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## **Tax Office Accounts for new digs**

The Public Works Committee is conducting an inquiry into a proposed office fitout for the Australian Taxation Office (the Tax Office) in Collins Street, Melbourne.

The project, estimated to cost \$50.9 million, proposes to provide a fitout of new central office space for the ATO. Currently, employees are spread over five locations in the Melbourne CBD, and the project would provide space for all of those staff in one building. The site is part of a broader development of the area between the Melbourne CBD and Docklands, and the ATO would join other large national organisations already in the area.

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.

‘The Tax Office states that this project would allow it to centralise its operations in Melbourne, whilst providing office space that is in tune with the highest Government standards,’ said Senator McLucas. ‘The building proposes a 5-star environmental rating of the building, and the Committee looks forward to seeing how this project would contribute to greener, healthier and more efficient work environments.’

Full details on the proposal and details of the public hearing will soon be available on the Committee’s website. Submissions close on 12 March 2010. The Committee will be holding a public hearing on the proposal on 19 March 2010 in Melbourne.

**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 Australian Taxation Office.

**For interview:** Contact the Chair’s media advisor, Derek Tipper on 0434 663 757.

**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.