



Defence Housing Australia to explain budget changes

The Public Works Committee is conducting a public hearing relating to budget changes for a Defence Housing Australia project on Larrakeyah Army Barracks in Darwin, Northern Territory.

The project was referred to the Committee in September 2009, and the Committee completed its inquiry into the project in November 2009, after which the House of Representatives moved that the project commence. In the course of tendering, however, Defence Housing Australia (DHA) discovered that it would be unable to deliver the project under the original budget. The Committee has called DHA to appear before it to explain why the original budget was not sufficient to carry out the works.

‘DHA builds hundreds of houses around Australia, and it must have sound budgeting processes,’ Ms Saffin said. ‘It is critical for the sustainability of DHA’s operation that projects are properly scoped and costed before they come before Parliament for approval, and the Committee is interested to know how DHA will ensure that this situation does not arise again. It is particularly important given the recent referral to the Committee of a much larger development and housing project in Darwin.’

Full details of the original inquiry, including DHA’s submission and the Committee’s report, are available on the Committee’s website: www.aph.gov.au/pwc

Full details of the Committee’s current inquiry into the proposed development and construction of Housing for the Department of Defence at Muirhead, Darwin, are also available on the Committee’s website: www.aph.gov.au/pwc

The Public Hearing will be held on Monday 21 March 2011 at Parliament House in Canberra, in Committee Room 1R2, from 9am – 10am.

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.

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 0434 567 521.