



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

Public Hearing

Issue date: 24 November 2016

Defence LAND 17 project under scrutiny

The Public Works Committee will hold a public hearing in Canberra tomorrow to examine a proposal from the Department of Defence to undertake construction at eight locations across the country for its LAND 17 capability acquisition project.

The LAND 17 project is a part of the Hardened and Networked Army initiative and will provide the Australian Defence Force with new M777A2 Lightweight Howitzers, which offer greater accuracy, mobility, and range compared to the ADF's current indirect fire capability. The phase currently under scrutiny proposes to provide new and upgraded facilities to support the introduction of the new artillery systems and provide training simulators at various Defence bases around the country.

In addition to the training simulators, Defence proposes to build facilities to maintain and house the new vehicle fleet required to support the introduction of the M777A2 Lightweight Howitzers, as well as maintain the M777A2 howitzers themselves. Defence estimates that the project will cost \$57 million, with construction expected to be completed in April 2018.

Committee Chair, Scott Buchholz MP, said that the Committee had received submissions raising concerns about some aspects of the project, in particular traffic issues at Gallipoli Barracks and contamination issues at RAAF Base Williamtown, and that these issues will be explored at the hearing.

Public Hearing Venue: Committee Room 1R4, Parliament House, Canberra

Date: Friday, 25 November 2016

Time: 9.00am to 10.00am

The hearing will also be webcast at www.aph.gov.au/live.

Full details on the project, including submissions, are available on the committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/pwc

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

Media enquiries:

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For background:

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

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