



Two Queensland Defence proposals under parliamentary scrutiny

The Public Works Committee is conducting inquiries into two major proposals by the Department of Defence in Queensland:

- Multi-Role Helicopter Facilities: HMAS Albatross, Nowra NSW, RAAF Base Townsville, Army Aviation Centre, Oakey, Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera; and
- Enoggera Redevelopment Stage One, Gallipoli Barracks, Brisbane.

At an estimated cost of \$168.7 million, the aim of the proposed Multi-Role Helicopter Facilities is to support the introduction and operation of a new fleet of 34 Multi-Role Helicopters (MRH90) based in several locations along the East Coast of Australia. The MRH90 helicopters will replace the Navy's Sea King helicopters and the Army's Black Hawk helicopters with a single rotary wing fleet for airmobile and maritime support capability.

The proposed Enoggera Redevelopment is estimated to cost \$80.2 million and aims to consolidate ten existing officer messes at Gallipoli Barracks into a combined mess accommodating 1050 personnel. New office accommodation and infrastructure upgrades are also included in the proposed works.

The Committee will conduct site inspections and public hearings on 6 May as part of its inquiries into the proposals. Committee Chair, Mark Butler MP, welcomes the public to attend the public hearings. "I encourage the public to come along and hear more about these multi-million dollar Defence projects," Mr Butler said. "The Committee will question Defence on each proposal, in respect of its need, cost, scope, purpose and value for money."

The public hearings will be held this Tuesday 6 May at RSL Gaythorne, 534 Samford Road, Mitchelton. The Committee will be holding public hearings following scrutiny of the confidential project costs at an in-camera hearing. The public hearing on the Multi-Role Helicopter Facilities will commence at approximately 1:30pm.* The public hearing on the Enoggera Redevelopment will commence at approximately 3:00pm.*

* **NB.** These times are subject to change without notice. Members of the public and media are advised to contact the secretariat on the day for exact commencement times.

For interview: Contact the office of the Committee Chair, Mark Butler MP on (08) 8447 7466.

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 0434 567 521.