



## **New hearing dates announced for \$226 million works for the Federal Police and a radio telescope**

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works will undertake hearings into major proposals by the Australian Federal Police (AFP) concerning the fit out of their new Canberra headquarters and the Commonwealth Scientific and Research Organisation (CSIRO) proposal for a cutting edge radio telescope in the remote north of Western Australia.

At an estimated cost of \$115 million, the proposed new AFP headquarters would involve a fit out of the Edmond Barton Building on Canberra's Parliamentary triangle. Subject to parliamentary approval, the project would provide the AFP with a consolidated Headquarters to meet the greater demands and increased expectations being placed on the agency. The fit-out aims to give due consideration to the heritage value of the building while accommodating the security and efficiency demands of the AFP.

The proposed Australian Square Kilometre Array Pathfinder (ASKAP) Radio Telescope would cost an estimated \$111 million and be situated in Geraldton-Greenough and in Murchison Shire, WA. The CSIRO submission refers to ASKAP as 'the fastest radio telescope in the world' which will 'facilitate ground breaking scientific programs'.

Committee Chair, Mark Butler MP, announced that the committee will hold public hearings on the proposals in Canberra on 19 September and invited interested organisations and individuals to look at the proposals. 'These public hearing will assist the Committee to examine each proposal, in respect of the need, cost, scope, purpose and value for money', Mr Butler said. 'I encourage interested organisations, individuals and members of the public to read the detailed proposals for each project and consider sending their views to the Committee in the form of a written submission'.

### **Details of the public hearings:**

Date:	Friday 19 September 2008
Location:	Parliament House, Canberra Committee room 2R1
Time:	AFP Headquarters, morning CSIRO telescope, afternoon (Please call the secretariat on 0434 567 521 to confirm the commencement times)
Main witnesses:	Australian Federal Police Commonwealth Scientific and Research Organisation

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 to the AFP or CSIRO directly.

**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.