



Inquiry into Maritime Patrol Aircraft Replacement facilities

The Public Works Committee is conducting an inquiry into the proposed facilities, infrastructure and airfield requirements for the Maritime Patrol Aircraft Replacement Capability Project (AIR7000 Phase 2B).

The 2013 Defence White Paper stated that Defence will continue to provide effective intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capability across Australia's vast maritime area of interest. The White Paper identified that the existing fleet of AP-3C Orion aircraft which have been in service since 1968, will be replaced with P-8A Poseidon aircraft, complemented by unmanned aircraft capable of undertaking broad area maritime surveillance and fleet overwatch.

The project being examined by the Committee will provide the facilities, infrastructure and airfield works to support the new aircraft. The works will take place at the main operating base, RAAF Base Edinburgh (SA), the forward operating bases, RAAF Bases Darwin (NT), Pearce (WA) and Townsville (Qld), and HMAS Stirling (WA).

Works are expected to begin in October 2015 at RAAF Base Edinburgh and HMAS Stirling, with works at the forward operating bases planned to commence in 2018. All works are expected to be completed by the end of 2020. The estimated cost of the project is \$707.9 million, excluding GST.

The Committee's Chair, Karen Andrews MP, said the Committee will conduct public and in-camera hearings for the inquiry in January 2015.

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

Submissions to the inquiry close on Friday, 12 December 2014.

Information about hearings will be on the Committee's website shortly.

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) 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.