

JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT

Issued: 21 March 2012

Chair: Rob Oakeshott MP Deputy Chair: Yvette D'Ath MP

Report on multi-billion dollar defence projects under review

The Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit will conduct its annual review of the 2010-11 Defence Materiel Organisation Major Projects Report on Wednesday 21 March 2012.

This year's report covers 28 projects with approved budgets of \$46.1 billion - over half of the budget for the DMO's approved major capital investment program of \$79.5 billion.

The Chief Executive Officer of the DMO, Mr Warren King, and the Auditor-General, Mr Ian McPhee, will provide evidence to the Committee concerning the progress of developing the Major Projects Report.

Since its inception in 2008 the MPR has contributed to the transparency and accountability for major Defence equipment acquisitions by making publicly available a range of information regarding these projects.

Committee Chair, Mr Rob Oakeshott, said the committee has been working closely with DMO and the Auditor-General to improve the presentation of information provided in the report to encourage public scrutiny of these large, expensive, and long-term defence purchases.

"The committee appreciates the work done by the DMO and the Australian National Audit Office in compiling this report and the effort that these two agencies have put into ensuring that the report is increasingly clear and comprehensive," Mr Oakeshott said.

"The report plays an important role in informing the Australian Parliament and the public about major Defence acquisitions."

The hearing will be held on Wednesday 21 March, from 12:00 noon – 1:00pm in Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House Canberra.

Live Broadcast: <u>http://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament</u> An electronic copy of the program can be found at:

For media comment: please contact the Committee Chair, Rob Oakeshott MP, on telephone (02) 6584 2911

For more information: please contact the Committee Secretariat on telephone (02) 6277 4615 or visit the Committee website: http://www.aph.gov.au/house.committee/jcpaa.