



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 3 November 2009

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

Chair: Senator the Hon Jan McLucas

Tropical Marine Research facilities under Public Works microscope

The Public Works Committee is conducting an inquiry into the proposed Tropical Marine Research facilities for the Australian Institute of Marine Science, in Townsville and Cape Ferguson (near Townsville), Queensland.

The \$49.5 million project is aimed at enhancing Australia's marine science capacity and building on AIMS's expertise and collaborative links, both nationally and internationally. The project will enable AIMS to continue to contribute to the sustainable use and protection of the marine environment, as well as improving the understanding of the impact of change on marine ecosystems.

The Public Works Committee is responsible for ensuring that the need, cost and scope proposed is appropriate.

The Committee will hold a public hearing with the Australian Institute of Marine Science on the proposal at **2pm on Thursday 5 November 2009**.

Details of the hearing are:

Mercure Inn Townsville
Woolcock Street
Townsville

Members of the public are welcome to attend the hearing.

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 Australian Institute of Marine Research.

For interview: Contact the Chair's media advisor, Derek Tipper on 0434 663 757.

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 0434 567 521.