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## **Public Works Committee inquires into remediation works at RAAF Base Williams, Point Cook, Victoria**

The Public Works Committee is conducting an inquiry into proposed remediation works on RAAF Base Williams (Point Cook), between Melbourne and Geelong, Victoria.

The submission made by the Department of Defence outlines the scope of the proposed works, which would deal with contamination arising from a range of activities previously undertaken on a portion of the base. These activities include fire-training, waste-dumping, aircraft maintenance, and chemical manufacturing. According to the Department of Defence, 12 'contaminants of concern' continue to discharge into Port Phillip Bay due to groundwater flows under the site. Other contaminants would also be removed. The project is estimated to cost \$27.3 million (excluding GST), and if Parliamentary approval is given, the project would be undertaken between February 2012 and April 2013.

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

The Committee's Chair, Janelle Saffin MP, said the Committee is keen to hear a wide range of views on the proposed fitout and public submissions on the proposal are welcomed.

'This proposal would deal with a significant contamination on Commonwealth land, and would address the ongoing discharge of toxic substances into Port Phillip Bay,' Ms Saffin said. 'The Committee is concerned to ensure that this proposal can provide certainty to both the Australian Government and local community that this contamination has been fully remediated.'

Full details on the proposal are available on the Committee's website: [www.aph.gov.au/pwc](http://www.aph.gov.au/pwc)

### **Submissions close on 15 July 2011.**

The Committee will be holding a public hearing on the proposal on 26 July 2011 near to the RAAF Base Williams, at Point Cook. Details for the hearing can be found on the Committee's website closer to the date.

**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 Department of Defence.

**For interview:** Contact the Chair's media advisor, Lee Duncan on 0448 158 150.

**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.