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## **Inquiry into the fit-out of the Australian Embassy in Doha, Qatar**

In May 2015, the Australian Government announced it would open five new overseas missions. These new posts include Doha in Qatar; Makassar in Indonesia; Ulaanbaatar in Mongolia; Phuket in Thailand and Buka, Bougainville in Papua New Guinea.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) is therefore seeking approval to proceed with an internal fit-out of premises in Doha.

In its submission, DFAT notes that the presence and activity of an embassy in Doha will raise the status, profile and appeal of Australian companies currently working, or seeking to establish businesses, in Qatar. Additionally, it will expand Australia's diplomatic footprint in the Middle East.

The proposed works will fit-out 895 square metres on level 21 of the Tornado Tower building to accommodate DFAT and Austrade staff. Primarily, the works will comprise the provision of new services infrastructure and enhanced security requirements. Additionally, the project will improve base building elements, including mechanical, electrical, hydraulic and fire engineering services, where necessary.

Fit-out works are expected to be completed in late 2016. The estimated cost of the project is \$7.04 million.

The Committee will hold public and in-camera hearings in Canberra next week. Submissions are being accepted. The closing date for submissions is Wednesday, 2 March 2016.

**Public Hearing Venue:** Committee Room 1R6, Parliament House, Canberra

**Date:** Thursday, 3 March 2016

**Time:** 5.30 pm – 6.30pm

Members of the public are welcome to attend.

**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 DFAT.

**For interview:** Contact the 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.