



Australian Government
Department of Defence
Estate and Infrastructure Group

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General Manager

NSW Department of Planning and Environment
PO Box 1226
Newcastle NSW 2300

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Draft Hunter Regional Strategy and Draft Plan for Growing Hunter City

The Department of Defence (Defence) would like to thank the NSW Department of Planning and Environment for the opportunity to comment on its Draft Hunter Regional Strategy and the Draft Plan for Growing Hunter City. Defence understands the two draft planning strategies will guide the future development of the Hunter region once approved.

Defence is supportive of the preparation of a land use strategy to facilitate the future growth of the lower Hunter region. Defence notes that the Strategy seeks to plan for an additional 60,000 dwellings across a mix of new and existing urban areas. The Strategy has also identified that Defence is a dominant sector in the regions economy and a significant employer.

The Hunter region is home to RAAF Base Williamtown and the Singleton Military Area. These Defence installations make important contributions to both Defence capability and the Hunter region as they are a major employment generators and provide economic stimulus to the region.

Defence has assessed the two draft planning strategies and notes that they have a strong emphasis on economic growth and development in the Hunter region. Defence requests the two strategies include more detail outlining Defence's role in the region and what actions the NSW Department of Planning and Environment will take to enhance and protect Defence's role in the region.

Defence is duly concerned to ensure that the long-term viability of its establishments is not compromised through inappropriate development on surrounding land. Encroachment of Defence sites by incompatible surrounding land uses is emerging as a significant issue for Defence. In this regard, Defence requests that Planning authorities prudently consider any land use or development proposals in the vicinity of Defence facilities to ensure that the potential for land use conflict is minimised.

Defence looks forward to working with NSW Department of Planning and Environment to mitigate any possible impacts to RAAF Base Williamtown and the Singleton Military Area as a result of development in the Hunter region.

Should you have any questions my point of contact on this matter is Mr Tim Hogan who can be contacted on (02) 6266 8193 or via DSRGIDEP.ExecutiveSupport@defence.gov.au.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Harrison', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Harrison

A/Director
Land Planning and Regulation
Estate Planning

17 March 2016