

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

**Chair: Senator Dean Smith**

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**New pilot training facilities proposed for several RAAF Bases**

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*Pilatus PC-21 aircraft cockpit.  
Source: Royal Australian Air Force.*

In August 2015, the Commonwealth Government approved the replacement of existing Air Force, Navy and Army pilot training systems. The new training system will be based on the Pilatus PC-21 aircraft and will prepare Defence personnel for operating a number of new and advanced aircraft.

In order to support the new training system, the Department of Defence is seeking approval to construct new facilities at RAAF Bases in East Sale, Victoria; Pearce and Gin Gin in Western Australia; Edinburgh, South Australia and Williamstown in New South Wales.

These facilities will include new aircraft aprons and shelters, maintenance facilities, classrooms, working accommodation, flight simulators and information networks. Additionally, the project will include demolition and upgrade works, where necessary, as well as landscaping and parking facilities and 105 additional living in accommodation units at RAAF Base Sale.

The works are expected to commence in mid 2016 and be completed by 2019. The estimated cost of the project is \$329.8 million (excluding GST).

The Committee Chair, Senator Dean Smith, said the Committee will conduct public and in-camera hearings for the inquiry in early April.

Full details on the project are available on the Committee's website: [www.aph.gov.au/pwc](http://www.aph.gov.au/pwc)

**Submissions to the inquiry close on 31 March 2016.**

Full details of the public hearing will be available soon.

**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 office of the Chair, Senator Dean Smith on (08) 9481 0349.

**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.