
Sent: Tuesday, 12 August 2008 14:33
To: White Paper
Subject: WWW Submission: 11. Location of Defence Establishments [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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Submission: The time is probably appropriate for policy relevant to the location and purpose for Defence Establishments to be re-examined in the light of 21st Century priorities.

Historic locations such as Paddington, St Kilda Road, Keswick etc should be retained for Defence purposes (even if the use changes) because of their cultural significance in the nation's history. We can afford to do that!

Military establishments now swallowed up in the urban sprawl can be relocated if the expenditure can be justified.

Decisions made now should attempt to take into account the likely circumstances 100 years from now.

The experiences in the US and UK (for example) suggest the location for Army facilities should be where large areas of land are available and close to major country towns, preferably serviced by railway and highway links to the State/Territory capitals.

Priority should be allocated to family-oriented facilities such as schools, hospitals, supermarkets, sporting facilities etc. Defence should budget to invest in tertiary education facilities and services allied to Army needs and those of Service families. The intention would be to create an environment that satisfied family priorities and contributed to the retention of Service personnel.

Where appropriate Navy establishments could be relocated away from Capital cities and to ports capable of servicing requirements. In the cases of Fremantle, Darwin and Townsville the recommended changes seem to have already happened successfully.

Air Force base requirements are, with very few exceptions, already in locations with minimal impact on urban environments.

Current Defence Housing policies seem to be providing Service housing comparable with civilian standards.

I agree to my submission being published on the Defence website

I agree to my submission being quoted in the Community Consultation Report