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## **Inquiry into facilities for Defence's landing helicopter dock ships.**

The Public Works Committee is conducting an inquiry into the landing helicopter dock ship sustainment facilities project proposed by the Department of Defence.

Two new Canberra Class landing helicopter dock amphibious assault ships will provide the Australian Defence Force with one of the most capable and sophisticated air-land-sea amphibious deployment systems in the world. Each ship will be able to embark, transport and deploy a force of over 1,000 personnel by air and sea, along with all their weapons, ammunition, vehicles and stores. The vessels will also be capable of conducting and supporting humanitarian missions and will be jointly crewed with personnel from Navy, Army and Air Force.

To enable the introduction into service of the two new Canberra Class LHDs and then sustain their capability, this project proposes to enhance and augment existing infrastructure in Sydney to support specific crew training, combat and platform systems, through life support and maintenance, and berthing.

The estimated cost of the project is \$60.3 million. Construction is expected to be complete by late 2015.

The Committee's Chair, Kirsten Livermore MP, said the Committee will conduct an inspection and public hearing for the project in April 2012.

"This project will ensure that support is in place to deliver an affordable, effective, flexible and sustainable amphibious deployment capability for the Australian Government. The Committee will examine this project to ensure that the proposed works will meet the need and provide value for money for the Commonwealth," Ms Livermore said.

Full details on the proposal are available on the Committee's website: [www.aph.gov.au/pwc](http://www.aph.gov.au/pwc)

### **Submissions to the inquiry close on Thursday 18 April 2013.**

Details of the public hearing program 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 the Department of Defence.

**For interview:** Contact the Chair's office on (07) 4922 6604.

**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.