



Climate Change Department gets green thumbs up for new office

In its second report of 2010, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works has recommended the approval of a new office fitout for the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency in Canberra.

To be located in the New Acton precinct, by Lake Burley Griffin, the project will enable the Department to collocate its staff in new, purpose-designed office accommodation with high environmental standards. At an estimated cost of \$20.5 million, the proposal will also provide the Department with a significant opportunity to showcase leading edge sustainable technologies.

The fitout will incorporate a number of energy efficient and environmentally sustainable features, including operable windows, mechanical louvres for night-time cooling, exposed structural concrete to moderate temperature fluctuations, underfloor air distribution, and a 400-kilowatt solar electricity panel.

The Committee held a public hearing with the Department in Canberra, and was pleased to have the participation of a number of members of the public. While concerns were raised about a number of issues, notably the potential heritage impacts of the proposed building, it is not within the Committee's scope or ability to address these matters.

'The Committee is pleased to see environmental sustainability so carefully considered in this project,' said Committee Chair, Senator the Hon Jan McLucas. 'This proposal puts the Commonwealth in a leading-edge occupancy, and demonstrates the significant savings that can be made by innovative and creative fitout design.'

The House of Representatives is expected to vote on a motion to approve the works on Thursday, 24 June 2010.

For interview: Contact the Committee Chair, Senator the Hon Jan McLucas'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.