



Public hearing into the Disposal of Specialist Military Equipment

Parliament's Joint Public Accounts Committee will hold a public hearing on Thursday 14 May as part of its review of Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) reports into the Administration of the Tariff Concession System, and the Management of the the Disposal of Specialist Military Equipment.

Specialist Military Equipment disposed of in recent years includes the Royal Australian Navy's (RAN's) frigates HMA Ships *Canberra* and *Adelaide*, which were scuttled but at unexpectedly high cost, the Australian Army's fleet of Leopard tanks, and the Royal Australian Air Force's (RAAF's) F-111 long-range strike aircraft. Defence disposal activity is expected to increase in the medium term due to Defence's major program of upgrading and replacing Specialist Military Equipment over the next 15 years.

Committee Chair, Dr Andrew Southcott MP, said that while the procurement of new platforms and equipment, such as ships, aircraft and vehicles, is obviously important, the disposal of Specialist Military Equipment is also very important as it can result in financial and reputational risks for Defence and the Australian Government.

"The ANAO concluded that Defence's management of Specialist Military Equipment disposals has not been to the expected standard as insufficient attention has been devoted to achieving the best outcome for the Australian Government. So this is an issue worth further scrutiny by the Committee," Dr Southcott said.

The Committee will also examine the Australian Customs and Border Protection's (Customs) administration of the Tariff Concession System (TCS). Committee Chair, Dr Andrew Southcott MP said that "as Customs is currently implementing a number of significant reforms, the Committee is interested in how the agency is responding to the ANAO's recommendations as it establishes its revised administrative arrangements for the TCS."

Details of the hearing are as follows:

Thursday, 14 May 2015 – 10.30 am to 12.00 pm

Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra

Further information about the Committee's reviews, including details on, are available on the Committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/jcpaa.

For media comment: please contact Committee Chair, Dr Andrew Southcott MP, on 0402 579 674 (Matthew Hee).

For information about the inquiry and public hearing: please contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4615, email jcpaa@aph.gov.au, or visit the Committee website <http://www.aph.gov.au/jcpaa>.