



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

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Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

Chair: Ms Janelle Saffin MP

New office fit-out for the Australian Taxation Office in Box Hill, Victoria

The Public Works Committee is conducting an inquiry into the proposed office fit-out for the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) in Box Hill, Victoria.

The ATO currently leases substantial office space at 990 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill. The current lease expires in June 2014. The existing building is ageing and requires extensive upgrades and a new fit-out to be able to meet various government standards, including energy efficiency. The ATO sought expressions of interest from the market for more suitable accommodation to meet its future needs. The ATO identified new premises to be constructed in Box Hill at 913 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill.

The objective of this project is to lease and fit out a new building that maintains the collocation of staff in the Box Hill office, giving the opportunity to implement collaborative work practices, uniformity of workspace and administrative efficiencies.

The Committee's Chair, Janelle Saffin MP, said the Committee will examine the ATO project and conduct a public hearing regarding the proposal in July 2012.

"The ATO argues that a new office fit-out in a new building will provide significant administrative and environmental efficiencies to both management and staff, meeting all current government requirements."

"The Committee welcomes the opportunity to scrutinise the ATO's proposal to ensure that the project meets all required objectives and provides value for money for the Commonwealth", Ms Saffin said.

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

Submissions to the inquiry close on Thursday, 21 June 2012.

The Committee will be holding a public hearing on the proposed redevelopment in Canberra in July. 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 the Australian Taxation Office.

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.