



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

**MEDIA RELEASE**

*Issued: 29 February 2012*

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

**Chair: Ms Janelle Saffin MP**

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## **Public hearing for proposed Christmas Island housing program**

The Public Works Committee will hold a public hearing into the Christmas Island New Housing Program proposed by the Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport on Friday, 2 March 2012. The Department seeks approval from the Committee to proceed with Projects Two and Three of a three-stage housing program, having already received approval to proceed with Project One, the construction of 16 dwellings.

There is a critical housing shortage on Christmas Island. The Department states that the construction of a further 16 new dwellings in Projects Two and Three would reduce pressure on the local rental market and house essential staff required for the provision of essential policing, health, education and administration services. Cabinet has approved funding of \$26.6 million over three years to enable the Department to address the housing shortfall on Christmas Island.

Full details on the proposal are available on the Committee's website: [www.aph.gov.au/pwc](http://www.aph.gov.au/pwc)

Hearing Venue: **Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra**  
Date: **Friday, 2 March 2012**  
Time: **9.00am to 10.00am**

Members of the public are welcome to attend.

**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 Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport

**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.