

**Submission
No 3**

**INQUIRY INTO THE DEFENCE INDUSTRY IN NEW
SOUTH WALES**

Name: Woollahra Municipal Council

Date received: 2 June 2017

Council Ref: SC2470-04
Your Ref:

2 June 2017

The Hon Greg Pearce MLC
Chair, Standing Committee on State Development
Parliament House
Macquarie Street,
Sydney, NSW, 2000

**Standing Committee on State Development
Inquiry into the defence industry in New South Wales**

Dear Mr Pearce

Thank you for the invitation to make a submission on the inquiry into the defence industry in New South Wales. Our submission is made with regard to the inquiry's terms of reference and the document titled *New South Wales: Strong, Smart and Connected Defence and Industry Strategy 2017*.

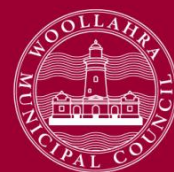
The inquiry has particular relevance to the Woollahra Municipality because the important RAN training facility, HMAS Watson, is located on South Head, Watsons Bay. HMAS Watson is sited on a highly prominent and significant part of Sydney Harbour. It has a rich history and contains many items of local and Commonwealth heritage significance. Elements of the site, including buildings, gun emplacements, fortifications and structures are listed as heritage items under Woollahra Local Environmental Plan 2014.

The facility adjoins part of Sydney Harbour National Park and also borders the Watsons Bay residential precinct. With their natural and scenic qualities plus historic character, Watsons Bay and South Head are special tourist and recreation destinations.

In view of HMAS Watson's location within a significant natural and urban setting and the site's historical significance, our submission to the Standing Committee focusses on several points.

- Maintain and protect the natural, historic and scenic qualities of South Head and Watsons Bay.
- Ensure the residential amenity of Watsons Bay is respected and protected.
- Ensure the tourist and recreational functions and opportunities of Watsons Bay are maintained.
- Continue to promote communication and relationships with the local community and Council.

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We submit that in its consideration to support any Defence Force redevelopment plans and infrastructure upgrades relating to the operation of HMAS Watson, the State Government must have regard to the possible impact of development on the natural, historic and scenic qualities of the area.

Similarly, proposals for additional development, intensified use and activities at HMAS Watson should be considered with a view to minimising impact on the local community, visitors and tourists.

Maintaining communication between Defence and Council in regard to proposals for change and growth, particularly at the preliminary stages, but also throughout the delivery of projects is paramount. This will allow Council's input and also allow our local community to be informed.

We trust that our comments will be given full consideration by the Standing Committee.

Yours sincerely

Chris Bluett
Manager Strategic Planning
Woollahra Municipal Council

