

PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 18 March 2016

Chair: Senator Dean Smith

Fit-out proposed for AFP leased premises in Queensland

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) is seeking approval to refurbish 4,112m² of leased premises at 45 Commercial Road, Newstead.

In its submission, the AFP noted that the fit-out at the existing Wharf Street premises is now ten years old, making it difficult for AFP staff to operate effectively and efficiently. In addition, the AFP's lease at this premises is due to expire in early 2017. Therefore in 2013, the AFP commenced a two-stage procurement process with the aim of finding more suitable accommodation within the Brisbane area.

The proposed fit-out works will include meeting and interview rooms, forensic laboratories and workshops, open-plan workstations, conference and training facilities, amenities and appropriate security systems. Additionally, the project will include base building works and associated services.

The proposed design will be flexible enough to support future operational change and will also bring the AFP more in line with the Commonwealth Government's occupational density target of 14m² per occupied workspace.

The works are expected to commence in July 2016 and be completed by February 2017. The estimated cost of the project is \$25 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

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 Australian Federal Police.

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 <u>http://www.aph.gov.au/pwc</u> or contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4636.