



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

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Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

Chair: Ms Janelle Saffin MP

Proposed new premises for federal Parliamentarians in Sydney

The Public Works Committee is conducting an inquiry into the proposed fit-out of new leased premises for Sydney Commonwealth Parliament Offices (CPO).

The Department of Finance and Deregulation (DoFD) holds responsibility for providing office accommodation for Commonwealth Parliamentarians in each capital city. The lease on the previous Sydney premises lapsed in February, and DoFD argues that those facilities are outdated and not fit for purpose. DoFD is of the view that the best value for money would be to relocate the CPO to 1 Bligh Street using the lease proposed by the building owner. The project is estimated to cost \$21 million, excluding GST, and would be complete by November 2012.

The Committee's Chair, Janelle Saffin MP, said "factors driving the decision to relocate the Sydney CPO offices include the safety, security, parking, access and amenity of the building. The Department of Finance and Deregulation advises that the current facilities are considered no longer appropriate for their intended use".

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

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 fit out 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 Finance and Deregulation.

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.