

Media Release



Monday 12 December 2005

Firing range opens at Majura

Australian Federal Police (AFP) Commissioner Mick Keelty will today officially open a new \$5.3 million police firing range at Majura.

The new facility will replace the Weston Creek firing range which was destroyed in the January 2003 bushfires.

“This new range will build on the training facilities already available at Majura and will ensure that AFP officers receive first class training in firearms management,” said Commissioner Keelty.

“I am pleased to announce that the facility will be officially named after Federal Agent Dennis O’Mara who, after 24 years, continues to train AFP officers in how to safely handle firearms,” he said.

The firing range is expected to absorb some 1.42 million rounds of ammunition per year as part of AFP and Australian Customs Service Marine Unit firearms training.

Designed and built by Manteena Project and Construction Managers, the building comprises a 25m, nine lane closed range and classrooms for theory based learning. The new firing range and classrooms feature environmentally friendly building principles such as fresh air louvers to control air flow, and water run-off from the roof diverted to underground tanks for irrigation purposes.

Canberra Institute of Technology students assisted with the construction of the waste management facilities.

“The AFP is proud to provide CIT students with the opportunity to gain hands on experience in designing and building components of this facility, and looks forward to working closely with CIT on other developments at the Majura site,” Commissioner Keelty said.

Commissioner Keelty also thanked the Royal Australian Navy and the Canberra Rifle Range for allowing the AFP to use their facilities to continue firearms training after the January 2003 Canberra bushfires.

Media Note:

Commissioner Mick Keelty and Federal Agent Dennis O’Mara will be available for interview following the opening which begins at 11am, Monday (TODAY) 12 November 2005 at the Majura Complex.

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