



Tropical Marine Research facilities under Public Works microscope

The Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) proposes to undertake a number of works in Townsville and on its principal site at Cape Ferguson, near Townsville, Queensland. The Tropical Marine Research Facilities project is proposed with a view to enhancing Australia's marine science capacity and building on AIMS's expertise and collaborative links, both nationally and internationally. The project has an estimated cost of \$49.5 million (excluding GST).

The Public Works Committee is responsible for ensuring that the need, cost, value for money and scope proposed for the works 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 looks to support AIMS' continuing work on the sustainable use and protection of the marine environment, as well as the impact of change on marine ecosystems," said Senator McLucas. "The Committee wants to ensure that the facilities will be built to withstand the tropical climate and weather, as well as protecting the natural heritage on and around the site."

Full details on the proposal are available on the Committee's website. Submissions close on 12 November 2009.

The Committee will hold a public hearing with the Australian Institute of Marine Science on the proposal at **2pm on Thursday 5 November 2009**.

Details of the hearing are:

Mercure Inn Townsville
Woolcock Street
Townsville

Members of the public are welcome to attend the public hearing.

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 Institute of Marine Science.

For interview: Contact the office of the Committee Chair, Senator the Hon Jan McLucas on (07) 4031 6009 or 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 02 6277 4636.