



New Australian Embassy complex in Bangkok

The Public Works Committee is conducting an inquiry into the proposed construction of a new Australian Embassy complex including Chancery and Head of Mission residence in Bangkok, Thailand.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) seeks approval from the Committee to proceed with the project, at an anticipated cost of \$193.4 million. If approved, DFAT expects that the complex will be occupied by June 2016. The new chancery building and head of mission residence is designed to serve as Australia's ongoing permanent mission to Thailand. It will house a number of Government departments, including DFAT, the Department of Immigration and Citizenship and the Australian Federal Police.

The Public Works Committee will assess DFAT's proposal and report to Parliament on whether it views the project as necessary, fit for purpose and represents value for money.

The Committee's Chair, Janelle Saffin MP, said the Committee is looking forward to receiving a briefing from DFAT on the merits of the project.

'Australia's embassy in Bangkok represents a significant overseas mission and acts as a hub for other Australian missions in the region. DFAT proposes to relocate the current complex to meet the Department's current security requirements and to meet the ongoing and increasing demands on the embassy, as Australia's relationship with Thailand continues to develop. The Department plans to sell the current embassy land and return the proceeds of sale to the Commonwealth. The Committee welcomes the opportunity to scrutinise the Department's proposal and ensure the project meets all required objectives'.

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

Submissions to the inquiry close on Friday, 28 October 2011.

The Committee will be holding a public hearing on the proposed works on Friday, 4 November 2011 in Canberra. Details of the public hearing will be announced 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 Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

For interview: Contact the Chair's media advisor, Lee Duncan on 0448 158 150.

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.