



mediarelease

30 May 2006

## **Leighton Contractors to build new Defence Headquarters Joint Operations Command Project**

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Leighton Contractors Pty Limited, has been announced as the preferred contractor to design and construct the new Headquarters Joint Operations Command Project for the Australian Defence Force.

The successful tender was awarded to Praeco Pty Limited, a company established specifically for this project by Leighton Contractors and ABN AMRO, each with a fifty percent shareholding.

The combination of Leighton Contractors and ABN AMRO will provide the Defence Force with financial strength, reliability and certainty of successful project delivery. Spotless Services Australia, will be responsible for operations and maintenance of the facility during the 30 year concession period.

Peter McMorrow, Managing Director of Leighton Contractors is delighted about the opportunity to deliver this innovative state-of-the-art project.

"We are looking forward to working in partnership with ABN AMRO to create a high quality, ecologically sustainable and energy efficient facility for the Defence Force," Mr McMorrow said.

The \$300m Headquarters Joint Operations Command project, located near Bungendore adjacent to the ACT has a two year timeframe for completion.

The project includes the design and construction of a headquarters building and supporting buildings and infrastructure. This facility will have a five star Australian Building Greenhouse Rating, and will be completely self sufficient in water supply and on site sewage treatment.

Leighton Contractors is one of Australia's leading construction, mining, services and telecommunications groups with over \$3.8 billion of work-in-hand, employing more than 5,000 people across Australia and New Zealand.

For further information please contact:

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## Press Release

Sydney, 30 May 2006

### **ABN AMRO part of winning consortium for Headquarters Joint Operations Command Project**

ABN AMRO is part of the winning consortium for the first PPP transaction to be undertaken by the Commonwealth Government, announced today.

ABN AMRO welcomed the Government's decision in naming the Praeco Consortium as the preferred tender to design, construct, operate and maintain the Department of Defence's Headquarters Joint Operations Command (HQJOC) under a 30-year concession.

Praeco is jointly owned by ABN AMRO and Leighton Contractors. Leighton Contractors will undertake the construction of the project and Spotless Services Australia will provide facilities management services, including lifecycle maintenance.

ABN AMRO acted as the financial advisor to the consortium, arranger and underwriter of all the project's debt requirements and underwriter of 50 percent of the equity.

Erwin Elstermann, ABN AMRO Executive Director of Structured Finance said: "This is a monumental transaction for ABN AMRO in Australia and a strong indication of the Commonwealth Government's commitment to engaging the private sector for the delivery of specialist infrastructure. The new Headquarters Joint Operations Command will be a very important facility and will play a vital role in Australia's national security."

The Headquarters Joint Operations Command Project will be located near Bungendore, adjacent to the ACT and will include the design and construction of a headquarters building and supporting buildings and infrastructure. It will incorporate significant security checkpoints and large areas of open space. In keeping with ABN AMRO's eco-friendly sustainability policies, this greenfield site will also have a 5-star energy rating and will be completely self sufficient in terms of water supply and on-site sewerage treatment.

ABN AMRO has previously been awarded the first PPPs undertaken by each of the NSW, Victorian, Queensland, Western Australian and Northern Territory Governments.

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#### **Note to Editors:**

Netherlands-based ABN AMRO is a leading international bank with total assets of EUR 880.6 bln (as at 31 December 2005). It has over 3,000 branches in more than 60 countries and territories, and has a staff of over 96,000 full-time equivalents worldwide. ABN AMRO is listed on Euronext and the New York Stock Exchange.