

Productivity Commission
Public Inquiry
Impacts of Native Vegetation and Biodiversity Regulations
LB2, Collins Street East
Melbourne Victoria 8003

**PUBLIC INQUIRY, IMPACTS OF NATIVE VEGETATION AND
BIODIVERSITY REGULATIONS**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the Productivity Commission's inquiry into the impacts of native vegetation and biodiversity regulations. The Department of Defence's comments for the inquiry are in reference to the operation of the Commonwealth's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) in protecting native vegetation and biodiversity.

Generally, Defence's experience of the assessment and approval process under the EPBC Act is that the legislation provides greater certainty and timeliness of process than previous regulations. Defence has made 20 referrals since the Act came into effect, with only three assessed as a controlled action.

The objectives of the EPBC Act are clearly and consistently stated through the Act, Regulations and explanatory memorandum. Defence considers that the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the legislation clearly addresses the Acts environmental objectives. Through commitment to comply with this legislation, Defence can ensure the achievement of the Defence environmental policy objectives such as sustainable environmental management.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Originally signed
Penny Clowry for

Colin Trinder
Director – Directorate Environmental Stewardship
16 July 2003