

PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 20 September 2012

Chair: Ms Janelle Saffin MP

Upgrades to Defence housing planned for the Northern Territory

The Public Works Committee is conducting inquiries into the proposed upgrades of onbase housing for two sites in the Northern Territory to meet the Defence minimum standard.

Defence Housing Australia states that the proposed works to Larrakeyah Barracks in Darwin will refurbish 48 run-down dwellings in order to provide modern, up-to-date housing. The works will take place between February 2013 and April 2015 with an estimated cost of \$25 million for the project.

The proposed works at the RAAF Base in Tindal, near Katherine, will upgrade 131 onbase houses to the Defence minimum standard. The project is scheduled for March 2013 to February 2015, with an estimated cost of \$57 million.

Committee Chair, Janelle Saffin, said the Committee will visit both sites before conducting public hearings in Canberra on Friday, 2 November 2012.

"The projects aim to bring on-base housing up to the 2006 Defence minimum standard," Ms Saffin said.

"The Committee will scrutinise the projects to ensure they both meet their designated purpose and offer value for money for the Commonwealth."

Full details on the proposals are available on the Committee's website: <u>www.aph.gov.au/pwc</u>

Submissions to both inquiries close on Friday, 26 October 2012.

Full details of the public hearing will be announced closer to the date.

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 Defence Housing Australia.

For interview: Contact the Chair's media advisor, Lee Duncan on 0448 158 150 or 0418 664 001

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 <u>http://www.aph.gov.au/pwc</u> or contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4636.