



Defence Housing gets Public Works go-ahead

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works has today recommended approval for the construction, in Sydney and Darwin, of significant new housing for members of the Australian Defence Force and their families. Its second report of 2010 covers numerous projects around Australia, and recommends that the two projects from Defence Housing Australia (DHA) proceed.

The first project will construct 59 new homes in the Voyager Point Estate in Liverpool, NSW at a cost of 45.1 million. The second project, in the new suburb of Muirhead in Darwin, will provide 50 new homes, and develop 166 building lots for private and community development, at a cost of \$43.5 million.

In each case, the Committee conducted site tours and representatives from Defence Housing Australia outlined the proposed use of land for the new housing. The Committee was keen to ensure that the new homes would be carefully matched to the local environment and climate, and commends DHA for its attention to these issues. In particular, the Committee commends DHA for its commitment to tropical design and supporting the Darwin building industry to gain skills in sustainable building methods.

The Committee continues to be concerned about the way in which DHA provides accessible accommodation and will have ongoing discussions with DHA about building 'housing for life' which is accessible, and liveable, for all members of the family, including visiting elderly relatives and people with disabilities.

'The Committee is pleased to recommend these works proceed,' said Committee Chair, Senator the Hon Jan McLucas. 'These construction projects will provide much needed housing for members of the ADF and their families. In particular the Darwin proposal is a considerable step forward for DHA in planning and delivering quality accommodation that respects the tropical climate.'

The House of Representatives is expected to vote on a motion to approve the works on Wednesday, 25 November 2009.

For interview: Contact the Committee Chair, Senator the Hon Jan McLucas's media advisor, Derek Tipper on 0434 663 757.

For copies of the report, please visit the Committee website <http://www.aph.gov.au/pwc> or contact the Committee Secretariat on 02 6277 4636.