



Defence works on Sydney Harbour and Pittwater for Committee review

The Public Works Committee is conducting an inquiry into a proposed redevelopment of HMAS Penguin and the Pittwater Annexe by the Department of Defence.

The proposal would provide new working and training accommodation for the Royal Australian Navy Dive School, as well as updating aged engineering infrastructure, improving base entry and reconstructing the waterfront area. With an estimated cost of \$63.3 million, the project would provide the Navy with facilities that are sustainable in the long term. Subject to Parliamentary approval, construction would commence in early 2011 and be complete by mid 2013.

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 development and public submissions on the proposal are welcomed.

'This project would update existing infrastructure that dates from the 1940s, and ensure that the Navy has appropriate facilities to train its divers,' said Ms Saffin. 'The Committee is aware that some of these facilities have significant heritage values, and is keen to ensure that the proposed works maintains these values and does not unreasonably impact on the local communities. The Committee will welcome any comments from local residents on the proposal.'

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

Submissions close on 12 November 2010.

The Committee will be holding a hearing on the proposal on 8 November 2010 in Sydney.

Public Hearing – Members of the public are welcome to attend the hearing.

Venue: HMAS Penguin Conference Centre, Cnr Middle Head Rd and Chowder Bay Rd, Mosman

Date: Monday 8 November 2010

Time: 2.30pm

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.