

8 March 2002

DEFENCE FORCE REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL

MATTER 12 OF 2001

FIELD ALLOWANCE

STATEMENT

THE ADF HAS SOUGHT AN INCREASE TO THE RATES OF FIELD ALLOWANCE AND THE INTRODUCTION OF A DISCRETIONARY PROVISION TO ENABLE PAYMENT OF THE HIGHER RATE OF FIELD ALLOWANCE IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

THE ADF HAS PROPOSED A 20 PER CENT INCREASE IN THE RATES AT EACH TIER. IT WAS SUBMITTED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF CHANGES WHICH JUSTIFY THE NEW RATES INCLUDING: A SHIFT IN OPERATIONAL DOCTRINE; THE PROLIFERATION OF NIGHT FIGHTING EQUIPMENT WHICH HAS IMPACTED ON THE RATE OF EFFORT OF MEMBERS; THE INTRODUCTION OF THE CENTRAL TRAINING CENTRE CONCEPT; THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW EQUIPMENT; THE INCREASED EMPHASIS ON OPERATIONS AND EXERCISES IN NORTHERN AUSTRALIA AND INCREASES IN OTHER ADF ALLOWANCES WHICH COMPENSATE FOR BROADLY SIMILAR DISABILITIES.

THE INCREASED RATES AND NEW DISCRETIONARY PROVISION ARE SUPPORTED BY THE COMMONWEALTH AND THE RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA.

ON THE BASIS OF THE SUBMISSIONS AND EVIDENCE BEFORE US WE HAVE DECIDED TO APPROVE THE RATES OF FIELD ALLOWANCE SOUGHT BY THE ADF AND AGREED BY THE COMMONWEALTH AND RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA. THE NEW RATES WILL BE \$36.08 PER DAY FOR TIER 1 AND \$21.17 PER DAY FOR TIER 2.

WE HAVE ALSO DECIDED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SUBMISSIONS, TO INTRODUCE A PROVISION ENABLING THE PAYMENT OF THE TIER 1 RATE IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

THE NEW RATES AND SPECIAL PROVISION WILL APPLY ON AND FROM 14 MARCH 2002.

WRITTEN REASONS FOR OUR DECISION WILL BE PUBLISHED IN DUE COURSE.