



## **Inquiry into Hardened and Networked Army Facilities at Edinburgh Defence Precinct, South Australia**

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works will inquire into the Department of Defence proposal to upgrade its facilities at the Edinburgh Defence Precinct, South Australia. The estimated cost of the proposed works is \$623.68 million (excluding GST).

Defence proposes to provide permanent working accommodation for a mechanised infantry battalion, artillery, engineer and combat services support sub-units, plus infrastructure and replacement common user facilities to meet both Army and Air Force requirements at its Edinburgh precinct. Off-site works at Murray Bridge and Cultana Range, South Australia are also included.

Committee Chair, Mark Butler MP, today announced that the committee will hold a public hearing on the Defence proposal in Edinburgh and invited the public to attend. "This public hearing will enable the Committee to examine the proposal, in respect of the need, cost, scope, purpose and value for money", Mr Butler said. "I encourage members of the public to come along and hear about this important development in their local community".

In accordance with the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, the Committee is required to investigate the following in relation to each work referred to it:

- the stated purpose of the proposed work and its suitability for that purpose;
- the need for, and advisability of, the work;
- the cost-effectiveness of the proposal;
- the amount of revenue the work will produce if that is its purpose; and
- the current and prospective public value of the work.

The Committee will travel to South Australia on 1 April and conduct an inspection of the proposed works. It will then consider the issues raised at the public hearing and report its recommendations and conclusions to parliament.

### **Details of the public hearing:**

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Location: | Salisbury City Council Chambers,<br>12 James Street, Salisbury |
| Date:     | Tuesday 1 April 2008   |
| Time:     | 12:00pm – 13:00pm  |

### **For interview:**

Please contact the office of the Committee Chair, Mark Butler MP on (08) 8447 7466.

**For further information**, including the referral details, transcripts 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. On the day of the hearing the Secretariat can be contacted on 0434 567 521.