



Refurbishment proposed for Australian Chancery, Paris

The Public Works Committee is conducting an inquiry into proposed refurbishment works at the Australian Chancery Complex in Paris, France. The Complex was collaboratively designed by Australian and French architects and was constructed in the late 1970s.

The Chancery complex, which accommodates Australia's permanent representatives in France, leases excess space to a range of other organisations, including the International Energy Agency (IEA), a tenant since 1996.

With its lease due to expire in 2017, the IEA has considered alternative lease proposals for future accommodation. To secure a further 12 year lease agreement, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has agreed to modernise the internal fit-out and upgrade base-building engineering services for the areas currently occupied by the IEA.

The proposed works will provide new and enhanced facilities that will allow the IEA to use existing space more efficiently and replace engineering services, which are now over 35 years old.

Works are expected to begin in March 2016 and be completed by mid-2018. The estimated cost of the project is \$27.7 million.

It is anticipated that the Committee will conduct public and in-camera hearings for the inquiry early in the new year. Further information on the public hearing will be available soon.

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

Submissions to the inquiry close on 24 December 2015.

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 Foreign Affairs and Trade.

For interview: Contact the Office of the Chair, Senator Dean Smith, 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.