

## **Conclusion**

- 3.1 The Committee was somewhat surprised by Defence's decision not to proceed with this reference. From the Committee's point of view, it was unfortunate that a significant amount of preliminary work had been completed and the Inquiry had been advertised.
- 3.2 The Committee notes that the withdrawal of the reference was directly related to the release on 6 December 2000 of the Defence White Paper and the Defence Capability Plan. In this context the withdrawal of the project was understood to be solely for budgetary reasons.
- 3.3 The Committee concludes that, while Defence provided an explanation of the withdrawal of the proposed work, significant time, effort and tax payers' money could have been saved if some elements of the Defence organisation had consulted more effectively with the Defence Estate Organisation prior to the proposed work being referred to the Committee.

**SENATOR ALAN FERGUSON**  
Acting Chair

5 April 2001