



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

Public hearing

Issue date: 16 February 2017

Public hearings on embassy works in Washington DC and Paris

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works will hold public hearings in Canberra tomorrow to examine proposed works at overseas properties in Paris and Washington DC.

Construction of a new Australian embassy building in Washington DC is proposed on the same site as existing embassy building, which is in a poor condition and would be demolished. The proposal also includes the fit out of temporary office space for embassy staff. Works for the new Embassy in Washington DC are expected to begin in early 2019 and to be completed by late 2021. The estimated cost of the project is \$236.9 million.

Refurbishment works are proposed at the Australian Chancery Complex in Paris. Office space has been leased to the International Energy Agency since 1996. To secure a further 12 year lease agreement, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has agreed to renovate office space and upgrade base-building engineering services. Tendering for the Paris Chancery project is expected in March 2017 and construction is expected to be completed by mid-2018. The estimated cost of the project is \$27.7 million.

Public Hearing Venue: Committee Room 1R1, Parliament House, Canberra

Date: Friday, 17 February 2017

Times: 8.30am – 9.30am (Washington)

10.30am – 11.30am (Paris)

Members of the public are welcome to attend to observe proceedings. The hearing will also be webcast at www.aph.gov.au/live.

Full details on the project 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 Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Media enquiries:

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For background:

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

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