



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**COMMITTEES**

**Public Works Committee**

**Approval of Work**

**SPEECH**

**Thursday, 17 September 2015**

BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## SPEECH

<b>Date</b>	Thursday, 17 September 2015	<b>Source</b>	House
<b>Page</b>	10540	<b>Proof</b>	No
<b>Questioner</b>		<b>Responder</b>	
<b>Speaker</b>	McCormack, Michael, MP	<b>Question No.</b>	

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**Mr McCORMACK** (Riverina—Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance) (10:27): I move:

That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, it is expedient to carry out the following proposed work which was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works and on which the committee has duly reported to Parliament: Fit-out of existing leased premises for the Administrative Appeals Tribunal at 83 Clarence Street, Sydney, New South Wales.

As I advised the House when referring this project to the Public Works Committee, the Administrative Appeals Tribunal proposes to undertake a fit-out of its leased premises at 83 Clarence Street, Sydney, New South Wales, to accommodate the expanded Administrative Appeals Tribunal, which commenced on 1 July 2015 with the merger of the former Migration Review Tribunal, Refugee Review Tribunal and Social Security Appeals Tribunal with the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

The move to a single location for the AAT in Sydney will allow for the rationalisation of resources, particularly in the sharing of public facilities such as hearing and conference rooms across jurisdictions. The move to a single location will also allow the AAT to reduce its current overall property footprint in the Sydney central business district and deliver savings to government through a reduction in property operating expenses. The design of a new fit-out will allow the 'new' AAT to improve the service to clients by using new technologies to deliver services more efficiently and effectively, and by providing a single point of access for most Commonwealth merit reviews.

The committee has conducted an inquiry and is of the view that the project signifies value for money for the Commonwealth and constitutes a project that is fit for purpose and expedient to carry out. On behalf of the government, I would like to thank the committee for once again undertaking a timely inquiry. Subject to parliamentary approval of the project, construction is expected to begin within the next few weeks with staged practical completion scheduled from early 2016. I commend the motion to the House.

Question agreed to.