



Attorney-General's Department seek Parliamentary approval for new digs

The Public Works Committee is conducting an inquiry into a proposed office fitout for the Attorney-General's Department (AGD) at 4 National Circuit, Barton.

The AGD has submitted a proposal for the fitout of 8,000m² of office space, in a new building which will sit across the road from its major Canberra premises at 3-5 National Circuit. The new premises would enable the Department to locate all of its Canberra administrative accommodation in the two buildings. The cost of the proposal is \$18 million, and the new space would enable the termination of three existing leases, improving organisational efficiency and flexibility. The proposal would also enable the AGD to attain higher environmental ratings on its accommodation, as well as improving its occupational density under the Commonwealth Property Management Guidelines.

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 give the Attorney-General's Department more flexibility, as well as ensuring that it adheres to the environmental standards expected of Commonwealth agencies,' Ms Saffin said. 'The Committee is concerned to ensure that this project meets the AGD's requirements, whilst providing high quality and sustainable accommodation for its staff. The Committee is also keen to ensure that the Commonwealth is getting good value for money.'

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

Submissions close on 3 December 2010.

The Committee will be holding a public hearing on the proposal on 19 November 2010 in Canberra –

Venue: **Committee Room 1R2**, Parliament House, Canberra
Date: **Friday 19 November 2010**
Time: **9.15am**

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 Attorney-General's Department.

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.