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## **Inquiry into the Multi-User Barge Ramp Facility - East Arm, Darwin, Northern Territory**

The Public Works Committee is conducting an inquiry into the proposed multi-user barge ramp facility at East Arm in Darwin.

The Department of Defence told the Committee that the facility has been designed in partnership with the Land Development Council in the Northern Territory.

The proposed barge facility will provide Defence watercraft round-the-clock capability to load and unload helicopter docks, other amphibious ships and explosive ordnance irrespective of tidal conditions in Darwin.

The facility will be also made available to commercial users and will leverage the Land Development Council's investment in local property development, road access and other infrastructure at East Arm.

The estimated cost of the barge facility is \$18.0 million, with Defence contributing \$16.1 million to the project.

The Committee's Chair, Senator Dean Smith, said the Committee will conduct public and in-camera hearings for the inquiry in Darwin in late April 2015.

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 15 April 2015.**

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 the Chair's office 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.