



## **Public Works Committee approves facilities for Army expansion**

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works has today tabled its seventh report for 2009, covering referrals from August to October. The largest project considered in the report, the Enhanced Land Force Stage 2 Facilities project (ELF2), for the Department of Defence, has been approved by the Committee.

The project, which will take place at twelve Defence bases and training areas across Australia, has an estimated cost of \$1.457 billion. In recommending the project proceed, the Committee has noted the ELF initiative behind the works, which aims to increase the size of the Defence force by 3,000 members.

The Committee conducted site inspections in three locations – at Singleton Barracks, NSW; at Gallipoli Barracks, Brisbane; and at Lavarack Barracks, Townsville. The Committee also held a public hearing in Brisbane, at which a number of local residents outlined their concerns about the impact of the project. The ELF2 inquiry has demonstrated the opportunities for the community to be involved in the Parliament's decision making process, and to develop practical solutions to project issues.

'The Committee has recommended the Department of Defence develop a consultation protocol to ensure that it mirrors consultation required under routine local planning procedures,' said Committee Chair, Senator the Hon Jan McLucas. 'This is particularly important for Defence, given the constraints imposed on established bases by growing urban areas. The Committee is pleased to support such a significant infrastructure investment in regional Australia,' Senator McLucas added.

The House of Representatives is expected to vote on a motion to approve the works on Wednesday, 25 November 2009.

**For interview:** Contact the Committee Chair, Senator the Hon Jan McLucas's media advisor, Derek Tipper on 0434 663 757.

**For copies of the report,** please visit the Committee website <http://www.aph.gov.au/pwc> or contact the Committee Secretariat on 02 6277 4636.