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Plans for army base upgrade split Logan City councillors

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LOGAN councillors have locked horns over Department of Defence plans to upgrade Greenbank army base.

The Department of Defence plans to spend \$100m upgrading the base as part of a \$1.4 billion project to upgrade military sites across Australia.

Under the proposal, the Greenbank training area would receive a new range control building, a safe driver area, a vehicle wash point, maintenance compound and accommodation huts for 40 people that would double as a training area during the day.

The Department of Defence also wants to close an entry point on Johnson Road and upgrade its existing entrance to the base on Goodna Road, using it as the main access point.

It is that suggestion which has raised concerns from some in the community and Division 11 Councillor Hajnal Ban about the impact the upgrade may have on the already nightmarish traffic situation outside Greenbank State School.

At last week's ordinary council meeting, Cr Ban sought and won the support of her colleagues to have council officers investigate the issue.

"I don't care if it's one vehicle that accesses the army site or five or 10," she said.

"That road is not in a position to accommodate any more traffic than it has to."

Her stance however drew criticism from Division Nine Cr Lynne Clarke who had

been in conversations with Department of Defence officials about their plan to make Goodna Road their main access point.

Cr Clarke said she could not understand Cr Ban's frustrations and did not believe the issue needed further investigation.

"It's nowhere near the school, the entry is already there and my understanding is they won't be going anywhere near the school," she said.

Speaking at a recent community consultation meeting, Director of the Enhanced Land Force Mike O'Connor said there would be no extra traffic movements to the area and the intended upgraded entry would be at least 600m from the existing gate, currently on Goodna Road near Greenbank State School.

He also said the training activity would happen outside of school hours.

The issue was not a priority for parents from Greenbank State School approached by *Jimboomba Times* last week who said they had no problem with the proposal, instead voicing their continual frustrations with the inadequate parking available.

"I'm not bothered at all. Moving the entrance is a good idea," mum Roz Grace, of Greenbank, said.

"The trucks will only be going out sometimes so it's not really an issue. We just need more parking here."

Another father, from Spring Mountain, who asked not be named, described the parking situation as "anarchy" but said he did not believe the new developments would impact on parents or the community.