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## **New Defence nutrition facilities to go before Public Works Committee**

The Public Works Committee is conducting an inquiry into proposed new facilities for the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO) at Scottsdale, Tasmania.

The Department of Defence's submission outlines the detail of the proposed facilities, which would enable the Human Protection and Performance Division of DSTO to continue to produce food for ration packs, as well as conducting tests, evaluations and investigations into how Defence rations affect the health and performance of members of the Australian Defence Force. The estimated cost of the works is \$18.7 million (excluding GST). If approved by Parliament, the works would commence in early 2012 and be complete by mid 2014.

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.

'The Committee is aware that this would be a considerable investment in the local economy at Scottsdale,' Ms Saffin said. 'The Committee will be interested to ensure that the Commonwealth gets good value for money, whilst enabling Defence to provide facilities that meet the needs of its staff and the ADF.'

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 27 July 2011 in Scottsdale. 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.