
The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

Operational Upgrade, Darwin Detention Facility, Berrimah, NT

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

August 2005
Canberra

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ISBN 0 642 78657 7



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Membership of the Committee

Chair Hon Judi Moylan MP

Deputy Chair Mr Brendan O'Connor MP

Members Mr John Forrest MP

Senator Alan Ferguson

Mr Harry Jenkins MP

Senator the Hon Judith Troeth

Mr Bernie Ripoll MP

Senator Dana Wortley

Mr Barry Wakelin MP

Committee Secretariat

Secretary Mrs Margaret Swieringa

Inquiry Secretaries Ms Vivienne Courto

Research Officer Mr Raymond Knight

Administrative Officer Mr Peter Ratas



List of Abbreviations

AFMA	Australian Fisheries Management Authority
AGO	Australian Greenhouse Office
BCA	Building Code of Australia
DDF	Darwin Detention Facility
DEB	Defence Establishment Berrimah
DIMIA	Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs
DoFA	Department of Finance and Administration
DSP	Detention Service Provider
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
IDS	Immigration Detention Standards
IFFs	Illegal Foreign Fishers
IRPC	Immigration Reception and Processing Centre
OH&S	Occupational Health and Safety



Extract from the Votes and Proceedings of the House of Representatives

No. 33 dated Thursday, 26 May 2005

15 PUBLIC WORKS – PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE –
REFERENCE OF WORK – OPERATIONAL UPGRADE OF THE DARWIN
DETENTION FACILITY, NORTHERN TERRITORY

Dr Stone (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration), pursuant to notice, moved – That, in accordance with the provisions of the Public Works Committee Act 1969, the following proposed work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for consideration and report: Operational upgrade of the Darwin detention facility, Northern Territory.

Debate ensued.

Question – put and passed.



List of Recommendations

3 Issues and Conclusions

Recommendation 1

In order to ensure appropriate scrutiny of expenditure, the Committee recommends that the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs supply the Committee with regular updates on project costs throughout the operational upgrade of the detention facility.

Recommendation 2

In view of the inadequacy and inappropriateness of the plans for the proposed family zone at the detention facility, the Committee strongly recommends that families including women and children are not detained at the facility.

Recommendation 3

In the event that there is a demonstrated need for the short-term detention of families at the detention facility, the Committee recommends that, in order to ensure appropriate provision of security, amenity and space for families, women and children, the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs better utilise available space to enlarge the proposed family zone, which should include appropriate separation of all facilities, adequate indoor recreation space and a secure outdoor area of a suitable size to accommodate the relocated play equipment from the existing large, grassed recreation area.

Recommendation 4

In order to ensure appropriate scrutiny of the proposed works, the Committee recommends that the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs supply the Committee with an update on the proposed delivery methodology and the application of Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines to this process, when this information becomes available.

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends that the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs conduct a public meeting in respect of the proposed works to provide the local community members with the opportunity to learn about, and comment upon, the proposal.

Recommendation 6

In recognition of the importance of appropriate local consultation on Commonwealth developments, the Committee recommends that the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs undertake consultation with the relevant Northern Territory Government agencies throughout the execution of the proposed works to ensure an acceptable outcome for all parties.

Recommendation 7

The Committee recommends that the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs continue to consult with the office of the Northern Territory Chief Minister to find an appropriate alternative name for the upgraded detention facility.

Recommendation 8

The Committee recommends that the proposed operational upgrade of the detention facility at Berrimah, NT, proceed at the estimated cost of \$8.125 million.

