



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

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Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

Chair: Ms Janelle Saffin MP

New Defence housing development planned for Weston Creek in Canberra

The Public Works Committee is conducting an inquiry into the proposed development and construction of new housing for Defence personnel at Weston Creek in the ACT.

Defence Housing Australia (DHA) states the proposed housing development would provide necessary housing for families of Defence personnel working in the ACT, particularly those personnel based at the nearby Australian Defence College. The proposed development will provide approximately 50 dwellings at Weston Creek which will ensure that the number of Defence personnel on rental assistance remains below the target of 15 per cent. Importantly, the new dwellings will be part of DHA's capital investment and residential construction program for the ACT region, which will see the replacement of houses that are at end of lease or do not meet current standards.

DHA anticipates that dwellings will be delivered and the project completed by December 2014. The total cost of the project is approximately \$39 million. This cost would be recovered through sale of individual lots to the general market and the sale of DHA constructed housing through its Sale and Lease Back program.

The Committee's Chair, Janelle Saffin MP, said the Committee will inspect the site and conduct a public hearing regarding the proposed Defence housing project in July 2012.

"This development aims to meet the needs of the broader Defence community and will provide an important accommodation option for personnel attending the Australian Defence College."

"It is the Committee's role to review the proposed development and construction of housing at the Weston Creek site, to ensure the project meets its desired purpose and represents value for money for the Commonwealth", Ms Saffin said.

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

Submissions to the inquiry close on Thursday, 21 June 2012.

The Committee will be holding a public hearing on the proposed redevelopment in Canberra in July. Details of the public hearing will be announced soon.

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 Defence Housing Australia.

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.

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