



\$455 million worth of public works to come under parliamentary scrutiny

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works will inquire into six proposals in August and September 2008 valued at almost half a billion dollars.

Committee Chair, Mark Butler MP, announced today that the committee will hold a series of inspections and hearings into a diverse range of projects including facilities to support the introduction of Super Hornet aircraft at RAAF Base Amberley, the Australian Square Kilometre Array Pathfinder Radio Telescope in Geraldton-Greenough and in Murchison Shire, WA and the Australian Pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo in 2010.

“The hearings will enable the Committee to help ensure that Australian taxpayers receive value for their money in these important projects”, Mr Butler said. “I encourage interested individuals and organisations to look at the proposals, consider making a submission and come along to a public hearing.”

In accordance with the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, the Committee is required to investigate the following in relation to each work referred to it:

- the stated purpose of the proposed work and its suitability for that purpose;
- the need for, and advisability of, the work;
- the cost-effectiveness of the proposal;
- the amount of revenue the work will produce if that is its purpose; and
- the current and prospective public value of the work.

Schedule of inquiry hearings:

Inquiry:	Hearing venue:	Date:
Bridging of Kings Avenue over Parkes Way at the Russell Roundabout, Canberra, ACT (valued at \$26.6m)	Parliament House, Canberra	6 August
Construction of the Australian Pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo 2010 (valued at \$49.38m)	Parliament House, Canberra	6 August
Construction of New Warehousing Facilities at Wadsworth Barracks, East Bandiana, Vic (valued at \$36.37m)	Wodonga City Council Chambers	7 August
Australian Super Hornet Facilities Project, RAAF Base Amberley, Qld (valued at \$117.1m)	Ipswich (venue to be confirmed)	20 August
New Australian Federal Police Building Headquarters, ACT (valued at \$115m)	Parliament House, Canberra	5 September
Australian SKA Pathfinder Radio-Telescope, Geraldton-Greenough and Murchison Shire WA (valued at \$111m)	Parliament House, Canberra	5 September

Following the hearings the Committee will consider the issues raised and report its recommendations and conclusions to parliament.

For interview:

Please contact the office of the Committee Chair, Mark Butler MP on (08) 8447 7466.

For further information, including the hearing details and how to make a submission, please visit the Committee website <http://www.aph.gov.au/pwc> or contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4636. On the day of the hearing the Secretariat can be contacted on 0434 567 521.