



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

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Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

Deputy Chair: Mr Graham Perrett MP

Public hearing into proposed Helicopter Aircrew Training System (HATS) Facilities Project

The Public Works Committee is conducting a public hearing into the proposed new Helicopter Aircrew Training System (HATS) Facilities Project for HMAS *Albatross*, NSW and Jervis Bay Airfield.

The Government is acquiring new naval combat and battlefield helicopters which are advanced, new generation helicopters. The Department of Defence has told the Committee that 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.

Public Hearing Venue: Fleet Air Arm Museum
489A Albatross Road, Nowra Hill NSW 2540
Date: Friday, 30 January 2015
Time: 12.30pm to 2.00pm

Members of the public are welcome to attend.

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

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 office of Mr Graham Perrett MP, Deputy Chair, on (07) 3344 2622.

For further information, including 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.

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