



Defence proposes redevelopment of Northern Territory Air Weapons Range

An air weapons range in the Northern Territory that has been used to train Australian and international defence forces since 1988 is the subject of an inquiry by the Public Works Committee.

The committee is investigating the proposed redevelopment of the Delamere Air Weapons Range and has been told by the Department of Defence that the range requires upgrading and redevelopment to meet future needs.

Works will include improving boundary security, replacing infrastructure, constructing accommodation and workshops, repairing the airfield and relocating facilities to provide a more efficient layout.

The range includes a number of sites significant to the Traditional Owners, the Wardaman people and is subject to an Indigenous Land Use Agreement. Defence has begun consulting with the Wardaman people to secure necessary access and is committed to ensuring that they are made aware of contracting opportunities arising from the project.

The works are expected to commence in mid 2016 and be completed by mid 2018. The estimated cost of the project is \$74.4 million (excluding GST).

The Committee Chair, Senator Dean Smith, said the committee will conduct public and in-camera hearings for the inquiry in Ipswich, Queensland in November.

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

Submissions to the inquiry close on 22 October 2015.

Full details of the public hearing will be available 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 (08) 9481 0349.

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.