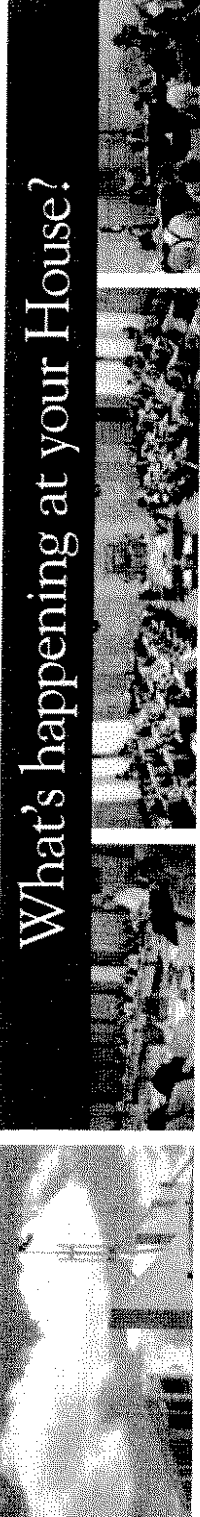


# What's happening at your House?



## Bushfires committee calls for submissions

The new federal parliamentary committee set up to investigate what can be done to minimise the impact of bushfires has called for the public to make submissions. The Select Committee on the Recent Australian Bushfires was established by the House of Representatives last week. The inquiry will take a national perspective and concentrate on what needs to be done across Australia to minimise future bushfire risks. It will identify measures that can be implemented by governments, industry and the community to minimise the incidence of, and impact of bushfires, on life, property and the environment. The full terms of reference are available at [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/bushfires](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/bushfires) or phone (02) 6277 4578 or email [bushfires@aph.gov.au](mailto:bushfires@aph.gov.au). The committee would be pleased to receive submissions by Friday, 9 May 2003. They should be sent to: Committee Secretary, Select Committee on the Recent Australian Bushfires, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600.

## New inquiry into role of National Capital Authority

Federal parliament's National Capital Committee is conducting an inquiry into the role of the National Capital Authority, which administers and reviews the National Capital Plan, the object of which is to "ensure that Canberra and the ACT are planned and developed in accordance with their national significance". The committee will consider in particular:

- the role of the National Capital Authority as outlined in the *Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988*;
  - the Authority's overall management of the National Capital Plan;
  - management issues relating to designated land under the National Capital Plan; and
  - the relationship between the Authority and Territory planning authorities.
- The committee welcomes submissions from interested members of the public and organisations. The deadline for submissions is Friday, 23 May 2003. Further information concerning the inquiry can be obtained from [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/nccat](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/nccat) or phone (02) 6277 4355 or email [jrcnccat@aph.gov.au](mailto:jrcnccat@aph.gov.au)

## Review of public works worth \$188 million

Six proposed works have been referred to the Parliamentary Committee on Public Works for investigation and report:

- Fit out of new Customs Building, Sydney Airport. (estimated cost \$13.4 million) - Submissions due by 22 April 2003;
- Construction of a new Chartery building for the Australian High Commission, Colombo, Sri Lanka. (estimated cost \$1.2 million) - Submissions due by 24 April 2003;
- ACT Multi User Depot at HMAS Harman ACT (estimated cost \$13.5 million) - Submissions due by 2 May 2003;
- Redevelopment of Australian Institute of Sport, Bruce ACT. (estimated cost \$65.4 million) - Submissions due by 16 May 2003;
- Provision for co-location and re-equipping of the 1st Aviation Regiment, Robertson Barracks Darwin (estimated cost \$75 million); Submissions due by 13 June 2003; and
- Security Fence, RAAF Base Tindal, Northern Territory. (estimated cost \$9.2 million) - Submissions due by 13 June 2003.

Further information about these works and about making a submission can be obtained at [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/pwc](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/pwc) or phone (02) 6277 4636 or email [jrpw@aph.gov.au](mailto:jrpw@aph.gov.au)

The Australian 2/4/03

## Melbourne hearings on future water supplies

Continuing its inquiry into the future management of Australia's water supplies, the House of Representatives Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Committee will hold public hearings in Melbourne (Level 3, 35 Spring Street) on Monday 7 April (10.30am-12.45pm) and Tuesday 8 April (9am-1pm). For more information visit [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/prn/and](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/prn/and) or phone (02) 6277 4500 or email [primaryindustries@aph.gov.au](mailto:primaryindustries@aph.gov.au)

## Human rights public hearing in Perth

As part of its investigation into human rights and good governance education in the Asia Pacific region, Federal Parliament's Human Rights Committee is holding a public hearing in Perth (Commonwealth Parliamentary Offices, Level 33, 2 The Esplanade) on Thursday, 3 April 2003 (9.20am-12noon). For more information visit [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/fact](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/fact) or phone (02) 6277 4628 or email [jrcfact@aph.gov.au](mailto:jrcfact@aph.gov.au)

## Queenstand hearings on vocational education in schools

The House of Representatives Education Committee's inquiry into vocational education in schools continues with public hearings on the Gold Coast on 8 April, in Brisbane on 9 April and in Gladstone on 10 April. For more information on the inquiry visit [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/ed](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/ed) or phone (02) 6277 4573 or email [ed\\_reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:ed_reps@aph.gov.au)

## New inquiry looks at customs legislation

The House of Representatives Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee is inquiring into the amendment provisions that are contained in the *Customs Act 1901*. These provisions are relevant to legal cases brought under the customs legislation. The committee will investigate the use of the amendment provisions and will examine cases that have relied on those provisions in Australian customs prosecutions. Submissions are sought from interested organisations and individuals by Friday 9 May 2003. For more information visit [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/laca](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/laca) or phone (02) 6277 2358 or email [laca\\_reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:laca_reps@aph.gov.au)

## Free magazine out now

The new issue of the House of Representatives magazine *About the House* is available now and includes features on water management, how one woman helped to change the tax system, and a special feature on Antarctica. It also has news from committee investigations into quarantine, vocational education in schools, business research and development, employment in the environment sector, and our relations with Indonesia. To order your free copy phone (02) 6277 2122 or email [hats@aph.gov.au](mailto:hats@aph.gov.au)

## Join our free email alert service

For more of the latest news from House of Representatives committees, including details of new investigations, upcoming public hearings and new committee reports, join our free email alert service by emailing us at [hats@aph.gov.au](mailto:hats@aph.gov.au)

[www.aph.gov.au/house/news](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/news)

