



Parliament of Australia
House of Representatives

IAN MACFARLANE MP
Federal Member for Groom

18 February 2009

Mr Mac Stirling
Managing Director
Highfields Village (Lauder Pty Ltd)
32 Leslie St
HIGHFIELDS QLD 4352

Dear Mr Stirling *Mac*

Thank you for your letter of 5 February 2009 outlining your concerns about the future of the Borneo Barracks at Cabarlah. I appreciate your interest in this issue.

Like you, I strongly believe the Borneo Barracks is a significant asset to our region and its closure would have profound economic and social effects.

I have made this view explicitly clear to both the previous Defence Minister, Brendan Nelson, Defence officials and the Rudd Government's Defence Minister Joel Fitzgibbon.

The Borneo Barracks not only makes a critical contribution to the Australian Defence Force, it is one of the most significant local employers and attracts skilled workers to the region, both Defence personnel and their partners or families.

As you are aware a socio-economic impact study on the possible relocation of the Barracks was prepared in 2007, but the Howard Government had made no final decision about the future of the Barracks prior to the election.

I was involved in determining the terms of reference for the report and have been actively involved in encouraging community members and businesses to have their say, not only during the consultation period for the Socio-Economic impact study, but also during the White Paper consultation process.

I remain vehemently opposed to the relocation of the Barracks and I assure you I will continue to make this explicitly clear to the Rudd Government before any decision is made following the release of the Defence White Paper.

Yours sincerely

Ian Macfarlane MP
Federal Member for Groom
Shadow Minister for Energy and Resources

Our ref. kb

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