



# Hawkesbury City Council

## supplementary ordinary meeting business paper

date of meeting: 14 August 2007  
location: council chambers  
time: 5:00 p.m.



**ORDINARY MEETING - Supplementary**

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**Meeting Date:** 14 August 2007

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**ORDINARY MEETING - Supplementary**

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**Meeting Date:** 14 August 2007

**SUPPLEMENTARY REPORTS**

**SECTION 2 - Mayoral Minutes**

**MM - Richmond RAAF Base - Minister's Announcement Regarding Future Operations - (79353)**

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**REPORT:**

It is with extreme satisfaction that I am able to officially advise Council that at 9:30am on Saturday, 11 August 2007 the Minister for Defence, The Hon Dr. Brendan Nelson MP, visited the Richmond RAAF Base and officially announced the Government's intention that the base would remain as a permanently operational facility and integral part of Australia's defence capability.

The Minister's Press Release following this announcement was as follows:

*"As part of its consideration of the Defence Force Disposition Program, the Federal Government has decided to retain RAAF Base Richmond on the outskirts of Sydney.*

*The Prime Minister previously announced, on 27 August 1998, that RAAF Base Richmond would be retained until 2010.*

*Since then, the future of RAAF Base Richmond beyond 2010 has been considered with a number of other Defence bases and establishments under the Force Disposition Program. This program was established to consider proposals for base collocation aimed at creating larger, more operationally effective and cost efficient military bases around Australia.*

*A detailed study conducted under the Force Disposition Program demonstrated that the balance of capability, economic and current community considerations weighs heavily in favour of retaining RAAF Base Richmond.*

*This decision will ensure Defence's ongoing presence in the local community whilst ensuring that the critical capability provided by the RAAF's C-130 airlift fleet remains at RAAF Base Richmond.*

*RAAF Base Richmond remains the only secure point of departure in the Sydney basin. Its closure would have left Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra without secured air point departure for large scale operations.*

*Retention of RAAF Base Richmond will enable a continuation of support to Sydney-based specialised Defence Force units, in particular the Tactical Assault Group East, the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Commando) Royal Australian Regiment (4RAR), and the Incident Response Regiment.*

*I commend the Member for Greenway, Mrs Louise Markus, and the Member for Macquarie, Mr Kerry Bartlett, who have both been tireless campaigners for the long-term future of RAAF Base Richmond.*

*The Government is continuing to review the studies which were conducted in relation to the remaining bases under consideration through the Force Disposition Program. These bases are Defence Establishment Berrimah in the Northern Territory, Borneo Barracks in South Queensland, and Elizabeth North Training Depot, Hampstead Barracks and Keswick Barracks, all in South Australia. No decision has been made yet in relation to these bases.*

*Given the size and complexity of this review of Defence basing, and the costs involved in future Defence estate planning, the Defence-prepared studies, along with other considerations, will continue to be reviewed and will be considered by the Government later this year as part of the 2008/09 Budget deliberations."*

Not only is this an important announcement for the future of the base but also it is important for the future of our community given the positive economic effects the base operations provide for the area.

As Council is aware, the Richmond RAAF base is home to the Hercules C-130's and provides employment to a significant number of people and many rely on the base including families, businesses and contractors from the area. The retention and ongoing operation of the base will continue to provide a significant positive benefit to the area.

This announcement is also the culmination of much work by the Council, local Members of Parliament; Kerry Bartlett MP and Louise Markus MP; and many others in the community to ensure the long-term retention of the facility at Richmond and it is considered that these efforts should be recognised by Council.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council:

1. Note the important announcement made by the Minister for Defence, The Hon Dr. Brendan Nelson MP, on 11 August 2007 regarding the retention of the Richmond RAAF base as a permanent operational facility.
2. Thank the Minister for his support and recognition of the future need for this strategic facility as a result of the announcement.
3. Thank local Federal Members of Parliament, Kerry Bartlett MP and Louise Markus MP, for their support and efforts in relation to the retention of Richmond RAAF base.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

There are no supporting documents for this report.

**oooO END OF MAYORAL MINUTE Oooo**

SECTION 4 - Reports for Determination

CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

Item: 162            IS - Tender No. 011/FY07 - Reconstruction and Bitumen Sealing of the Remaining Gravel Section of St Albans Road - (95495, 79344, 106075) **CONFIDENTIAL**

Previous Item:        149, Ordinary (31 July 2007)

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**Reason for Confidentiality**

*This report is **CONFIDENTIAL** in accordance with the provisions of Part 1 of Chapter 4 of the Local Government Act, 1993, and the matters dealt with in this report are to be considered while the meeting is closed to the press and the public.*

Specifically, the matter is to be dealt with pursuant to Section 10A(2)(c) of the Act as it relates to details concerning tenders for the supply of goods and/or services to Council and it is considered that the release of the information would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person or organisation with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business and, therefore, if considered in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

*In accordance with the provisions of Section 11(2) & (3) of the Local Government Act, 1993, the reports, correspondence and other relevant documentation relating to this matter are to be withheld from the press and public.*







ordinary  
meeting

end of  
supplementary  
business  
paper

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