



Inquiry into Helicopter Aircrew Training System Facilities

The Public Works Committee is conducting an inquiry into the proposed new Helicopter Aircrew Training System Facilities (HATS) for HMAS *Albatross*, NSW and Jervis Bay Airfield in the ACT.

The Department of Defence has told the Committee that to support Australia's future Defence requirements, the Government is acquiring new naval combat and battlefield helicopters. These are advanced, new generation helicopters and consequently an upgrade to the introductory helicopter training system is required to ensure aircrew are adequately trained to operate them.

The project will use Commercial-Off-The-Shelf and Military-Off-The-Shelf technologies to deliver a complete training system which will be supported by hangar, maintenance, training, administration, storage and warehousing facilities.

The proposed new HATS capability will be a significant component of Australian Defence Force aircrew training in which trainees develop aviation competencies and experience to make them fully-mission-capable frontline helicopter aircrew.

Works are expected to begin in mid-2015, with completion of all works expected by mid-2017. The estimated cost of the project is \$157.1 million, excluding GST.

The Committee's Chair, Mrs Karen Andrews MP, said the Committee will conduct public and in-camera hearings for the inquiry in January 2015.

Full details on the project are available on the Committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/pwc

Submissions to the inquiry close on Friday, 12 December 2014.

Information about hearings will be on the Committee's website shortly.

NB the Public Works Committee is neither involved in the tendering process nor the awarding of contracts. Enquiries on those matters should be addressed to the Department of Defence.

For interview: Contact the Chair's office on (07) 5580 9111.

For further information, including how to make a submission, the public hearing times, and copies of submissions when they become available, please visit the Committee website <http://www.aph.gov.au/pwc> or contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4636.