



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade  
Defence Sub-Committee

Chair: the Hon. Bruce Scott MP  
Deputy Chair: Michael Hatton MP

## Review of the Defence Annual Report 2003-2004 CANBERRA PUBLIC HEARING

The Defence sub-committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade will conduct a public hearing in Canberra as part of its review of the Defence Annual Report 2003-2004.

**The hearing will be on Friday, 11 March 2005 starting at 9.00 am. The venue is Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra.**

The committee will scrutinise four areas of Defence operations. These topics and the times they will be examined are shown below:

- 9.00 am Topic 1: Implementation of Defence Procurement Reforms;
- 10.30 am Topic 2: Australia's future amphibious requirement;
- 11.30 am Topic 3: Defence's qualified financial statements;
- 1.30 pm Topic 4: Australian Defence Force contributions to humanitarian relief;
- 2.45 pm Chief of Defence Force and Secretary of Defence.

**Topic 1:** Defence has embarked on an ambitious program of reform to its procurement arising from the Kinnard Report. The committee will examine the reforms to the Defence Material Organisation (DMO), and in particular, the relationship between DMO and the Capability Development Group (CDG).

**Topic 2:** The current Defence Capability Plan (DCP) has confirmed that two large amphibious ships will be purchased to replace Australia's current amphibious capability. Some groups such as the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) suggest that it may be more effective to purchase four smaller amphibious vessels. This issue will be examined as part of this topic.

**Topic 3:** Defence, like other government agencies, must demonstrate transparency and accountability to the Parliament. Defence's qualified financial statements and the steps Defence is taking to improve this situation will be examined by the committee.

**Topic 4:** Defence is prepared for and has contributed to a range of humanitarian relief operations, such as the 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami. This topic will examine the extent of Defence's humanitarian relief capabilities and their relationship to Defence's key war fighting objectives.

The Chief of the Defence Force General Peter Cosgrove, and the Secretary of Defence, Mr Ric Smith, will appear at the end of the hearing to respond to a range of questions concerning the Defence Annual Report 2003-04.

The hearing will be broadcast on the House Monitoring System Channel 10 which can be accessed on the Parliament House website at [www.aph.gov.au/live/webcast3.asp](http://www.aph.gov.au/live/webcast3.asp)

**For media comment**, contact the chair Hon Bruce Scott MP on (02) 6277 4949 or mob. 0427 023 513.

**For further information**, phone the inquiry secretary, Ms Jennifer Cochran on (02) 6277 4466 or via email at [jscfadt@aph.gov.au](mailto:jscfadt@aph.gov.au).