



MEDIA RELEASE

SENATOR THE HON ROBERT HILL

Minister for Defence

Leader of the Government in the Senate

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PLANS FOR NEW 'TIGER' HELICOPTER FACILITIES **IN DARWIN**

Plans to build new facilities to house a fleet of 17 'Tiger' armed reconnaissance helicopters with the 1st Aviation Regiment in Darwin has been referred to the Federal Public Works Committee for approval.

Defence Minister Robert Hill said the \$75 million project involves the construction of new facilities which will also include maintenance, flightline, command, training and domestic accommodation at Robertson Barracks.

A total of 22 new 'Tiger' helicopters are currently being built for the Australian Defence Force by Australian Aerospace in Brisbane at a cost of \$1.3 billion.

"The Tiger aircraft is expected to be in service between 2004 and mid 2008 and the first of the helicopters produced will be assigned to the Australian Aviation Training Centre at Oakey, Queensland," Senator Hill said.

"The Robertson Barracks project is included in the 2002-03 Budget and, if approved by the Public Works Parliamentary Standing Committee, construction will begin later this year to be completed by mid 2005.

"The 1ST Aviation Regiment will be collocated with the Army's mechanized 1st Brigade at Robertson Barracks."

Approximately 150 people will be directly employed on the construction site with further job opportunities generated off-site in the design and manufacturing sectors.

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