



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

*Chair: Ms Kirsten Livermore MP*

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## **Inquiry into Defence security and facilities upgrade at Fishermans Bend, Vic**

The Public Works Committee is conducting an inquiry into the proposed Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO) Human Protection Performance Division security and facilities upgrade, at Fishermans Bend, Melbourne, Victoria.

The DSTO applies science and technology to protect and defend Australia and its national interests. The project proposes to enhance site security and rectify inadequacies in existing facilities at Fishermans Bend.

The key objectives of the project are to provide site specific security enhancements in order to improve deterrence, protection, detection and response capacities, and to address site-specific capability gaps in working accommodation and laboratory facilities. This would improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Human Protect Performance Division in meeting current and evolving operational requirements.

The estimated cost of the project is \$41.1 million. Construction is expected to be complete by early 2016.

The Committee's Chair, Kirsten Livermore MP, said the Committee will conduct an inspection and public hearing for the project in April 2013.

"The DSTO supports Australia's defence force and broader Australian security requirements. It is vital that this capability is maintained and improved as necessary. This project would provide increased security and address various capability gaps at Fishermans Bend, in order to improve the effectiveness of the facility," 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.**

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.