



Proposed upgrade for HMAS Albatross

The Public Works Committee is conducting an inquiry into the proposed redevelopment of HMAS Albatross in Nowra, NSW.

HMAS Albatross is the centre of the Royal Australian Navy's maritime aviation capability, supporting one training helicopter squadron and two operational helicopter squadrons. Defence proposes to upgrade the infrastructure and engineering services of the air station to improve functionality and capability for training exercises and operations. The project will include upgrading and extending existing buildings, as well as developing new facilities to enhance current and future planning for the site.

Defence seeks approval from the Committee to proceed with the redevelopment, at an anticipated cost of \$192 million. If approved, Defence aims to complete the project by mid 2015.

The Committee's Chair, Janelle Saffin MP, said the Committee will inspect the site and conduct a public hearing in relation to the proposed works on 8 November 2011.

"The HMAS Albatross redevelopment project aims to undertake works to facilities, infrastructure and engineering services that require replacement, refurbishment and upgrading to meet the air station's projected operational and support capabilities for the next 30 years. The Committee will scrutinise Defence's proposal carefully to ensure the proposed works are fit for purpose and offer value for money".

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

Submissions to the inquiry close on Thursday, 3 November 2011.

The Committee will be holding a public hearing on the proposed redevelopment at HMAS Albatross on Tuesday, 8 November 2011, in Nowra. Details of the public hearing will be announced soon.

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 (02) 6277 4636.