



\$19 million in upgrades planned for War Memorial

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works is conducting an inquiry into the proposed upgrade to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

At an estimated cost of \$19.54 million, the proposed upgrade is part of a wider strategy to upgrade facilities at the War Memorial. The development in the Eastern Precinct aims to improve visitor safety, access and amenity as well as delivering a new formal Memorial Courtyard which will provide a site for the National Service Memorial.

The Committee will conduct a site inspection and public hearing on 13 October as part of its inquiry into the proposal. Committee Chair, Mark Butler MP, welcomes the public to attend the public hearings.

"I encourage the public to come along and hear more about this proposed development at one of our national institutions," Mr Butler said. "The Australian War Memorial represents the place those who have fought for our country hold in the heart of the nation. The Committee will be seeking to assure itself that not only is the development value for money, but that it respects the cultural and heritage value of the War Memorial."

Public hearing details:

Monday, 13 October 2008

Venue: Committee Room 1R2, Parliament House, Canberra

10.10am Australian War Memorial

Following the public hearing, the Committee will be holding an in-camera hearing to scrutinise the costs of the proposed works. The Public Works Committee is responsible for assessing that proposals put before it represent value for money. The Committee will also be undertaking an inspection of the proposed site.

For interview:

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

For further information on the proposed works 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.

Please note that 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 Australian War Memorial directly.