



Defence Housing gets Public Works go-ahead

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works has today approved the construction, in Brisbane and Darwin, of significant new housing for members of the Australian Defence Force and their families. Its seventh report of 2009 covers numerous projects around Australia, and recommends that the two projects from Defence Housing Australia (DHA) proceed.

The first project will construct 51 new homes in the Gordon Olive Estate in McDowall, Brisbane, at a cost of \$27.2 million. The second project, on Larrakeyah Barracks in Darwin, will provide 97 new homes, at a cost of \$52.4 million.

In each case, the Committee conducted site tours and representatives from Defence Housing Australia outlined the proposed use of land for the new housing. The Committee was keen to ensure that the new homes would be carefully matched to the local environment, weather and climate, and commends DHA for its attention to these issues. In particular, the Committee was pleased to note DHA's recent decision to build all new homes to a 6-star energy efficiency rating.

The Committee was, however, concerned about the way in which DHA provides disability-access housing. It has recommended DHA work with the Department of Defence to establish a demand level for such housing, and build a respective proportion of its new homes with integrated access features.

'The Committee is pleased to recommend these works proceed,' said Committee Chair, Senator the Hon Jan Lucas. 'These construction projects will provide much needed housing for members of the ADF and their families, and the Committee commends DHA for the environmentally sustainable features included in the designs.'

The House of Representatives is expected to vote on a motion to approve the works on Wednesday, 25 November 2009.

For interview: Contact the Committee Chair, Senator the Hon Jan Lucas's media advisor, Derek Tipper on 0434 663 757.

For copies of the report, please visit the Committee website <http://www.aph.gov.au/pwc> or contact the Committee Secretariat on 02 6277 4636.

