



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

*Chair: Ms Janelle Saffin MP*

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## **New Defence housing development planned for Townsville**

The Public Works Committee is conducting an inquiry into the proposed development and construction of new housing for Defence personnel at Rasmussen in Townsville, Queensland.

Defence Housing Australia (DHA) states the proposed housing development would provide necessary housing for families of Defence personnel working in the Townsville area over the next five years. DHA submits that it needs to provide approximately 80 new dwellings per year to maintain or reduce the number of Defence personnel on rental assistance; replace housing returned to investors at end of lease; and replace existing housing that no longer meets Defence standards. In this project, DHA proposes to develop approximately 1,180 allotments plus one medium density site for the provision of housing in Rasmussen, with 401 of these lots being used to construct houses for Defence families. The remaining residential lots and medium density site are to be sold to the general Townsville market.

Subject to market conditions, the final project would be complete in 2023, at a total cost of approximately \$261.7 million. This cost would be recovered through sale of individual lots to the general market and the sale of DHA constructed housing through its Sale and Lease Back program.

The Committee's Chair, Janelle Saffin MP, said the Committee will inspect the site and conduct a public hearing regarding the proposed Defence housing project in 2012.

"Defence Housing Australia states that the Rasmussen housing project is necessary to meet future housing needs for Defence personnel and their families in the Townsville area. The Committee will review whether the project suits its purpose and represents a sound financial investment for the Commonwealth, noting the commercial nature of Defence Housing Australia".

Full details on the proposal are available on the Committee's website: [www.aph.gov.au/pwc](http://www.aph.gov.au/pwc)

### **Submissions to the inquiry close on Friday, 3 February 2012.**

The Committee will be holding a public hearing on the proposed redevelopment in Townsville in 2012. 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 Defence Housing Australia.

**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.

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