



Public Works Committee to scrutinise facilities for new ADF vehicles

The Public Works Committee is conducting an inquiry into proposed facilities for the introduction into service of 'Land 121 Vehicles' at RAAF Base Amberley and Damascus Barracks, Meeandah, Queensland and at Gaza Ridge Barracks, Victoria.

The Department of Defence has submitted its proposal for the works, outlining the three major project locations and works proposed for each location. The project has a total cost of \$50.3 million, and would provide facilities for three main purposes:

- the receipt, inspection, fitout and dispatch of vehicles;
- the training of military drivers to operate the new vehicles; and
- maintenance training for the new fleet.

Each of the project locations is at or near an existing Defence site, and the works will include the reuse of existing facilities as well as demolitions and new constructions. If Parliamentary approval is given, construction would commence in 2011 and be completed by early 2012.

The Public Works Committee is responsible for ensuring that the need, cost and scope proposed is appropriate.

The Committee's Chair, Janelle Saffin MP, said the Committee is keen to hear a wide range of views on the proposed fitout and public submissions on the proposal are welcomed.

'This proposal would be an important part of the infrastructure that supports the work of the Australian Defence Force, and would enable ADF personnel to have the training and support necessary for the introduction of these new vehicles,' Ms Saffin said. 'The Committee is concerned to ensure that the concerns of local residents have been taken into account, and that the Commonwealth is getting value for money in this significant investment.'

Full details on the proposal are available on the Committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/pwc

Submissions close on 14 January 2011.

The Committee will be holding a public hearing on the proposal on 31 January 2011 in Brisbane. Details for the hearing can be found on the Committee's website closer to the date.

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 Defence.

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 0434 567 521.