



Inquiry into Defence Seahawk Romeo facilities project at HMAS Albatross

The Public Works Committee is conducting an inquiry into the proposed AIR 9000 Phase 8 MH-60R Seahawk Romeo facilities project.

The proposed works would be located at three sites: HMAS Albatross, Nowra, NSW; Fleet Base West (HMAS Stirling), Garden Island, WA; and Twofold Bay, Eden, NSW.

The project proposes to acquire 24 MH-60R Seahawk maritime combat helicopters, with associated support systems and additional explosive ordnance storage capacity necessary for operations. These aircraft will replace the existing maritime combat helicopter capability provided by the Royal Australian Navy's (RAN) 16 ageing S-70B-2 Seahawk helicopters. The new MH-60R aircraft will provide Navy with advanced antisubmarine warfare and anti-surface capabilities through the use of a sophisticated sensor suite, torpedoes and air-to-surface missiles.

The estimated cost of the project is \$201.3 million. Construction is expected to be complete by mid 2017.

The Committee's Chair, Kirsten Livermore MP, said the Committee will conduct an inspection and public hearing for the project in April 2013.

"The Seahawk Romeo facilities project will provide the necessary facilities to support 24 maritime combat helicopters. This project will support operational, training and maintenance needs for the helicopters by providing facilities that meet current needs and can be adapted to meet future requirements. The Committee will assess whether the project meets the need and provides value for money for the Commonwealth," Ms Livermore said.

Full details on the proposal are available on the Committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/pwc

Submissions to the inquiry close on Thursday, 18 April.

Details of the public hearing program will be announced soon.

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 the Department of Defence.

For interview: Contact the Chair's office on (07) 4922 6604.

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.