



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

**Chair: Mrs Karen Andrews MP**

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## **Inquiry into Defence Terrestrial Communications Network Facilities and Infrastructure Project**

The Public Works Committee is conducting an inquiry into the Defence Terrestrial Communications Network Facilities and Infrastructure Project.

The Department of Defence has told the Committee that it relies on a highly complex Information and Communications Technology (ICT) environment to do business. This ICT environment is made up of a number of commercial, Government, specialist military and bespoke ICT systems operating over a range of networks, across a wide geographic area, providing ICT services to over 100,000 users.

A series of reviews has identified the need for Australian Government agencies, including Defence, to substantially improve the condition, capability, sustainability, productivity and governance of ICT, while targeting real reductions in the expenditure.

The project will set the foundation for all ICT reform and deliver significant business advantages to Defence by upgrading, replacing, standardising and rationalising the Defence Terrestrial Communications Network. It will also enable Defence to reduce network operating costs, reduce the complexity of the network and provide new collaborative business processes for ICT users.

The estimated cost of the project is \$131.1 million.

The Committee's Chair, Karen Andrews MP, said the Committee will conduct public and in-camera hearings for the inquiry in Canberra on Friday, 30 May 2014.

Full details on the project 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, 8 May 2014.**

Full details of the public hearing will be announced in May.

**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 Department of Defence.

**For interview:** Contact the Chair's office on (07) 5580 9111.

**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.