



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 29 April 2013

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

Chair: Ms Kirsten Livermore MP

Inquiry into withdrawal of Defence infrastructure from Tarin Kot, Afghanistan

The Public Works Committee is conducting an inquiry into the Multi National Base Tarin Kot (MNB-TK) Remediation Project proposed by the Department of Defence.

On 26 March 2013, the Minister for Defence announced the closure of MNB-TK, Australia's main operating base located within the Uruzgan Province of Afghanistan, by the end of 2013.

As part of the closure of MNB-TK, the Department of Defence is required to undertake remediation activities to ensure that the base, which Australia has occupied since 2005, is returned to Afghan control in a suitable condition. Remediation will include the transfer of suitable Australian infrastructure and facilities to the Afghanistan National Security Force and the deconstruction of all other infrastructure and facilities.

The estimated cost of the project is \$47 million.

A brief submission on the proposal from the Department of Defence is available on the Committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/pwc

The Committee's Chair, Kirsten Livermore MP, said the Committee will receive a briefing on the project and will conduct public and in-camera hearings in April 2012.

"The Committee will scrutinise this important project to ensure that the proposed remediation works will meet the Australian Government's objectives while providing value for money," Ms Livermore said.

A brief public hearing will be held this week:

Hearing Venue: Committee Room G6
Victorian Parliament Committee Rooms
55 St Andrews Place
Melbourne, Victoria

Date: Wednesday, 1 May 2013

Time: 2.30pm to 2.45pm

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 office on (07) 4922 6604.

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.

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