



From dark matter to petaflops: science infrastructure meets Public Works approval

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works has today recommended approval of \$128 million of infrastructure for new science facilities in Australia. The facilities will provide a significant boost for Australian research capacity at the CSIRO in Perth and the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation's (ANSTO) facility in Sydney.

The CSIRO will be constructing the Pawsey High Performance Computing Centre in Perth at a cost of \$66 million, specifically to support the Square Kilometre Array telescope, but also to ensure that Australian scientists can remain at the leading edge of super computer science.

ANSTO will invest \$62.5 million in extensions to the Bragg Institute and OPAL reactor building to provide better working accommodation for staff and the construction of a new Centre for Accelerator Science, used to conduct research under the National Research Priorities.

In each case, the Committee conducted site tours and heard from scientists that will be using the facilities. 'These projects are an exciting development for current and future Australian researchers,' said Committee Chair, Senator the Hon Jan McLucas. 'Australian scientists are amongst the world's finest and it is essential that they are supported to remain at the leading edge of modern scientific discovery. The Public Works Committee is happy to support these proposals'

The House of Representatives is expected to vote on a motion to approve the works on Thursday, 24 June 2010.

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.