



Australian Taxation Office seeks approval for Brisbane works

The Public Works Committee is conducting an inquiry into a proposed office fitout for the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) at 55 Elizabeth Street in Brisbane, Queensland.

The ATO has submitted a proposal for the fitout of about 18,000 square metres of office space in a new building which will be built on Elizabeth Street in the Brisbane CBD. The ATO will be the sole tenant of the office space in the building, occupying 14 floors. The proposal would provide the ATO with a single location to accommodate staff from two existing leases that will be expiring in the next three years. The estimated cost of the proposal is \$33.1 million, and if Parliamentary approval is given, the project would commence in May 2012, and be complete one year later.

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 allow the ATO to occupy a new location for many of its Brisbane staff, and would improve the standard of accommodation for those staff. Additionally, the proposal would enable the ATO to meet the energy and staff-density requirements of the Australian Government,' Ms Saffin said. 'The inquiry will concentrate on whether the Commonwealth will be getting value for money, and whether the proposal meets all the needs of the ATO and its staff.'

Full details on the proposal are available on the Committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/pwc

Submissions close on 30 June 2011.

The Committee will be holding a public hearing on the proposal on 13 July 2011 in Brisbane. 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 Australian Taxation Office.

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.