



## **Public hearing into proposed Super Hornet Aircraft Facilities at RAAF Base Amberley, Queensland**

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works will inquire into the Department of Defence proposal to provide facilities for the Super Hornet Aircraft at RAAF Base Amberley, near Ipswich Queensland. The estimated cost of the proposed works is \$117.1 million (excluding GST).

In 2007 the Australian Government announced its decision to acquire 24 F/A-18F Super Hornet Aircraft to enhance air combat capability. The first four of the aircraft are scheduled to be delivered in March 2010. According to the Department of Defence submission, the 'change in aircraft specification, operations, maintenance and training, and corresponding changes in unit roles and organisational structure, necessitates the investment in airfield facilities and infrastructure at RAAF Base Amberley'. The proposal consists of eleven elements including new accommodation for no. 1 Squadron, modifications to accommodation for no. 6 Squadron and expansion of the existing common use Operational Level Maintenance facility.

In his submission to the inquiry, local Mayor, Paul Pisasale, indicated that the Ipswich City Council enthusiastically welcomes 'the economic and social benefits that the new and improved Super Hornets Facility will bring' to the region.

Committee Chair, Mark Butler MP, today announced that the committee will hold a public hearing on the proposal 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 more about this important addition to defence infrastructure'.

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

Date:	Wednesday 20 August 2008
Location:	The Workshops Rail Museum North Street, North Ipswich
Time:	12:45pm – 13:45pm (approx) (Please call the secretariat on 0434 567 521 to confirm the commencement time)
Main witnesses:	Department of Defence Department of Main Roads (Qld)

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 the Department of Defence.

### **For interview:**

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

**For further information**, including how to make a submission 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.