



**The Hon Alan Griffin MP
Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister for Defence Personnel**

Mr Andrew Snodgrass
Winnellie Newsagency
Shop 5/347 Stuart Highway
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20 JUN 2010

Dear Mr Snodgrass

Thank you for your e-mail of 19 May 2010 to the Minister for Defence, Senator the Hon John Faulkner, concerning the future of Defence housing at Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Darwin. As this matter falls within my portfolio responsibilities, your correspondence has been passed to me for response.

Defence is currently reviewing the long-term future of housing at RAAF Darwin. Defence and Defence Housing Australia have previously announced that housing will be provided for members of the Australian Defence Force in the new Darwin suburb of Muirhead when it is developed. This new housing will provide Defence with an opportunity to rationalise the housing provided at other locations around Darwin, including RAAF Darwin.

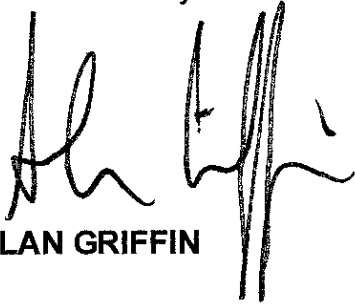
I am advised that there are 395 houses at RAAF Darwin and, currently, 102 of these houses are vacant, of which 99 require major work. The future use of this housing will depend on the results of the review. However, it is likely that the number of houses on RAAF Darwin will be reduced progressively over the next four or five years. Once vacant, the land will continue to be part of RAAF Darwin and used for other Defence purposes.

As you mention, it is anticipated that the current housing area will be exposed to increased levels of noise associated with the planned introduction of new aircraft, as forecast in an associated new Joint Civil and Military Australian Noise Exposure Forecast map that has been prepared for Darwin Airport. At this stage, Defence does not intend to construct any new housing in noise affected areas in Darwin.

While I understand your concerns, at this stage I am not in a position to identify the outcomes of Defence's review as this process is still underway. When the outcomes of the review are known, these will be publically released.

I trust this information will be of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Griffin'. The signature is stylized with a large initial 'A' and a long, sweeping underline.

ALAN GRIFFIN