

Brought up by Senator Lynch  
C. R. Roydall  
Clerk of the Senate.  
29-10-15.



PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS.

P A P E R S

to be laid on the TABLE of the

S E N A T E.

R E P O R T

together with an Appendix  
relating to the provision of

BARRACKS, QUARTERS, GUN PARK, ETC., for the ROYAL AUSTRALIAN FIELD  
ARTILLERY, - ENOGGERA, QUEENSLAND.

1915.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

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PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON PUBLIC WORKS.

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R E P O R T.

~~CONTAINS WITH~~

together with an APPENDIX  
~~MINUTES OF EVIDENCE AND AN APPENDIX~~

RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF

BARRACKS, QUARTERS, GUN PARK, ETC., FOR THE  
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN FIELD ARTILLERY,  
ENOGGERA, QUEENSLAND.

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MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS.

*First Committee.*

EDWARD RILEY, Esquire, M.P., Chairman.

*Senate.*

Senator the Honorable John Henry Keating.  
Senator Patrick Joseph Lynch, Vice-Chairman.  
Senator William Harrison Story.

*House of Representatives.*

James Edward Fenton, Esquire, M.P.  
William Fyfe Finlayson, Esquire, M.P.  
The Honorable Henry Gregory, M.P.  
Sydney Sampson, Esquire, M.P.  
William Henry Laird Smith, Esquire, M.P.

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LIST OF WITNESSES.

Murdoch, John Smith, Architect, Department of Home Affairs .. .. .  
Peart, John, Engineer, for Water Supply, Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Board, Brisbane ..  
Fodd, Charles Herbert Uttley, Acting Works Director for Queensland, Department of Home Affairs

**EXTRACT FROM THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

No. 99 of THE 10TH SEPTEMBER, 1915.

12. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORKS—CUSTOMS HOUSE, SYDNEY, ETC.—Mr. Archibald moved, pursuant to notice, That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Commonwealth Public Works Committee Act 1913-1914*, the following works be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for their report thereon, viz. :—

Barracks, Quarters, Gun Park, &c., for the Royal Australian Field Artillery, Enoggera, Queensland.

Mr. Archibald having laid on the Table plans, &c., in connexion with the proposed works—

Question—put and passed.

# PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS.

## BARRACKS, QUARTERS, GUN PARK, ETC, FOR THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY, ENOGGERA, QUEENSLAND.

### REPORT.

THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS, to which the House of Representatives referred for consideration and report the question of the provision of Barracks, Quarters, Gun Park, &c., for the Royal Australian Field Artillery, Enoggera, Queensland, has the honour to report as follows :—

#### INTRODUCTORY.

1. On the Estimates of Expenditure, 1914-15, was included an amount of £15,000 towards a total cost of £41,000 for the erection of the buildings in question. This estimate of £41,000 was based on the assumption that the structures would be of brick. With a view to effecting economy, however, the then Minister for Home Affairs, considered that by following the practice largely prevailing in Queensland, the buildings could be built of hardwood on concrete foundations without loss of efficiency, and with a saving of £15,000, and he gave instructions accordingly.

2. It was at first intended to carry out the work by contract, and tenders were called through the State Public Works Department; the lowest tender received being £25,693, and the time for completion twenty months. It was, however, subsequently decided to put the work in hand by day labour, and it is estimated that the work will be completed in ten months from date of commencement, at an estimated cost of £26,000.

#### PROPOSED WORK.

3. The Commonwealth is in possession of an area of about 1,240 acres at Enoggera, which was acquired for Defence purposes in 1908, and the present proposal is to erect on portion of this area the following structures, at the estimated cost set opposite each item, viz. :—

No. 1 stable building	.. .. .	£2,660
No. 2 stable building	.. .. .	2,660
Gymnasium	.. .. .	1,020
Single officers' quarters	.. .. .	1,610
Stores and offices	.. .. .	1,135
Hay and straw and picket room	.. .. .	580
Gun and waggon shed	.. .. .	1,310
Guard room	.. .. .	325
Saddler and wheelwright	.. .. .	330
Forge	.. .. .	430
No. 1 barracks (with cellar)	.. .. .	3,900
No. 2 barracks (without cellar)	.. .. .	3,770
Kitchen	.. .. .	770
Excavation and filling parade ground and site	.. .. .	1,650
Surface drainage	.. .. .	350
Soil drainage and septic tank	.. .. .	830
Water supply	.. .. .	1,500
Lighting (petrol gas)	.. .. .	775
Fire service (chemical)	.. .. .	115
Fencing (cyclone) and gates (plain character)	.. .. .	280

£26,000

#### COMMITTEE'S INVESTIGATIONS.

4. The Committee visited Brisbane and examined the officers responsible for the carrying out of the work, and also inspected the site and all the buildings in course of erection at Enoggera. Acting on the instructions of the Minister for Home Affairs, the work was commenced on the 23rd March, 1915, and at the time of the Committee's visit was well in hand; some of the buildings being almost completed. The Committee was thus in a position to ascertain that the class of workmanship and the quality of the materials being used were satisfactory.

5. The Committee inspected the Commonwealth system of costing charges which is being carried out in connexion with this work, and was very favorably impressed with its completeness and efficiency.

6. The Committee noted with satisfaction the close co-operation which has existed between the officers of the Department of Home Affairs and the officers of the Department of Defence in connexion with this work, which has resulted in the work being carried out with efficiency and despatch and to the satisfaction of both Departments.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

7. The water supply to the Defence area at Enoggera is at present conveyed by a 6-in. main to the boundary of the area, whence it is carried by a 3-in. pipe into the property. Evidence placed before the Committee showed that a 3-in. pipe would not convey sufficient water at the requisite pressure to serve two lines of hose in the event of an outbreak of fire, and it is recommended, therefore, that this 3-in. pipe be replaced by a 4-in. pipe.

8. The Committee further considers that in a large group of timber buildings, such as now being erected, adequate precautions should be taken to meet any possible danger of fire, and to that end recommends that stand-pipes and hoses should be established at convenient points outside the buildings, in addition to the provision of chemical fire extinguishers arranged for inside the buildings.

#### LIGHTING.

9. The lighting of the buildings by petrol gas does not commend itself to the Committee, which is of opinion that the question of installing an electric light plant should receive early and favorable consideration.

#### SEASONING TIMBER.

10. The Committee noted with satisfaction the quality of the Queensland timber being used in connexion with the construction of these buildings. It learned, however, that the Commonwealth has not yet established in Queensland a depôt similar to those in the Federal Territory, in New South Wales, and in Victoria for the seasoning of timber for Commonwealth requirements. Advantage is therefore taken of this opportunity to suggest that consideration might be given to establishing such a depôt in Queensland at an early date.

#### CONCLUSION.

11. After careful investigation and inquiry, the Committee is satisfied that the buildings are suitable for the purpose for which they are intended, the materials used are of excellent quality, and the work is being carried out expeditiously and economically.

12. The decision arrived at by the Committee is shown in the following extract from its Minutes of Proceedings:—

Mr. Finlayson moved—That the erection of barracks, quarters, gun park, &c., for the Royal Australian Field Artillery, Enoggera, as referred to the Committee, be approved. Seconded by Mr. Laird Smith.  
Carried unanimously.

*Edward Riley*  
~~EDWARD RILEY~~  
Chairman.

Office of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works,  
120 King-street,  
Melbourne, 14th October, 1915.

## APPENDIX.

## COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

Department of Home Affairs,  
Melbourne, 29th September, 1915.

Dear Sirs,—

When giving evidence on the 21st instant before your Committee respecting the new Royal Australian Field Artillery depot under construction at Enoggera, Brisbane, I undertook to furnish the estimated costs which were prepared for the various items comprising that work, and which formed the total original estimate of £26,000.

That estimate was made up as follows:—

	£
No. 1 stable building .. .. .	2,600
No. 2 stable building .. .. .	2,600
Gymnasium .. .. .	1,020
Single officers' quarters .. .. .	1,610
Stores and offices .. .. .	1,135
Hay and straw and picket room .. .. .	680
Gun and waggon shed .. .. .	1,310
Guard room .. .. .	325
Saddler and wheelwright .. .. .	330
Forge .. .. .	430
No. 1 barracks (with cellar) .. .. .	3,900
No. 2 barracks (without cellar) .. .. .	3,770
Kitchen .. .. .	770
Excavation and filling parade ground and site .. .. .	1,650
Surface drainage .. .. .	350
Soil drainage and septic tank .. .. .	830
Water supply .. .. .	1,600
Lighting (petrol gas) .. .. .	775
Fire service (chemical) .. .. .	115
Fencing (cyclone) and gates (plain character) .. .. .	280
	£26,000

This estimate does not include forming and metalling the approach road or metalling the parade ground.

I regret that in giving evidence I stated that only kerosene lighting had been provided for in the original estimate; on referring to the papers I find that provision was made for installation of petrol gas lighting. It will be seen that a sum was also included for chemical fire extinguishers, but not for water fire extinguishing service.

Yours faithfully,

J. S. MURDOCH,  
Architect.