Joint Select Committee – Immigration Detention Network
Questions on Notice for Dr Allan Hawke and Ms Helen Williams

1 Who was, in your view, responsible for the decisions regarding the connection of the Aqua and Lilac compound to the Northwest Point compound?

In the material provided to the Review, there was no reference to connecting the compounds. In conversations with Serco and DIAC staff at interview, it was suggested that connecting the compounds was a logical consequence of the building process as the Aqua and Lilac compounds needed access to amenities that could only be easily provided by the North West Point IDC.

2 When did you go to Villawood? What approaches were made?

Consideration was given to meeting with NSW Police on the VIDC visit on 27 May 2011, but the large numbers of DIAC, Serco and IMHS interviews prevented that. No other time was available for consultations due to the schedules of the Reviewers. Moreover, the VIDC visit demonstrated the same issues regarding confusion of roles between police, Serco and DIAC.

3 Re police not being removed from island - Was there a letter? Was there a meeting? Which officer from the department advised you that they had done this? Who was it? Maybe you could come back to us and advise us who it was and in what form it was taken so that we can understand what that reference is.

The AFP advised the department via email on 18 November 2010 that it intended to withdraw its personnel on 27 November 2010. Also on 18 November 2010, the AFP emailed an advance copy of correspondence to Deputy Secretary Bob Correll from Frank Prendergast, acting Deputy Commissioner, National Security outlining the AFP position.

The AFP and the department then met on 30 November 2010 at which time the AFP advised that the decision was based on operational priorities.

Addendum for Dr Hawke

With respect to the Hamburger Report, I have checked what happened and advise that the Reviewers only saw the final report of October 2010.