

# CONSTRUCTION FORESTRY MINING AND ENERGY UNION NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH



3 March 2011

The Honourable Prime Minister Julia Gillard MP  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Honourable Prime Minister,

We write to you today regarding the upcoming Talisman Sabre 'war games' commencing in July this year.

These military exercises are primarily focused on Shoalwater Bay Military Training Area (SWBTA) – an area the size of Belgium, in Central Queensland. The base includes RAMSAR listed wetlands, and a chunk of ocean cut out from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. It includes breeding grounds and migration routes for protected marine life such as whales, dugongs and turtles.

Talisman Sabre's live fire component sees soldiers bombing our land and oceans whilst using nuclear powered ships. These exercises present an unacceptable risk to the environment. If anything were to happen, we will be the ones left with a toxic legacy to clean up while the ships just sail away.

Further, with many of our states currently in devastation or still in recovery from natural disasters, it would be far more beneficial to concentrate the enormous cost of \$48 million for these exercises into cleaning up and rebuilding our shattered towns and cities.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter McClelland".

Peter McClelland  
**President**