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## **Public Works Committee shows enthusiasm for marine research**

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works has today approved a significant boost to Australia's Marine Research capacities, recommending the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) proceed with its proposed Tropical Marine Research Facilities project.

The project includes a number of elements, at Cape Ferguson as well as in Townsville, which will all enable AIMS to continue its important marine science research. The total cost of the project is \$49.5 million.

The Committee conducted a site tour at the AIMS facilities at Cape Ferguson, and held a public hearing in Townsville on the proposed works. The Committee is pleased to support the new facilities, as they will be unique in the world.

The Committee noted in its report the significant contribution AIMS makes to marine science research in Australia and the opportunity it provides for training and development, particularly for doctoral students.

'AIMS is a world-class research institute, and the Committee is pleased to recommend the Tropical Marine Research Facilities project proceed. This important proposal will expand capacity for research into climate change, its impact on marine ecosystems, and mitigation options,' said Committee Chair Senator the Hon Jan McLucas. 'The passion of each member of the AIMS team is infectious, and the Committee looks forward to seeing the outcomes of the expanded research facilities in the future.'

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.