



Infrastructure Department on track for first planning and procurement hearing

The Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development is set to appear at a public hearing as the inquiry into infrastructure planning and procurement gets underway in Canberra on Wednesday.

The Department is the key infrastructure policy development and programme management agency and is responsible for a range of initiatives relevant to the inquiry. These include responsibility for Commonwealth policy and programmes relating to the transport, aviation, roads, rail and maritime sectors.

The Department's submission to the inquiry focusses on longer term planning for infrastructure and the importance of the early identification of land for future infrastructure development. The submission highlights the Department's significant role related to transport infrastructure while also examining other sectors such as ports and freight. The submission also highlights the importance of collaborative planning at all levels of government including initiatives to reduce some costs and timeframes associated with the delivery of projects.

Infrastructure Committee Chair Jane Prentice MP said Australia's infrastructure spending is set to increase significantly with a number of major projects currently in the planning pipeline. "The need to ensure robust planning and subsequently efficient procurement practices is key to delivering cost-effective and timely projects," she said.

Details of the hearing are as follows:

Date: Wednesday 28 May 2014
Time: 8.15am – 9.30am
Place: Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House CANBERRA

Further information about the inquiry, including the full terms of reference and how to prepare a submission can be obtained from the Committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/ic or from the Secretariat on (02) 6277 2352.

For media comment: please contact the Committee Chairman, (07) 3378 1599 or (02) 6277 4426

Further information: contact the Inquiry Secretary (02) 6277 2352, email ic.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the Committee's webpage at www.aph.gov.au/ic