



New embassy approved by the Public Works Committee

The Australian Parliament's Public Works Committee has recommended that the construction of a new Australian embassy complex in Jakarta, Indonesia be approved.

The embassy complex will cost \$415 million and provide office accommodation for the fourteen Australian government agencies represented in Indonesia as well as living accommodation for the head of mission and 32 essential staff and their families.

"The Committee is confident that the design of the planned complex includes the particular security needs of the Australian mission in Indonesia", Chair of the Committee, Senator McLucas said, "the Committee received a detailed briefing about the proposed development and heard from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at a public hearing on this issue."

"The Committee was also impressed by the environmental initiatives included in this building design," Senator McLucas said. "It proves that government agencies can be at the cutting edge of sustainable design."

"Further, the Committee noted the reflection of the spirit of the Australian character in features throughout the complex."

The Public Works Committee has recommended to Parliament that the project be approved. The House of Representatives is expected to vote on the approval motion on Thursday, 20 August 2009.

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 Foreign Affairs and Trade.

For interview: Contact the office of the Committee Chair, Senator Jan McLucas on (02) 6277 3680.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works investigates all major infrastructure spending proposals by Commonwealth agencies. **For further information** on the role of the Committee, membership recent on ongoing inquiries, please visit the Committee website <http://www.aph.gov.au/pwc> or contact the Committee Secretariat on 02 6277 4636.