

Australian Government

Department of Defence Corporate
Services & Infrastructure Group

Scanned copy of original submission

Mr Herb Plunkett Assistant
Commissioner Heritage
Inquiry Productivity
Commission PO Box 80
Belconnen ACT 2616

**PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION INQUIRY INTO THE CONSERVATION OF
HISTORIC HERITAGE PLACES**

Dear Mr Plunkett

Defence appreciates the opportunity to review the Productivity commission's draft report on the Conservation of Australia's Historic Heritage Places.

The analysis of the role of government and the application of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* is of particular relevance and interest to Defence. We look forward to the outcomes of the Commission's considerations in due course.

Defence has one matter to clarify in assisting with the finalisation of the Commission's report. I note that page 49 of the draft report makes reference to the Department of the Environment and Heritage's (DEH) Budget Papers, stating that a specific: grant of \$11.5m will be provided to the Department of Defence for heritage management between 2005-06 and 2008-09. The DEH Budget Papers refer to existing allocations by other Departments rather than grants to other agencies including Defence, as stated in the Commission's draft report. The amount of \$11.5m referred to in the DEH Budget Papers is based on the Defence expenditure on heritage management for the current financial year only.

My point of contact on this matter is Rick Zentelis, Director Defence Heritage Management, who is available on 02 6266 8060 if you wish to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely

Assistant Secretary
Environment, Heritage and Risk

February 2006