



Australian Government

Department of Defence

Defence Support Group

ASEP/OUT/2009/32

Mr Chris Barnett
Road and Traffic Authority
PO Box 334
PARKES NSW 2870

Dear Mr Barnett

**RE: PROPOSED ROAD CORRIDOR THROUGH DEFENCE ESTABLISHMENT
MARRANGAROO**

Further to your meeting with officers from the Department of Defence (Defence) on 12 February 2009 in relation to the abovementioned road corridor, I have been advised that you are to undertake additional analysis and stakeholder consultation to determine your preferred road corridor option.

To assist with this process, a summary of the main issues and the activities undertaken at Defence Establishment Marrangaroo is provided below. The summary outlines the ongoing importance of Marrangaroo to Defence, in particular the site's importance as an explosive ordnance demolition training range.

Summary:

- Defence Establishment Marrangaroo is an enduring facility supporting the Australian Army, Navy and Air Force.
- Marrangaroo is heavily utilised by Defence to conduct a range of training activities including:
 - explosive ordnance disposal training by Army and Navy specialists;
 - infantry minor tactics training; and
 - military operations in urban terrain training;
- The site also provides training for Army cadets.
- Marrangaroo's unique topography and geology is highly conducive to the training activities conducted at this site.
- Due to the nature of the activities conducted at this site, Marrangaroo may contain significant levels of unexploded ordnance and contaminated land.
- Remediation costs associated with this site are likely to be significant.
- The loss of Marrangaroo would place significant pressure on other Defence training assets and would adversely impact on the ADF's training continuum in explosive ordnance demolition.
- A road corridor through Defence Establishment Marrangaroo would undermine ADF training and operational capability.

This information is available for public dissemination and may be used as necessary in your consultation process with the community and relevant stakeholders.

As you are aware, Defence seeks to ensure that the long-term viability of Marrangaroo is not compromised and recommends that the RTA pursue its other options for the upgrading of the subject portion of the Great Western Highway.

Original Signed

Shannon White
Acting Assistant Secretary
Estate Planning

13 March 2009