



New Darwin development by Defence Housing Australia referred to the Public Works Committee

The Public Works Committee is conducting an inquiry into the proposed development and construction of housing by Defence Housing Australia (DHA) at Muirhead, Darwin, Northern Territory.

The proposal would fully utilise DHA's land in the suburb of Muirhead, at a cost of \$410 million. Using the 167.6 hectare site in northern Darwin, the project would develop 930 serviced lots. DHA would also construct 279 homes for members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and their families. DHA proposes to then sell the remaining lots: 15% would be offered to the Northern Territory Government for Community and Affordable Housing, and the rest would be sold to the public. If approved by Parliament, the project would commence in late 2011, and the final stage would be complete in mid 2019.

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

The Committee is keen to hear a wide range of views on the proposed development and public submissions on the proposal are welcomed.

'This proposal would be a significant development in Darwin, providing a considerable amount of new land for construction, as well as providing housing for the ADF', said Ms Saffin. 'The Committee wants to make sure that the project is sensitive to the concerns of local residents, and that the housing is suitable for Darwin's climate. I strongly encourage local residents who are interested in participating in the inquiry to make a submission.'

PUBLIC HEARING:

Date: Tuesday 3 May 2011

Time: 1.00pm - 2.30pm

Venue: Crowne Plaza, 32 Mitchell Street Darwin

Witnesses Appearing:

DHA (1.00pm - 2.00pm)

Other Witnesses (2.00pm - 2.30pm)

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 0434 567 521.