



The new Commonwealth Law Courts in Adelaide, SA

# Eight steps to approve public works

To gain approval for a proposed public work, there is an eight-step process.

1. **Identification** by a proponent agency of the need to gain Public Works Committee approval for a proposed work.
2. **Preparation** by the proponent of a detailed submission for the Committee.
3. **Referral** of the proposal by a Minister to the Committee.
4. **Research** – the Committee secretariat receives and reviews submissions, organises a site inspection, and arranges and advertises the public hearing.
5. **Site inspection.**
6. **Public hearing/s and follow-up.**
7. **Reporting** – when all the evidence has been collected and considered, the Committee prepares a report on the proposed work, with recommendations, for presentation to the Parliament.
8. **'Expediency motion'** moved by the Minister, after the Government reviews the report. This must be passed by the House for the proposal to proceed.

## Recent Approvals

In the last 12 months the Public Works Committee has approved works costing \$352 million. These include:

- new Commonwealth Law Courts in Adelaide, SA (\$76 million);
- fit-out for Central Office Building for the Department of Immigration, Belconnen, ACT (\$26m);
- CSIRO Energy Centre at Steel River, Newcastle, NSW (\$28m);
- redevelopment of RAAF Base Edinburgh, SA (\$40m);
- fit-out of new leased premises for the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Belconnen, ACT (\$23m);
- Construction of mixed residential dwellings for Defence Housing at Stirling, ACT (\$11m);
- new office accommodation for the ABC, Perth, WA (\$26m); and
- refurbishment of the Reserve Bank Building, Sydney, NSW (\$21m).

The Committee is currently assessing proposed works worth \$3375 million, including new freight and passenger facilities at Rumah Baru, West Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands; a suite of defence facility projects in Queensland (at Oakey, Cranungra and

Townsville); and defence housing in the ACT (at the Royal Military College, Duntroon).

The Public Works Committee was also recently referred works on Christmas Island associated with a proposed new space facility.

**For more information on each of these works, visit the Committee's web site:**  
[www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/pwc](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/pwc)

## A taste for it

Judi Moylan has a reputation on the Public Works Committee as having a bit of a passion for saving trees.

Which leads to the question: with her personal background in real estate, and so many differing projects to be examined, is there any room for imposing personal taste on a project?

"It's hard to deny that people's personal taste is sometimes an issue," she laughs, "but the Committee's task when it gets down to either recommending or not recommending a public building proceeds is whether or not it's value for money and meets the use for which it's being built.

"At the end of the day that's what counts."