



AFP Commissioner to appear before Parliamentary Public Works Committee

The Australian Federal Police Commissioner will appear before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on the proposed fit out of the AFP's new Canberra headquarters.

At an estimated cost of \$115 million, the proposed new AFP headquarters involves a fit out of the Edmond Barton Building on Canberra's Parliamentary triangle. Subject to parliamentary approval, the project would provide the AFP with a consolidated headquarters to meet the greater demands and increased expectations being placed on the agency. The fit-out aims to give due consideration to the heritage value of the building while accommodating the security and efficiency demands of the AFP.

Submissions to the inquiry have raised concerns about the heritage value of the building as well as traffic and parking concerns in the Parliamentary Triangle. Committee Deputy Chair, Senator Judith Troeth, said that the public hearing to be held in Canberra on 19 September would raise these concerns with the AFP as well as the long-term viability of the Edmund Barton Building as the national police headquarters.

'The Committee is aware that the AFP has already spent a significant amount of Commonwealth money on the fit out and rent at ANZAC Park West which, despite exclusion from the Public Works Committee process, has sat vacant since 2006,' Senator Troeth said. 'The Committee will be seeking assurances that the proposal for the Edmund Barton Building meets the current and future needs of the AFP and will provide a long-term solution to its accommodation needs in Canberra.'

The Committee will undertake a site inspection of the proposed site, followed by an in-camera hearing on the projects costs. Members of the public are invited to attend the public hearing commencing at approximately 10.30am.

Details of the public hearing:

Date:	Friday 19 September 2008
Location:	Parliament House, Canberra Committee Room 2R1
Time:	AFP Headquarters, 10.30am (Please call the secretariat on 0434 567 521 to confirm the commencement times)

Please note that 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 AFP directly.

For further information, please visit the Committee website <http://www.aph.gov.au/pwc> or contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4636.

For **media comment** from the Deputy Chair, Senator Judith Troeth please contact Jared Newton on 0401 165 593.