



**VICE CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCE
GROUP**
JOINT LOGISTICS COMMAND



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JLC/OUT/2011/283

Michael Deegan
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Dear Mr Deegan

Thank you for your letter to Dr Ian Watt, Secretary of Defence, dated 20 December 2010, advising of the pending Discussion Paper on the National Freight Network Strategy. Dr Watt has asked me to respond to you on his behalf.

Defence is strongly supportive of the *National Land Freight Strategy Discussion Paper* released by Infrastructure Australia on 22 February 2011.

Defence is currently preparing to undertake a period of deep reform to modernise and transform our logistics infrastructure network, business processes and procedures and optimising the use of associated technologies to support Australian Defence Force (ADF) operations.

Defence relies heavily on the national land infrastructure to support operational deployments and to undertake routine training and administrative activities. These tasks regularly involve the movement of significant military and commercial freight by road and rail between ADF bases, into Training Areas and to Points of Embarkation such as ports and air fields. This also includes close cooperation with each of the State and Territory Road Traffic compliancy agencies to support the operation of Special Purpose Military Vehicles for operational and training purposes.

The draft *National Land Freight Strategy Discussion Paper* incorporates approaches which will support reforms to the effectiveness and efficiency of Defence logistics activities. Defence is keen to be part of the on going development of the concept and is happy to provide support to appropriate working groups. My point of contact is Commodore Mark Sackley, RAN, Director General Strategic Logistics who can be contacted on (02) 6266 5345, email mark.sackley@defence.gov.au

Yours sincerely
Margaret Staib

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8th April 2011