



Kevin Rudd

Federal Member for Griffith



Standing up for the Southside

Our ref: sbm:sbm_SR/J.18/002

22 February, 2012

Mrs Annette Brownlie
President
Just Peace
102 Watson St
CAMP HILL QLD 4152

Dear Annette,

I refer to your enquiry regarding the interim Defence Force Posture Review report. I note your specific concerns in relation to a proposal to establish a naval base in Brisbane. I also acknowledge your concerns that this base could be used to house nuclear submarines.

I have contacted the Office of the Hon Stephen Smith MP, Minister for Defence, on Kevin's behalf to make enquiries in relation to this matter.

I am advised that the options identified in the interim Defence Force Posture Review report are longer term options for consideration and that no decisions have been made about individual proposals.

I understand that many of these options, including the development of any new bases, involve substantial additional investment. I am further informed that decisions on such options will be made until they have been considered as part of the 2014 White Paper process.

Please note that the Review's final report will be submitted to the Government at the end of March this year. The Government will then closely examine the Defence Force Posture Review, which will form part of the security and strategic considerations for the 2014 White Paper.

In relation to your concerns regarding the establishment of a Brisbane naval base, I am advised that an additional fleet base could also be required as a second homeport for the Future Submarine force on the east coast.

I understand that the Australian Navy is currently studying east coast basing options for the 12 boat Future Submarine fleet to supplement the existing submarine base at Fleet Base West.

I am informed that a potential new submarine base should be located in a nuclear powered warship-rated port to enable visits by US nuclear submarines deployed in the Asia-Pacific.

I am advised that Brisbane appears to be the most promising location for a new fleet base on the east coast that would be an appropriate home-port for the Future Submarine and/or Landing Helicopter Dock. I understand that this new base would supplement, rather than replace, Fleet Base East and it would require a long term development plan to be initiated in the shorter term.

Please be aware that an additional fleet base in a location like Brisbane could complement and relieve pressure on Fleet Base East. I am informed, however, that closing Fleet Base East in Sydney and moving it to an alternative location would be extremely costly and take many years and significant effort to implement.

I understand that there would be increased operating and management costs involved with maintaining three fleet bases. I am further informed that there are few viable alternative locations to Brisbane that have the necessary capacity for development as a fleet base and are suitable for the range of naval vessels, including large amphibious ships and submarines.

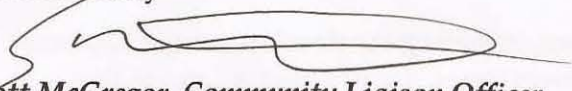
Please note that further information regarding the interim Defence Force Posture Review report can be accessed at -

<http://www.defence.gov.au/oscdf/adf-posture-review/>

I trust that this information will be of assistance to you.

If there are any other federal government matters with which Kevin may be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact the Electorate Office on 3899 4031 or via email - Griffith.EO@aph.gov.au

Yours sincerely



Scott McGregor, Community Liaison Officer
The Honourable Kevin Rudd MP
Federal Member for Griffith