



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Defence**  
**Defence Support and Reform Group**

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HDSO/OUT/2013/75

Mr Michael Cole  
Director Corporate and Strategy  
City of Nedlands  
Administration Centre  
PO Box 9  
NEDLANDS WA 3670

Dear Mr Cole

**PROPOSED LAND SWAP FOR SEAWARD AVENUE SWANBOURNE**

Thank you for your correspondence to Steven Grzeskowiak on 31 May 2013 and your telephone conversation with Alan McClelland on 5 July 2013. Mr Grzeskowiak asked me to respond on his behalf.

The proposal involves a block of land that is within the precinct of Seaward Village and as such its future use is particularly important to Defence. The primary tenant group in the village are members of the Special Air Services Regiment (SASR) and their families. The SASR is an Army unit that continues to experience a very high operational tempo with a significant portion of the unit being deployed on operations at any one time. The tempo of SASR is much higher than other Australian Defence Force units.


Defence considers it essential that the village is maintained in its current form to provide a secure environment close to Campbell Barracks. As the nature of SASR operations can at times be controversial Defence consider it prudent to maintain the village for ADF personnel only as this will ensure training at the barracks is not compromised. This also allows the SASR to provide essential support to families when members are deployed on operations. It would be impractical to provide this level of support if the family housing was dispersed in the community. In 2001 a Covenant was placed on the Seaward Village land transferred to Defence Housing Australia to restrict its sale and use. A copy of that Covenant is attached as requested. The current need for the Covenant was recently confirmed by Defence following an internal review of the base's requirements and support provided to SASR families.

I am advised that the proposal being considered by the City of Nedlands could cause the land at Seaward Avenue to be made available for private development. This would not be consistent with the needs of SASR or the restrictions in place on the remainder of the village. Defence would be disappointed if the proposal for the land swap and rezoning was to proceed

and could be expected to raise objections. Given the excellent relationship between SASR and Defence and the City of Nedlands, I trust Defence's concerns are given full consideration and the proposed swap is not progressed.

My point of contact for this matter is Mr McClelland who can be contacted on (02) 6266 3114.

Yours sincerely



**Sue Parr**  
Acting Head Defence Support Operations

15 July 2013