
Sent: Monday, 9 June 2008 16:34
To: White Paper
Subject: SEC: UNCLASSIFIED WWW enquiry: Submission: 7. Reserves

Name: Murray Alexander
Organisation: Defence Reserves Association SA Branch

Submission: The Defence Reserves Association, South Australian Branch (DRA SA) suggests an depth study be carried out, in consultation with all Australian Defence Force (ADF) stakeholders, into the distribution and infrastructure of Army Reserve (ARes) depots in Metropolitan Adelaide before taking any decisions to close more ARes depots, including Keswick Barracks.

The ARes and its predecessors in Australia have always been comprised of volunteer members from and of its various communities. Accordingly, it is most appropriate to have ARes depots in specifically defined catchment areas in all major cities to gain, train and retain Army Reservists to continue to enhance the Australian Army's capability. With the threat of "Peak Oil" being reached, people will want to travel less distances to save money, and they will like the advantages of less travel time as well.

The ARes is necessarily mainly comprised of members recruited from their local community and they undertake individual and collective training to gain the required skills to enhance the capability of the Australian Army.

The ARes differs from the Naval Reserve (NR) and the Air Force Reserve (AFR) which are both mainly comprised of past permanent members, who already have appropriate individual skills and are not usually trained collectively as Reservists.

DRA SA suggests that the ARes in Metropolitan Adelaide requires depots in the north (say Edinburgh Defence Precinct), south (say Warradale Barracks), east (say Hampstead Barracks), west (say Woodville or Cheltenham) as well as centrally (at Keswick Barracks) to recruit, train and retain Army Reservists. There may be more depots required at Mount Barker and other developing areas around Adelaide.

The previous Government's proposal to have ARes depots at only Warradale Barracks and the Edinburgh Defence Precinct would effectively reduce the ARes in Metropolitan Adelaide to a very limited capability due to the significant loss of currently serving Army Reservists and it would severely inhibit the ability to recruit future ARes members in appropriate numbers in Metropolitan Adelaide.

Without the appropriate distribution and infrastructure of ARes depots to attract, train and retain Army Reservists from their local communities, particularly in Metropolitan Adelaide, DRA SA predicts that the capability viability of the ARes in South Australia will be virtually demolished. Similarly, there would be deleterious effects on the strength of ADF Cadet Units, which are a significant source of recruiting for the ADF.

DRA SA suggests an appropriate in depth demographic study be undertaken to define appropriate catchment areas to have ARes depots. The study should also involve all Defence related stakeholders such as 9 Bde, ARes units and subunits, DRS SA, DRA SA, RSL SA, ADF Cadets, etc. This approach should become a model for all population centres in Australia.

I agree to my submission being published on the Defence website

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