



Australian Government

Department of Defence

Defence Support Group

Headquarters Joint Operations Command Project

Community Consultation Working Group

Meeting Record: Meeting No 1

Status: Final

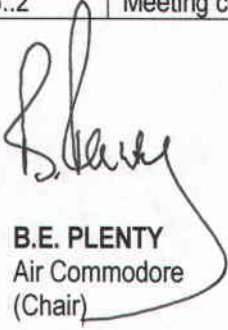
		Headquarters Joint Operations Command Project			Reference: 2005/1124965/1
Location:		Palerang Council Chambers			Date: 28 June 2006
Present:	Apology	Copy	Initials	Name:	Organisation (if applicable)
X		X	Chair	Air Commodore Jack Plenty	Director General - Headquarters Joint Operations Command Project
		X		Mr Michael Andrews	Bungendore
X		X		Mr Tim Beckett	Carwoola/Stony Creek
X		X		Mr Geoff Bird	Queanbeyan Business Council
X		X		Mr David Brew	Carwoola/Stony Creek
		X		Mr Chris Bruce	Carwoola/Stony Creek
		X		Ms Alex Burnett	Bungendore
	X	X		Mr Arthur Dalton	Carwoola/Stony Creek
	X	X		Ms Annabel Dobson	Carwoola/Stony Creek
X		X		Mr Tobias Downe	Hoskinstown
X		X		Mr Wally Hirsch	Industry Capability Network
	X	X		Mr Ian McNamee	Queanbeyan Business Council
X		X		Mr John Taylor	Bungendore
	X	X		Councillor Sue Whelan	Queanbeyan City Council
X		X		Mr Jeremy Wyatt	Queanbeyan Leagues Club

				TBA	Successful consortium.
X		X		Colonel Paul Appleton	Chief of Staff - Headquarters Joint Operations Command Project
X		X	SEC	Mr Colin Blair	Public Affairs Officer - Headquarters Joint Operations Command Project
Recorded By: Mr Colin Blair					

Item	Details	Action	Date
	Start		
	The meeting commenced at 12.30.		
	Apologies		
	Apologies received from Councillor Sue Whelan, Ms Annabel Dobson, Mr Ian McNamee and Mr Arthur Dalton.		
	Opening remarks		
1.0			
1.1	Air Commodore Plenty opened the meeting with a brief summary of the Group's Terms of Reference and covered general administrative arrangements.		
1.2	Air Commodore Plenty sought agreement from members to place their email and contract details on the Project's website to facilitate greater consultation and interaction between the Working Group and interested members of the public. This was agreed by the members present. Those members who were not in attendance are asked to provide their agreement or otherwise to this proposal by 14 July 2006 to Colin Blair at colin.blair@defence.gov.au .	Absent members	14 July 2006
1.3	The meeting agreed that the Group would meet at alternate venues in Bungendore and Queanbeyan every four to six weeks at lunchtime. The timing of each meeting would be influenced by Project activity. Members would receive at least two weeks notice of the forthcoming meeting.	Note	
2.0	Previous Minutes		
2.1	Nil		
3.0	Matters Arising from Previous Minutes		
3.1	Nil		
4.0	Project Status Report		
4.1	Air Commodore Plenty advised the meeting of the status of the Project, including the expectation that the contract for the construction and operation of the facility would be signed shortly. An announcement would then be made to mark this important Project milestone.		
4.2	Construction related activities is expected to start on the site in September-October 2006 and the facility be completed by July 2008. Immediately following completion, the Defence Command and Control systems will be installed and then staff will commence to occupy the facility later in 2008.		
5.0	Discussion		
	The following matters were discussed:		
5.1	<i>Operational importance of new headquarters:</i> The new, fully integrated Headquarters will be the focal point for all operational planning and the command and control of Australia military elements on deployment overseas, and for significant exercises and other military activities in Australia.		

5.2	<p><i>Project Community Meetings:</i> These community meetings (the latest round held late last year) will continue throughout the project, between once and twice a year.</p>		
5.3	<p><i>Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):</i> The EIS documentation is available to be downloaded from the Project website (www.defence.gov.au/id/hqjoc). The conditions of approval provided by the Minister for the Environment and Heritage are also on the website. The Working Group will be provided with regular updates on compliance with the terms of the EIS.</p>		
5.4	<p><i>Cultural Heritage Studies on site:</i> European and Aboriginal cultural heritage investigations have been undertaken in addition to the studies undertaken as part of the EIS process. The field work for these recent studies has been completed and reports are being drafted.</p>		
5.5	<p><i>Site Water supply:</i> The EIS sets out the expected water usage by the facility and outlines the water balance to minimise draw-down from the groundwater supply. The Project has also undertaken a separate groundwater study which assesses that the expected impact of the facility on the groundwater for neighbouring properties and Bungendore would be negligible (the aquifer that will be used is in a different hydrogeological structure to the one from which Bungendore draws its groundwater). This study is available on the Project's website. The site will be served by two bores (to allow for maintenance and as a backup) and rely on extensive water recycling.</p>		
5.6	<p><i>Tree planting:</i> An extensive tree-planting program has been completed (up to 4000 tube stock and also seed plantings) on the site to start to form the boundary tree screen and as part of mitigation measures to reduce possible electro magnetic interference (from electric motors and computers in the facility) to the nearby Molonglo Observatory (MOST).</p>		
5.7	<p><i>Molonglo Observatory (MOST):</i> Defence and the University of Sydney have been in close liaison to ensure that the new Headquarters does not impact on research being undertaken at MOST. There will be minimal radio transmissions from the site, being limited to low powered two way radio communication for the on-site security teams, and emergency satellite communications. These communications will be in frequency bands outside of those set aside for the MOST research.</p>		
5.8	<p><i>Remote weather station on site:</i> The project has installed a remote weather monitoring/recording station on site and monthly data records are placed on the Project website as a service to the local community. Regular surface and groundwater monitoring is also in place to measure the quality and quantity of water at the site.</p>		
5.9	<p><i>Kings Highway and related traffic matters:</i> The project is funded to construct the intersection linking the main access route to the facility with Kings Highway (on the ACT section of the highway). An emergency access route will be built to connect the site via Molonglo River Drive to Captains Flat Road.</p>		
5.10	<p><i>Defence Housing:</i> Defence and the Defence Housing Authority (DHA) have liaised closely regarding accommodation requirements for headquarters staff. DHA are building, buying or leasing housing around Canberra and Queanbeyan to meet current Defence needs including the anticipated requirements for the new headquarters. It is too early to say where Sydney staff will re-located in the region.</p>		
5.11	<p><i>Start-up work on site:</i> Preliminary site works are expected to begin in September-October 2006 with most major construction activity concentrated in 2007. One of the first priorities will be the construction of the Kings Highway intersection and main access road to the site. It is anticipated that up to 500 construction workers will be employed on the Project in the major fitout stage. Major traffic activity warnings will be publicised to advise of movements on the Kings Highway. The fitout of the facility and the installation of Defence Command and Control systems will occur in 2008 with the headquarters staff commencing to occupy the facility later in 2008.</p>		

5.12	Extension of gas supply to Bungendore: A question was raised about whether the gas supply (if used by the consortium) could be extended to Bungendore. This is a matter for the gas supplier to consider.		
5.13	Public Awareness: The Project conducted a community survey late last year which found that the vast majority of district residents support the Project. Their views and/or concerns will continue to be sought and considered throughout the construction of the facility.		
6.0	Next Meeting		
6.1	The next meeting is proposed to be held in Queanbeyan at a venue and date to be advised.		
6..2	Meeting concluded at 1.30 pm.		



B.E. PLENTY
Air Commodore
(Chair)

19 July 2006



Mr Colin Blair
(Secretary)

19 July 2006