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## **Inquiry into Facilities requirements for the New Air Combat Capability**

The Public Works Committee (PWC) is conducting an inquiry into the facilities requirements for the New Air Combat Capability at various Defence locations around the nation.

The New Air Combat Capability Project will acquire 72 F-35A aircraft to replace the current fleet of Classic Hornet aircraft operated by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). The first aircraft will arrive in Australia in late 2018, with the complete fleet arriving by 2022.

Defence has presented a proposal to the PWC to provide facilities at various RAAF Bases, including Williamtown and Tindal, in support of the New Air Combat Capability project.

RAAF Base Williamtown (NSW) will remain as the premier base for Australia's air combat capability. New and refurbished facilities and infrastructure are also proposed at RAAF Base Tindal (NT) to support the train and sustain functions as the home for the third operational squadron (No. 75 Squadron).

Works are expected to begin in January 2015 at RAAF Base Williamtown with all construction being completed by early 2022. Works at RAAF Base Tindal are expected to begin by 2017, with completion expected in 2022. The estimated cost of the project is \$1,477.4 million.

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

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 Wednesday, 20 August 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.