



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

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Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

Chair: Ms Janelle Saffin MP

New building for National Archives of Australia

The Public Works Committee is conducting an inquiry into the proposed new National Archives preservation facility and refurbishment of the existing Mitchell facility, for the National Archives of Australia (NAA), at Mitchell, ACT.

The proposed National Archives preservation facility is a pre-commitment lease of a new, purpose designed and built facility of approximately 17,900 m², with 104 shelf kilometres of paper storage capacity and 10 shelf kilometres of audiovisual storage. It will include contemporary preservation and conservation laboratory areas, records processing and handling areas, and staff amenities.

The existing Mitchell building will be over 35 years old in 2017 when the current lease expires, and much of the building plant and equipment will be well past its useful life. Before renewing the lease, the building will be upgraded to meet National Construction Code requirements.

The Committee's Chair, Janelle Saffin MP, said the Committee will examine the NAA project and conduct a public hearing regarding the proposal in July 2012.

"The proposed preservation facility and the Mitchell refurbishment will enable the National Archives of Australia to begin to address a backlog of some 165 shelf kilometres of paper archives currently held in Australian Government agencies. The proposed facilities will store material that is currently held in less than optimal conditions and provide sufficient storage for growth until approximately 2031."

"The Committee will scrutinise National Archives of Australia's proposal carefully to ensure the proposed works are fit for purpose and offer value for money for the Commonwealth", Ms Saffin said.

Full details on the proposal are available on the Committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/pwc

Submissions to the inquiry close on Thursday, 5 July 2012.

The Committee will be holding a public hearing on the proposed works in Canberra in July. Details of the public hearing 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 National Archives of Australia.

For interview: Contact the Chair's media advisor, Lee Duncan on 0448 158 150.

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.

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