Helicopter squadron there was a second command post gate opened on Campbell Road. Obviously with the position of this gate the traffic from the Barracks increased immensely. When our local member Gerry Wood enquired about this he was told that it was only temporary and would be closed once the construction was completed. This has not been the case and the gate is still being used by Army personnel.

In the "Statement of Evidence" Section Economic, Environmental and Social Impact.

Establishment Population.

Section 91: states there will be a net increase of around 400 personnel at Robertson Barracks as a result of the HNA.

Section 92: States that there will be an increase of vehicular traffic in and out of the base via the main gate and Thorngate Road. Why is Campbell, Brandt and Farrar not noted in this Section????

**There is no mention of the increase of traffic on the Brandt and Farrar Roads which are already over taxed as it is. If you check with the Litchfield Council who maintains these roads I am sure you will find that these roads were not constructed to take the amount of traffic that is currently using the roads. Mc Millans Road is a main Road and can handle extra traffic.**

The residents have been trying for years to have this problem solved. The current Minister Damian Hale during an interview with 104.9 stated at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the election (obviously just to gain votes from this area) that he would ensure that \$375,000 would be allocated from

the Government to finally fix this major road problem. Strangely there is now no record of this promise, however 104.9 remembers it, Dave Tollner remembers it and so do many residents of the area. Conveniently for the current government this statement has disappeared from the records!

I am now very concerned that if this problem is not resolved the residents will take matters into their own hands and close the road.

I was away overseas so my submission is late however I am adamant that the Department of Defence should show some respect for the residents in the area as they were living here prior to the Barracks being built. The residents would not have expected that this situation would arise once the Barracks was completed. Department of Defence has a responsibility to the residents to solve this situation whether it means closing the road, building another entrance gate from the Barracks to join up to the Stuart Highway via Foundation Road near Pinelands or whatever is necessary.

It is obvious from the Statement of Evidence that major works will be carried out on the existing Robertson Barracks which is located close to Campbell, Brandt, Stevens and Farrar Roads. Another immediate concern will be that when construction commences we will have an additional 250 construction workers, their motor vehicles, trucks and heavy equipment traveling along these roads also.

We do not have any problem with the Barracks being situated where it is however, we have major issues and problems with the traffic situations that have escalated over past years.

We will be attending the meeting at 3-30 pm on Wednesday and hope that our concerns and worries are understood and that they can be solved.

Yours faithfully,  
Leslee and Garry Penno  
April 14, 2008