



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

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Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

Chair: Ms Janelle Saffin MP

Move to improve fuel storage and supply on Christmas Island

The Public Works Committee is conducting an inquiry into the Proposed Improvement to Fuel Storage and Supply on Christmas Island.

The Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport proposes to increase bulk fuel storage capacity and integrate and co-locate storage of diesel, aviation fuel and petrol on Christmas Island. The project is estimated to cost \$19.5 million, excluding GST.

All fuel is currently delivered to Christmas Island by sea. The Department states that adverse weather conditions limit and often prevent ships from unloading. Scheduled deliveries can be compromised due to changes to the timing of the swell season. The Department states that the current fuel storage facilities were built prior to the commencement of the Immigration Detention Centre on the island. Increased activity on the island since that time has increased demand for fuel. The ability to meet this growing demand for fuel has been limited by the current capacity of the fuel storage infrastructure.

The Committee's Chair, Janelle Saffin MP, said that the Committee was briefed on the current fuel storage facilities when it visited Christmas Island in June 2011.

"The Committee viewed the fuel supply and storage systems currently in place on Christmas Island when it visited the island in June last year," she said.

"The Committee will be reviewing the detail of this project carefully to ensure that the project will meet the desired need and project objectives, while delivering value for money for the Commonwealth."

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

Submissions to the inquiry close on Tuesday, 24 April 2012.

The Committee will hold a public hearing on the proposed fuel project on 3 May 2012 in Sydney. Further 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 Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport.

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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