



New housing proposed for Defence personnel in Sydney

The Public Works Committee is conducting an inquiry into the proposed development and construction of new housing for Defence, namely AE2 Ermington, in Sydney.

Defence Housing Australia proposes to develop the Ermington site for residential construction and then construct 209 dwellings on the site over three years, at an anticipated cost of \$90.6 million. The project would service the needs of the 2,375 members of the Australian Defence Force with dependents who reside in the Sydney area (not including those living in Liverpool, Richmond and Glenbrook). The project aims to reduce the proportion of Defence families living in private rental accommodation in Sydney.

The Ermington site was acquired by the Commonwealth in 1943 and used for storage by the US Army during the Second World War. Now re-zoned as a residential area, the site has been named "AE2", after the first Allied and Australian submarine to enter the Dardanelles strait in 1915 as part of the Gallipoli campaign.

The Committee's Chair, Janelle Saffin MP, said the Committee will inspect the site and conduct a public hearing regarding the proposed Defence housing project in 2012.

"In May 2001 the Public Works Committee tabled its report into the proposed site filling, stabilisation and construction of infrastructure at Defence land at Ermington. The Committee said in its report that the infrastructure works had the potential to provide long term benefits to the Ermington community and the Parramatta region. It is the current Committee's role to review the proposed development and construction of housing on the Ermington site, to ensure the project meets its desired purpose and represents value for money for the Commonwealth".

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

Submissions to the inquiry close on Friday, 3 February 2012.

The Committee will be holding a public hearing on the proposed redevelopment in Sydney in 2012. 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 Defence Housing Australia.

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.