

## Conclusions and recommendation

- 9.1 In considering and reporting on a public work, the Committee is required by the *Public Works Committee Act 1969* to state:
- the purpose of the work and its suitability for that purpose;
  - the necessity for, or the advisability of, carrying out the work;
  - the most effective use that can be made, in the carrying out of the work, of the moneys to be expended on the work;
  - where the work purports to be of a revenue-producing character, the amount of revenue that it may reasonably be expected to produce; and
  - the present and prospective public value of the work.
- 9.2 The Committee has considered in this report, where relevant, the proposed remediation of the former *HMAS Platypus* site at Neutral Bay, Sydney, New South Wales against each of its statutory requirements.
- 9.3 On the basis of evidence presented as part of the Inquiry process, the Committee concluded that the contamination on the site is causing ongoing pollution to the Neutral Bay area and the surrounding environment and is indicative of a need for the proposed works. Further, the Committee concluded that remediation of the site may mitigate Commonwealth's liability for the contamination of the site and as such is also indicative of a need for the proposed works.
- 9.4 Further, that on the basis of evidence presented as part of the Inquiry process, the Committee concluded that the proposed works represent value for money and have the potential to maximise the revenue return to the Commonwealth from a future sale.

- 9.5 The Committee acknowledges that the proposed remediation will impact on the amenity of nearby residences. However, the Committee has concluded that the conditions imposed by the Land and Environment Court of New South Wales and actions the contractor would be undertaking, would, as far as is reasonably foreseeable, minimise the impact of the proposed remediation on the amenity of nearby residences.
- 9.6 The Committee notes the other objections to the proposed works, but is satisfied on the basis of evidence presented as part of the Inquiry process that the proposed works should proceed.

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**Recommendation 9**

- 9.7 **The Committee recommends that the proposed remediation of Defence land at Neutral Bay, Sydney, New South Wales proceed at a cost of \$16.5 million.**

Hon. Judi Moylan  
Chair

8 February 2001