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## **Inquiry into regional processing centre on Manus Island, Papua New Guinea**

The Public Works Committee is conducting an inquiry into the proposed infrastructure and upgrade works to establish a regional processing centre on Manus Island, Papua New Guinea.

The Expert Panel on Asylum Seekers Report outlined an expectation that asylum seekers who have their claims processed on Manus Island will be provided with protection and welfare arrangements consistent with Australian and Host Nation responsibilities under international law, including the United Nations Human Rights Commission Refugees Convention.

The proposed facilities on Manus Island would include:

- a 600 person regional processing centre, able to accommodate families and other vulnerable groups (which would be suitable for other cohorts if required)
- health, welfare, recreational, operational and all engineering facilities and services
- purpose built staff accommodation for 200 staff.

The estimated cost of the project is \$171.69 million. Construction is expected to be complete by January 2014.

The Committee's Chair, Kirsten Livermore MP, said the Committee was pleased the urgent works would still be subject to parliamentary scrutiny.

"There is an urgent need to provide facilities on Manus Island for asylum seekers. These facilities must meet standards under international law. The Committee will assess the proposal to ensure it meets these standards and provides value for money for the Commonwealth," Ms Livermore said.

Full details on the proposal are available on the Committee's website: [www.aph.gov.au/pwc](http://www.aph.gov.au/pwc)

### **Submissions to the inquiry close on Thursday, 18 April.**

Details of the public hearing program 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 the Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

**For interview:** Contact the Chair's office on (07) 4922 6604.

**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.