

Watch this space



Reports released on four public works projects

Parliament's Joint Committee on Public Works has recently released four reports on public works projects that it was reviewing. The projects are:

- Development of 90 apartments for the Defence Housing Authority in Darwin, Northern Territory;
- CSIRO Energy Centre at Steel River, Newcastle, New South Wales;
- RAAF Base Edinburgh, Redevelopment Stage 1, Adelaide, South Australia; and
- Fitout of New Leased Premises for the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Belconnen, Australian Capital Territory.

The reports are available from the Public Works Committee's web site at: www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/pwc

A limited number of the reports are available from the Committee secretariat, call (02) 6277 4636 or email: jcpw@aph.gov.au

The House meets

The House of Representatives sitting dates for the rest of the year are:

- November 27 to 30
- December 4 to 7

Norfolk Island health report

A report on the provision of health services on Norfolk Island is expected to be presented to Parliament by the Joint Committee on the External Territories before the end of the year. For more information on the Committee's investigation and the report's release, call (02) 6277 4355 or email: JSCNCET@aph.gov.au

Public hearings & Public meetings

Economics Committee first - Reserve Bank hearing in Wagga Wagga

For the first time since it commenced its twice yearly hearings with the Governor of the Reserve Bank, the House of Representatives Economics Committee will be conducting its Reserve Bank public hearing in regional Australia, away from the financial centres of Sydney and Melbourne. On Friday, 1 December 2000 the House Economics Committee will be meeting with Reserve Bank Governor Ian Macfarlane in Wagga Wagga to discuss the Reserve Bank's semi-annual financial statement. The public hearing will commence at 11am and will be held in the Wagga Wagga City Council Chambers.

"The House Economics Committee has decided to hold this public hearing in Wagga Wagga because we want to emphasise the importance of regional issues for the economic balance sheet of Australia," said David Hawker, House Economics Committee Chair and Member for Wannon (Victoria). "We are giving the Wagga community a valuable opportunity to be a part of this important economic event. At the same time, through other activities associated with the hearing, the Committee and the Reserve Bank Governor will get the chance to meet with regional community representatives and hear from them first-hand about the issues that are of interest and concern to them."

The public and the media are welcome to attend the House Economics Committee hearing on 1 December. For more information call: (02) 6277 4587.

Substance abuse hearings in Adelaide and Melbourne

The investigation of substance abuse and its costs to the Australian community continues when the House of Representatives Family and Community Affairs Committee holds public hearings in Adelaide on 21 November and Melbourne on 23 November. These next hearings follow on from the Perth hearing (see article on page 17). For more information, call (02) 6277 4566, email: fca.reps@aph.gov.au or visit: www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/fca

Middle East hearings in three cities

The inquiry into Australia's relations with the Middle East, including the Gulf Region, continues with public hearings in Brisbane on 15 November, Adelaide on 16 November and Perth on 17 November. The inquiry, being undertaken by the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, has received over 90 submissions. For more information, call (02) 6277 4306 or email: Cliff.Lawson.Reps@aph.gov.au