



Four major Defence projects under scrutiny

The Public Works Committee is conducting inquiries into the following works proposed by the Department of Defence in the Northern Territory:

- Robertson Barracks Redevelopment, Darwin (\$72.1m);
- RAAF Base Darwin Redevelopment, Darwin (\$49.8m)
- Airborne Early Warning and Control Facilities, RAAF Base Tindal (\$64.2m); and
- RAAF Base Tindal Redevelopment, Tindal (\$58.7m).

Committee Chair, Mark Butler MP, today announced that, as part of the inquiries, the committee will hold public hearings in Darwin and Katherine on the proposals and invited the public to attend. "The Committee plays a key role in providing parliamentary scrutiny over the planning and administration of Commonwealth expenditure on major public structures. These public hearings will provide an opportunity for the Committee to examine each proposal, in respect of its need, cost, scope, purpose and value for money," Mr Butler said.

"The combined value of these four projects is estimated at \$244.8 million. These projects will have implications for both the local community and Australia's future defence capability and it's important that the use of taxpayers' funds is managed effectively," Mr Butler said. I encourage members of the public to come along and hear about these developments as they represent a significant investment in defence infrastructure in the Northern Territory."

The Committee will travel to Darwin on 16 April and Katherine on 17 April and inspect the proposed works and conduct public hearings. It will then consider the issues raised at the public hearings and report its recommendations and conclusions to Parliament.

Please note that 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 agency carrying out the proposed work.

For further information, including the public hearing venues and times, transcripts 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 (02) 6277 4636. On the day of the hearing the Secretariat can be contacted on 0434 567 521.

For interview:

Please contact the office of the Committee Chair, Mark Butler MP on (08) 8447 7466.