

1925,



THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

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PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC WORKS.

25 JUN 1925

TENTH GENERAL REPORT.

Presented pursuant to Statute; ordered to be printed.

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PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS.

TENTH GENERAL REPORT.

MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS.

Fourth Committee:

The Honorable HENRY GREGORY, M.P., Chairman.

Senate.

Senator John Barnes.*
Senator Hattil Spencer Foll.*
Senator Patrick Joseph Lynch.*
Senator John Newland.*
Senator William Plisner.*
Senator Matthew Reid.*

* Appointed 8th July, 1923.

† Resigned 26th June, 1923.

‡ Ceased to be a member of the Senate 26th June, 1923.

House of Representatives.

Arthur Blakely, Esquire, M.P.
Robert Cook, Esquire, M.P.
David Sydney Jackson, Esquire, M.P.
George Hugh Mackay, Esquire, M.P.
James Mathews, Esquire, M.P.

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To His Excellency the Right Honorable HENRY WILLIAM, BARON FORSTER OF LEPE, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Commonwealth of Australia.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

In accordance with the requirements of Section 11 of the Commonwealth *Public Works Committee Act* 1913-1921, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works has the honour to submit the following Report of its proceedings for the year ended 31st December, 1924:—

1. During the year the Committee held 136 meetings and examined 107 witnesses in connexion with the proposed works submitted. In making its inquiries, the Committee travelled 4,916 miles by rail and 457 miles by road—a total of 5,373 miles.

QUESTIONS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE.

2. When the Committee presented its last Report, the following questions were under consideration, viz.:—

- Establishment of Aircraft Dépôt, with accessory services, at Laverton, Victoria.
- (i) Wharfrage Accommodation and Shipping Facilities, Darwin.
(ii) Establishment of Oil Dépôts, Darwin.
- Canberra to Yass Railway—Construction within the Federal Capital Territory.

3. Since then the following matters have been submitted to the Committee for inquiry and report, viz.:—

- Flinders Naval Dépôt—Erection of additional block of Seamen's Barracks.
- Provision of Telegraph Cable between Sydney and Newcastle and Newcastle and West Maitland.
- Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange at Elsternwick, Victoria.
- Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange at Northcote, Victoria.
- Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchanges at Unley and Norwood, South Australia.
- Construction of Southern Intercepting Sewer, Canberra.
- Erection of a building at Canberra for Departmental Secretariats, including provision for an Automatic Telephone Exchange and Post Office.
- Erection of buildings in Brisbane for accommodation of Commonwealth Departments.
- Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange at Brisbane Central.
- Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange at Toowong, Queensland.
- Construction of Northern Main Sewer, Canberra.
- Construction of Sewage Treatment Works at Canberra.
- Establishment of Royal Australian Air Force Station (No. 2) at Richmond, New South Wales.

COMPLETED INQUIRIES.

4. The Committee has dealt with several of these questions and has presented reports in connexion therewith, viz. —

	Estimated Cost
(a) Establishment of Oil Dépôts, Darwin	£12,000
(b) Wharfage Accommodation and Shipping Facilities, Darwin	120,050
(c) Establishment of Aircraft Dépôt, Laverton	296,836
(d) Flinders Naval Base—Erection of additional block of Seamen's Barracks	33,000
(e) Canberra to Yass Railway—Construction within the Federal Capital Territory	433,000
(f) Provision of Telegraph Cable between Sydney and Newcastle and Newcastle and West Maitland	442,000
(g) Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange at Elsternwick, Victoria	168,075
(h) Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange at Northcote, Victoria	101,123
(i) Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchanges at Unley and Norwood, South Australia	263,471
(j) Construction of Southern Intercepting Sewer, Canberra	47,000
(k) Erection of Secretariat Building, Canberra	96,140
Total	£2,012,695

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

(a) Establishment of Oil Dépôts, Darwin.

5. This was a proposal submitted for the consideration of the Committee for the erection at Darwin of steel tanks in which could be stored fuel oil and petrol, available for Naval, Government, and general use.

The scheme provided for two tanks as a nucleus, to be added to if the demand should increase. These two tanks would permit of the storage of 800 tons of petrol and 5,000 tons of fuel oil. It was suggested that the fuel oil and petrol should be brought from Borneo (four or five days' steam away), and be pumped from the steamer to the tanks.

It was stated that the provision of cheap fuel and motor spirit are vital matters in connexion with the development of the Northern Territory, as coal there is at an almost prohibitive price, and petrol is also retailed at a rate which with freight added places it beyond the reach of ordinary users in the interior. It was represented that if oil fuel could be made available at a reasonable rate it would reduce the operating costs of the railways, meat works, and other possible users; while the provision of cheap petrol would enable motor-driven vehicles to be much more freely used, the cost of transport lessened, and the development of the Territory assisted.

The estimated cost of the establishment of two tanks and the laying of the necessary pipe-line was set down at £12,000.

The evidence tendered to the Committee showed unmistakably the advantages of fuel oil over coal for many purposes and the saving that could be effected by its use. The influence on the development of the Northern Territory by the more general employment of motor vehicles was also stressed. The matter was, however, mainly dealt with in the abstract, and the Committee was unable to obtain definite information as to the number of users and the probable quantity of fuel oil and petrol required per annum.

It was shown that those most likely to benefit by having available supplies of fuel oil would be the Navy, the Darwin Meat Works, and the Railways Department. But it was pointed out that it would not be politic to establish at Darwin an adequate supply of fuel oil for Naval purposes unless some steps were taken to enable it to be defended in case of war. The Darwin Meat Works were not in operation, and no information was available as to when they would re-open, or how long after that it would take to convert their machinery to oil burning, and what quantity of fuel oil they would guarantee to take per annum. In regard to the railways also, some time must necessarily elapse before their locomotives could be converted to oil burning, and the Commissioner stated he would require only about 240 tons a year, so that the establishment of an oil dépôt for railway purposes alone could not be considered.

In like manner, the possibility of rapid increase in the number of motor vehicles in the Northern Territory was purely a matter of conjecture.

The Committee reported that it was impressed with the possibilities that might eventuate from the establishment of an oil dépôt at Darwin, but stated that it considered it a matter intimately connected with any definite policy for the development of the Northern Territory, and as such might be left to the Minister in Charge. It therefore contented itself with the recommendation that the proposal receive the favorable consideration of the Government.

(b) Wharfage Accommodation and Shipping Facilities, Darwin.

6. The existing jetty at Darwin lies near the base of Stokes Hill, and consists of a rubble approach, piles of cast iron, bracing of steel, and a timber decking, and was completed in 1904. It was represented that this wharf was unsuitable, and as a result of a report submitted by Sir William Clarkson, late Engineer Vice-Admiral, Australian Naval Forces, it was proposed to construct a solid wharf with sheet piling along the face of the wharf, 12 inches of concrete on the face of the wall, and 3 feet behind it to just below low water-level, the remainder of the structure being filled in at the back with earth. The decking of the wharf was also to be of concrete. It was proposed that the structure should be 130 feet wide and 600 feet long in the first instance, to be extended later to a length of 1,200 feet.

It was proposed to provide a railway on the wharf by the construction of an approach round the eastern side of Stokes Hill, and to give vehicular approach round the western side of Stokes Hill by removing the railway line on the existing railway approach and constructing a road from the shoreward end of same to connect with Mitchell-street. Necessary railway tracks would be laid on the wharf, on which would also be erected a bond store and a sorting shed 50 feet wide.

As an alternative to the construction of the wharf, Sir William Clarkson suggested the provision of an island jetty in Fanny Bay, to be connected with the Darwin Meat Works by means of an aerial ropeway to facilitate the shipping of frozen meat.

After visiting Darwin and taking considerable evidence in regard to various matters connected with the use of the wharf and the development of the Northern Territory, the Committee recommended—

- (i) That the proposal to construct a concrete wharf as recommended by Sir William Clarkson be not approved.
- (ii) That the Government should forthwith instruct a Harbour Engineer to report upon a scheme of harbour improvements at Darwin.
- (iii) That a special effort should be made by the Railways Department to cope with the difficulties associated with the peculiar shape of the present jetty.
- (iv) That, with a view to assisting the development of the Territory, the expenditure on harbour improvements should be deemed a Commonwealth grant-in-aid, and all wharfage dues abolished for a period of five years.
- (v) That the railway be run as a developmental line and minimum fares and freights charged; the Commonwealth Railways Department to be credited with an amount sufficient to make up loss sustained by this action.
- (vi) That special attention be given by the Railways Department to all matters appertaining to the careful handling of stock consigned to the meat works.
- (vii) That if the tests arranged to be made at Townsville in regard to the type of insulated wagon in use at Darwin disclose any fault in those wagons, such fault be remedied before the meat works are ready to resume operations.
- (viii) That the suggested formation of a road to connect the jetty with Mitchell-street be not approved.
- (ix) That the proposed aerial ropeway be not installed by the Government.
- (x) That every effort be made to reduce the high shipping, rail, and other freights ruling in the Territory.

(c) Establishment of Aircraft Dépôt at Laverton, Victoria.

7. This was a proposal to establish at Laverton an extensive dépôt for the Royal Australian Air Force, comprising stores, workshops, hangars, and living quarters for officers and men, with landing grounds for machines. Provision was also to be made for the training of a Service Squadron.

The construction was proposed to be extended over a period of four years, at a total cost, including accessory engineering services, of £296,836.

After a careful examination of all the evidence placed before it, the Committee recommended—

- (i) That an aircraft dépôt is essential for the proper development of the Royal Australian Air Force.
- (ii) That, from the points of view of contiguity to the existing training school at Point Cook and accessibility by road and rail, the site was suitable.
- (iii) That, as soon as possible, a definite policy for the progression of air activities for the defence of Australia be formulated, and the Australian public made aware of what has to be faced in the matter of expenditure.
- (iv) That the construction of the dépôt be proceeded with as expeditiously as possible.
- (v) That a railway siding be constructed without delay to permit of its use for the transport of material employed in the erection of the dépôt.
- (vi) That an endeavour should be made to reduce sewerage costs as much as possible.
- (vii) That dépôt buildings be erected in concrete.
- (viii) That tenders be called for cottages in reinforced concrete or brick, and if prices be within 12½ per cent. of the estimated costs of timber buildings, then the more permanent structures be erected.
- (ix) That tenders for the construction of the whole of the dwellings be invited, either singly or in groups.
- (x) That consideration be given to the possibility of providing housing accommodation for married mechanics employed in skilled work at the dépôt.
- (xi) That a recreation hall with billiards and a small library for the men be provided.
- (xii) That the Government take steps either to manufacture aeroplanes complete with engines in its own factories, or encourage private manufacturers to do so by means of a subsidy.
- (xiii) That all roofs and external walls of galvanized iron be treated with a solution of boiled linseed oil and Portland cement, in order to add to their durability, appearance, and coolness.
- (xiv) That a suitable system of tree planting in approved locations be adopted at the dépôt.

(d) *Flinders Naval Base—Erection of Additional Block of Seamen's Barracks.*

8. This was a proposal to erect on the south of the existing barrack buildings at Flinders Naval Base a third block on similar lines capable of accommodating about 300 men. It was proposed to be a brick building approximately 212 feet long by 55 ft. 8 in. wide and of three stories.

In addition to the barrack building, there were also to be latrine and lavatory blocks of brick, and a dining block, and a petty officers' dining room—of timber construction.

The estimated cost was given as £23,000.

After investigating the proposal, the Committee reported that, to eliminate the over-crowding complained of and meet future normal development of the dépôt, further accommodation was required, and recommended that the erection of the building proposed be proceeded with.

(e) *Canberra to Yass Railway—Construction within the Federal Capital Territory.*

9. The railway from Melbourne to Sydney passes the northerly boundary of the Federal Territory at a distance of approximately 30 miles, and under the terms of the *Seat of Government Acceptance Act* 1909 it was agreed between the Commonwealth and the State of New South Wales that—

“In the event of the Commonwealth constructing a railway within the Territory to its northern boundary, the State shall construct a railway from a point near Yass on the Great Southern railway to join with the said railway.”

The Queanbeyan to Nimmitabel State railway forms portion of the easterly boundary of the Federal Territory, and from a point on that line in the vicinity of the town of Queanbeyan the Commonwealth constructed, in 1914, a branch line to Canberra, terminating at a point near the power house, a little to the south-east of the city area. In 1921 this branch line was extended as a surface line as far as the civic centre.

The proposal submitted was to abandon the existing surface line from the power house to the civic centre, and, commencing from a point about a mile to the east of the power house on the existing line from Queanbeyan, to construct a permanent low-level line through the city to the northern boundary of the Federal Territory. From that point it would then be the obligation of the State of New South Wales to continue the line to connect with its system in the vicinity of Yass Junction, as agreed to in the *Seat of Government Acceptance Act* 1909.

The estimated cost of the Commonwealth's portion of the line was set down at £433,000.

After hearing all the evidence brought forward in regard to the matter, the Committee's recommendations were—

- (i) Utilize the existing line to the civic centre for as long as possible.
- (ii) Build permanent railway bridges over the Jerrabomberra Creek and Molonglo River to take the railway across at the 1,841-ft. level.
- (iii) Provide for a low-level station at civic centre as proposed.
- (iv) Provide facilities for handling goods on the south side of the Molonglo in the vicinity of the power house, and on the north side in the vicinity of the civic centre.
- (v) Adopt a 1 in 66 grade.
- (vi) Reserve a generous strip of land on each side of the line, especially in residential areas.
- (vii) Make ample provision to meet all future needs of the Central Railway Station, and provide for access from all sides.
- (viii) Terminate the line for the present as near as possible just beyond the civic centre.

(f) *Provision of a Telegraph Cable between Sydney and Newcastle and Newcastle and West Maitland.*

10. In order to cater for the rapidly increasing telephone business between Sydney and Newcastle, and Newcastle and West Maitland, a proposal was submitted to lay in troughing alongside the railway line a cable containing 200 wires between Sydney and Newcastle, and in the troughing laid to provide sufficient space for an additional cable when required.

Between Newcastle and West Maitland the proposal was to lay a cable containing 100 wires, and in the troughing provide sufficient space for additional cables when required.

In both cases the cable proposed to be used was of a type weighing 40 lbs. of copper to the mile and equipped with conductors. The troughing proposed was of ironbark, jarrah, tallow-wood, or redgum, the inside measurement being 6 inches by 4 inches. It was to be supported on concrete pegs 6 inches by 6 inches and about 4 feet in length driven into the ground so that the cable would be carried at about 15 inches above the ground.

The estimated cost was stated to be—

Sydney-Newcastle	..	..	..	£364,000
Newcastle-West Maitland	..	..	..	78,000
				£442,000

The Committee reported that after investigation it was satisfied that urgency existed for giving greater facilities for telephone business between Sydney and the towns mentioned, and recommended that the work be put in hand as soon as possible. As some doubt was expressed as to the durability of the system of troughing proposed, it was suggested that careful inquiries be made as to the design of the troughing and the best and most economical class of timber to be used for this purpose before the work was commenced.

(g) *Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange at Elsternwick, Victoria.*

11. This was a proposal to erect a telephone exchange building on a site acquired by the Commonwealth at the corner of Selwyn and Davis streets, Elsternwick, and to install therein an automatic telephone switching system having an initial capacity of 5,700 subscribers' lines and an ultimate capacity of approximately 9,600 subscribers' lines.

The estimated cost was set down at £168,075.

Having satisfied itself of the necessity for increased telephone facilities at Elsternwick and ascertained that a more efficient service and increased revenue might be expected from the installation of the automatic system, the Committee agreed to recommend that the work be put in hand as early as possible.

(h) *Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange at Northcote, Victoria.*

12. This was a proposal to erect a telephone exchange building on a site acquired by the Commonwealth in 1915 at the corner of Bay View and High streets, Northcote, and to install therein an automatic telephone switching system having an initial capacity of 5,800 subscribers' lines and an ultimate capacity of approximately 9,300 subscribers' lines.

The estimated cost of the proposal was set down at £101,123.

Having satisfied itself of the necessity for increased telephone facilities at Northcote and ascertained that a more efficient service and increased revenue might be expected from the installation of the automatic system, the Committee agreed to recommend that the work as proposed be put in hand as early as possible.

(i) *Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchanges at Unley and Norwood, South Australia.*

13. The proposal submitted for consideration was the advisability of extending the existing telephone exchange buildings situated at the corner of Northgate-street and Bellevue-avenue, Unley, and at the corner of East-parade and Maesbury-street, Norwood, and to install therein full automatic telephone switching systems having an initial capacity of 5,500 subscribers' lines at Unley and 5,700 subscribers' lines at Norwood, the exchanges to have an ultimate capacity of approximately 9,400 and 8,900 subscribers' lines respectively.

The estimated cost was set down at £128,916 in the case of Unley, and £134,555 in the case of Norwood.

The evidence obtained by the Committee showed the necessity for the substitution of the full automatic system for the existing semi-automatic system at Unley and Norwood, while the figures placed before it indicated that the installation of the system proposed, in addition to replacing obsolete equipment and giving a more efficient service, would in five years show a substantial profit. It was therefore recommended that the work be proceeded with as early as possible.

During its inquiries in the case of Norwood, representations were made that the Councils of Norwood and Burnside had under consideration a scheme for widening East-parade from 52 ft. 6 in. to 82 ft. 6 in., to bring it more into conformity with roads leading into it at each end. In order to avoid the destruction of this scheme which would take place if the telephone exchange building were erected on the street alignment as proposed, and as the Committee considered that no obstacle should be placed in the way of the Council improving its district, it was recommended that the Commonwealth should transfer to the Council a 16 ft. 6 in. strip of its frontage along East-parade, together with sufficient land to round off the corner of its area at the junction of East-parade and Maesbury-street. It was stipulated, however, that sufficient land for telephone exchange purposes adjoining the telephone exchange on the south side should be made available by the Council to the Commonwealth without charge.

In regard to the telephone exchange buildings at both Unley and Norwood, the Committee recommended that to minimize the risk of fire steps should be taken to cover the under side of the eaves of the existing buildings and their proposed extensions with galvanized iron or other suitable material.

(j) *Construction of Southern Intercepting Sewer, Canberra.*

14. This was a proposal to proceed with the progressive development of the sewerage system of Canberra in conformity with the scheme prepared by the Federal Capital Advisory Committee by the extension of the main intercepting sewer within the city boundary from Commonwealth-avenue to East Lake.

This section was to be constructed of reinforced concrete pipes 21 inches in diameter, with a concrete surround. The length of the section to be constructed was given as 6,721 feet, or about 1½ miles, and was to be laid at an average depth of 50 feet below ground level. It is designed to serve a population of 40,000, but running at full capacity it could provide for a maximum population of 80,000.

The estimated cost was set down at £47,000.

After giving the matter due consideration, the Committee was satisfied that for the general development of Canberra the southern intercepting sewer proposed was necessary, and recommended that the work be put in hand as early as possible.

(k) *Erection of Secretariat Building, Canberra.*

15. Parliament having decided to invite competitive designs for the erection of the permanent Administrative Offices at Canberra, it became necessary to make provision for those Commonwealth officials whose attendance at Canberra is considered essential before the permanent Administrative buildings can be completed. It was stated that Parliament House, Canberra, was expected to be completed by June, 1926, and that it was unlikely that the permanent Administrative Offices would be completed before June, 1929. It was suggested that, for this period of three years, the work at Canberra might be dealt with by a skeleton staff from each Department, and the proposal submitted was designed to provide accommodation for these skeleton staffs or secretariats.

The building suggested was to be of brick and of simple design, on straight, square lines, with a flat roof and walls covered with white plaster. It was to be of two main floors each 12 feet high, with an additional story 8 feet high in the centre of the building. It was proposed that on the north end of the building should be located a post office, and on the south end an automatic telephone exchange. The estimated cost of the proposal as submitted to the Committee was —

Building	£39,000
Engineering services	3,500
Automatic telephone exchange	53,640
	£96,140

After careful inquiry into the matter, the Committee recommended that the building be erected on the lines proposed.

INQUIRIES INCOMPLETE.

16. Inquiries in respect of the undermentioned public works are incomplete :—

- (i) Erection of building in Brisbane for accommodation of Commonwealth Departments.
- (ii) Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange at Brisbane Central.
- (iii) Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange at Toowong, Queensland.
- (iv) Construction of Northern Main Sewer, Canberra.
- (v) Construction of Sewage Treatment Works, Canberra.
- (vi) Establishment of Royal Australian Air Force Station (No. 2) at Richmond, New South Wales.

RECORD OF INQUIRIES.

17. Appended hereto is a return containing a record of inquiries of the Committee from the date of its appointment to 31st December, 1924.

H. GREGORY,
Chairman.

Office of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works,
Federal Parliament House, Melbourne,
17th March, 1925.

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS

RECORD OF INQUIRIES.

The following is a list of proposed public works inquired into by the Committee from the date of its appointment to 31st December, 1924, with the result of its inquiries:—

Date of Inquiry.	Proposed Work.	Expenditure proposed by the Government.	Expenditure recommended by the Committee.	Amount in excess of that proposed.	Amount in reduction of that proposed.	Remarks.
1915.		£	£	£	£	
25th Jan. to 24th Feb.	Construction of a main sewer for the city of Canberra	75,000	75,000	..	..	Recommended as proposed.
28th Jan. to 25th Feb.	Storage and regulating reservoir, Upper Goulburn River	100,000	..	..	100,000	Committee decided that there is no present necessity or urgency for this work.
11th Mar. to 4th May	Erection of buildings at Flinders Naval Base	111,032	111,032	..	..	Recommended as proposed.
19th Mar. to 5th May	Sewerage scheme for Flinders Naval Base	9,800	7,800	..	2,000	
6th May to 24th June	Lithgow Small Arms Factory Extension	66,600 (including power plant)	92,100	25,500	..	In lieu of making additions to the existing factory at Lithgow, the Committee recommended the erection of a factory at Canberra, twice the size of the existing factory, the installation of new machinery therein, and the removal thereto of the existing machinery at a convenient date.
6th May to 27th May	Increase of output, Small Arms Factory, Lithgow	..	..	..	..	Committee recommended establishment of a second shift.
6th May to 17th June	Increase of plant, Small Arms Factory, Lithgow	38,727	38,727	..	..	Recommended as proposed.
27th July to 26th Aug.	Small Arms Factory—location at Canberra	..	..	..	..	Site recommended.
18th Sept. to 16th Oct.	Automatic Telephone Exchange, Sydney	93,008	..	..	..	Committee favorable to proposal subject to provision of additional means of ingress and egress.
21st Sept. to 22nd Sept.	Barracks, quarters, gun park, &c., for R.A.F.A., Enoggera, Queensland	26,000	28,225	2,225	..	Recommended subject to improved lighting, water, and fire services.
23rd Sept. to 24th Nov.	Cement Works for Commonwealth purposes	100,000	100,000	..	..	Recommended as proposed.
28th Sept. to 6th Oct.	Alterations and additions to the Customs House, Sydney	37,500	29,500	..	..	Recommended, but stipulation made that occupants be removed to temporary accommodation during alterations.
12th Oct. to 16th Oct.	Automatic Telephone Exchange, Malvern, Victoria	49,933	49,933	..	..	Recommended as proposed.
12th Oct. to 16th Oct.	Automatic Telephone Exchange, Collingwood, Victoria	49,762	49,762	..	..	Recommended as proposed.
25th Oct. to 26th Oct.	Additional Office accommodation, Victoria Barracks, Melbourne	35,000	35,000	..	..	Recommended as proposed.
1916.						
14th Feb. to 1st Mar.	Selection of site for arsenal within the Federal Territory	..	..	..	..	Confidential report issued to Prime Minister.
24th May to 31st May	Alterations and additions to the Customs House, Sydney (further report)	51,481	41,000	..	10,481	
25th Feb. to 21st Aug. 1916	Water Supply scheme for Flinders Naval Base	61,000 and 8d. per 1,000 gallons for water consumed	Capital cost nil; 1s. per 1,000 gallons with minimum annual payment of 24,000 for first three years, 23,500 for second three years, 23,000 thereafter	..	61,000	The interest on the capital cost of £61,000 as originally proposed, plus the cost of water consumed at 8d. per 1,000 gallons, more than counterbalances the annual payment under the scheme recommended.

Record of Inquiries—List of proposed public works inquired into—continued.

Date of Inquiry.	Proposed Work.	Expenditure proposed by the Government.	Expenditure recommended by the Committee.	Amount in excess of that proposed.	Amount in reduction of that proposed.	Remarks.
1916.		£	£	£	£	
10th Nov. to 26th Aug. 1916	Extension of Pine Creek-Katherine River Railway to Bitter (Mataranka) Springs	330,000	280,000	..	..	Recommended as proposed.
19th July to 24th Nov. 1916	City Railway, Canberra	278,972	260,000	..	68,972	The Committee recommended that requirements for some years be met by temporary surface lines at estimated cost of about £37,000.
14th July to 24th Nov. 1916	Dams for Ornamental Waters, Canberra	912,421	473,421	..	440,000	Most of the expenditure recommended, however, will be deferred for a period of years.
1917.						
16th Jan. to 30th Feb.	Extension of Postal Stores, Harbour-street, Sydney	68,532	68,532	..	..	Recommended as proposed.
31st Jan. to 16th Mar.	Power House, Flinders Naval Base	15,000	9,000	..	5,000	
27th Sept. to 8th Mar. 1918	Flinders Naval Base—Erection of workshops, hospital, detention barracks, quarters for married officers and warrant officers; water, sewerage, and storm-water retentions; electric distribution system; and necessary works for that establishment	168,845	142,641	..	26,204	
27th Sept. to 1st May 1918	Henderson Naval Base—Two breakwaters, excavation, reclamation, basins or quays, floating docks, administrative buildings, and permanent railways	4,629,109	2,908,859	..	10,250	The Committee recommended that work of the estimated cost of £1,601,000 be made the subject of further inquiry at a later date. A saving of £19,250 was effected in connection with the transport of material from Woongong.
1918.						
16th June to 1st Aug.	Housing of Commonwealth workmen at Lithgow, New South Wales	73,762	..	..	..	The Committee recommended the erection of 160 houses instead of 100 as proposed, but at a lower average cost.
20th Sept. to 29th Oct.	Arsenal Railway	62,614	62,614	..	..	Recommended as proposed.
23rd Dec. to 26th June 1918	Ordnance Store, Leichhardt, N.S.W.	69,283	..	..	6,300	The Committee recommended the addition of another story to the building proposed, but saved the cost of same by concentration of Ordnance business at Leichhardt. A further saving of £5,300 was effected by the relocation of the railway siding.
1919.						
16th June to 7th Oct.	Commonwealth Printing Office	47,800	48,800	..	1,000	The Committee recommended a variation in the floor finish proposed which would result in a saving of £1,000.
1920.						
4th May to 9th June	Erection of mobilization and vehicle stores, Baymount, Victoria	78,672	80,472	1,800	..	Increase resulted from the recommendation of the Committee that fire sprinklers be installed in the Equipment Building.
11th June to 19th July	Alterations and Additions to the General Post Office, Adelaide, S.A.	76,014	76,014	..	..	Recommended as proposed.
18th July to 24th Aug.	Mobilization and vehicle stores, Midland Junction, Western Australia	36,570	..	..	..	The Committee recommended acquisition of additional seven acres and cottage thereon, but estimated that would be practically balanced by elimination of erection of carrier's cottage proposed.
2nd Nov. to 22nd Mar. 1921	Kidman and Mayoh's Wooden Ship-building District	135,200	Nil	..	135,200	The Committee recommended that under no circumstances would the Commonwealth be justified in taking over the ships.
22nd Dec. to 12th April 1921	Extension by two floors of building under construction for General Post Office, Perth, W.A.	50,000	50,000	..	..	Recommended as proposed.

Record of Inquiries—List of proposed public works inquired into—continued.

Date of Inquiry.	Proposed Work.	Expenditure proposed by the Government.	Expenditure recommended by the Committee.	Amount in Excess of that proposed.	Amount in Reduction of that proposed.	Remarks.
1920. 22nd Dec., 1920, to 19th April, 1921	Erection of an additional telegraph line from Perth to Eucla and Transcontinental Railway route.	42,080	42,080	..	..	Recommended as proposed
23rd Nov., 1920, to 20th April, 1921	Erection of additional telephone line between Sydney and Melbourne	37,000	37,000	..	..	Recommended as proposed
3rd March, 1921, to 6th May, 1921	Erection of Ordnance and other Defence buildings at Kelvin Grove, Brisbane, Queensland	83,041	62,181	..	910	The Committee recommended utilization of building to be acquired in lieu of existing luncheon-rooms.
23rd Nov., 1920, to 9th May, 1921	Erection of telephone trunk line between Brisbane and Sydney	35,200	31,514	..	..	The price of copper fell after preparation of estimate.
1st Feb., 1921, to 9th May, 1921	Establishment of automatic telephone exchanges at Albion and Newmarket, Queensland	89,779	89,779	..	..	Recommended as proposed
17th May, 1921, to 28th June, 1921	Establishment of automatic telephone exchanges at Ascot Vale and North Melbourne, Victoria	183,092	183,092	..	..	Recommended as proposed
8th March, 1921, to 7th July, 1921	Acquisition of lands for the proposed Anzac Memorial Square, Brisbane, Queensland	..	..	..	..	The Committee recommended— (a) That Commonwealth lands be transferred to State in exchange for suitable area for Commonwealth purposes in an approved locality, or alternatively (b) That Commonwealth areas be sold to Brisbane City Council at valuation, or, failing acceptance of (a) or (b), that the Commonwealth agree to relinquish a strip 40 feet wide if the State relinquish an adjoining strip 160 feet wide for the purpose of forming a Memorial Square
30th March, 1921, to 3rd Aug., 1921	Erection of offices for Taxation and other Commonwealth Departments in Sydney	145,000	145,000	..	..	Recommended as proposed
23rd Feb., 1921, to 9th Nov., 1921	Re-modelling and additions, General Post Office, Sydney	289,807	289,000 plus cost of land	21,000 plus cost of land	..	The Committee's recommendation provided an additional 24,000 feet of floor space to enable the building to be reduced by two stories, and allow some margin for expansion when necessary
28th January, 1921, to 6th October, 1922	Extension of the Port Augusta-Ordnance Railway from Oodnadatta to Alton Springs	4,109,440	1,558,000	..	2,650,846	..
28th January, 1921, to 6th October, 1922	Northern Territory Railway—Extension from Mataranka to Daly Waters	1,169,898	928,386	..	233,912	..
14th Dec., 1921, to 6th April, 1922	Sewerage, Federal Capital—Construction of Main Intersecting Sewer from centre of City to connect with Main Outfall Sewer	66,000	66,000	..	..	Recommended as proposed
16th Dec., 1921, to 19th April, 1922	Water Supply, Federal Capital—Distribution Works within the City Area, Canberra	48,200	48,200	..	..	Recommended as proposed
19th Dec., 1921, to 11th April, 1922	Construction of Hostel at Canberra, with necessary engineering and other services	98,760	62,000	..	36,760	Committee recommended that construction be limited to central block and half the number of pavilions proposed
25th Jan., 1922, to 31st May, 1922	Automatic Telephone Exchange and Equipment at South Brisbane, Queensland	121,086	121,086	..	..	Recommended as proposed
20th Jan., 1922, to 31st May, 1922	Automatic Telephone Exchange and Equipment at Oatridge, W.A.	44,570	44,570	..	..	Recommended as proposed

Record of Inquiries—List of proposed public works inquired into—continued.

Date of Inquiry.	Proposed Work.	Expenditure proposed by the Government.	Expenditure recommended by the Committee.	Amount in Excess of that proposed.	Amount in Reduction of that proposed.	Remarks.
1922. 24th Feb., 1922, to 14th March, 1922	Office Accommodation for Federal Taxation Department in Melbourne	209,850	125,000	..	84,850	..
23rd Feb., 1922, to 7th April, 1922	Office Accommodation in Adelaide for various Commonwealth Departments	115,000	115,000	..	..	Recommended as proposed
16th March, 1922, to 16th June, 1922	Automatic Telephone Exchanges and Equipment at Brighton, Glenage, and Prospect, S.A.	181,810	181,810	..	..	Recommended as proposed
4th May, 1922, to 12th Oct., 1922	Automatic Telephone Exchange and Equipment at City South, Sydney	404,242	419,342	15,100	..	In view of value of site, the Committee recommended a first-story building in lieu of three stories proposed
8th May, 1922, to 14th Sept., 1922	Automatic Telephone Exchanges and Equipment at East Sydney, Randwick, Waverley, and Gordon, N.S.W.	497,452	497,452	..	..	Recommended as proposed
10th Aug., 1922, to 29th Aug., 1922	Automatic Telephone Exchange and Equipment at South Melbourne, Victoria	111,738	111,738	..	..	Recommended as proposed
10th Aug., 1922, to 30th Sept., 1922	Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange at Canterbury, Victoria	113,622	113,622	..	..	Recommended as proposed
12th Aug., 1922, to 3rd Oct., 1922	Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange at Box Hill, Victoria	44,841	2,720	..	42,121	Committee recommended that existing manual exchange could be kept in operation without detriment to service until 1929
26th Aug., 1922, to 10th Oct., 1922	Provision of Additional Quarters at Point Cook, Vic., for Staff of Royal Australian Air Force	31,600	31,600	..	..	Recommended as proposed
7th Oct., 1921, to 28th Oct., 1922	Erection of Commonwealth Office, Brisbane	127,000	115,000	..	12,000	Committee recommended erection of building in concrete
1923. 21st March, 1923, to 18th June, 1923	Erection of Provisional Parliament House, Canberra	174,000	..	..	..	The Committee recommended the erection of the nucleus of the permanent Parliament House, or alternatively, the erection of a provisional building on the site proposed below Camp Hill
9th April, 1923, to 21st June, 1923	Construction of Provisional Administrative Offices at Canberra	136,600	..	..	..	Committee recommended that two units of two-storied brick or concrete buildings be provided
14th March, 1923, to 28th June, 1923	Erection of Officers' Hostel, Canberra	39,000	25,000	..	14,000	Committee recommended that in lieu of a hostel on garden pavilion lines there be provided a compact two-storied structure under one roof
18th July, 1923, to 16th Aug., 1923	Erection of Telephone Workshops, Spencer-street, Melbourne	66,600	66,600	..	..	..
13th Aug., 1923, to 10th May, 1924	Establishment of Oil Dépôt, Darwin	12,000	..	..	..	No definite recommendation made, but suggested that proposal receive favorable consideration of the Government
13th Aug., 1923, to 12th May, 1924	Provision of Wharfage Accommodation and Shipping Facilities, Darwin	120,050	Nil	..	120,050	Proposal not recommended
24th Aug., 1923, to 27th May, 1924	Establishment of Air-craft Dépôt at Laverton, Victoria	296,836	296,836	..	..	Recommended as proposed
5th March to 26th March	Erection of Additional Block of Seamen's Barracks, Flinders Naval Dépôt	33,000	33,000	..	..	Recommended as proposed
7th Feb. to 6th May	Construction of Railway to connect Canberra with Yass	433,000	131,000	..	*302,000	Recommended that for the present the line be terminated at the 205½-mile point.

* This recommendation, if adopted, will also preclude the necessity of spending an amount of £310,725 by or on behalf of the State of New South Wales for the construction of its section.

Record of Inquiries—List of proposed public works inquired into—continued.

Date of Inquiry.	Proposed Work.	Expenditure proposed by the Government.	Expenditure recommended by the Committee.	Amount in (Pounds of that proposed.	Amount in Reduction of that proposed.	Remarks.
1894.		£	£	£	£	
14th May to 27th May	Provision of Telegraph Cable between Sydney and Newcastle and Newcastle and West Maitland	442,000	442,000	..	..	Recommended as proposed
5th July to 30th July	Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange at Epsom, Victoria	168,075	168,075	..	..	Recommended as proposed
5th July to 5th Aug.	Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange at Northcote, Victoria	101,123	101,123	..	..	Recommended as proposed
3rd July to 8th Aug.	Establishment of Automatic Telephone Exchange at Unley and Norwood, S.A.	203,471	203,471	..	..	Recommended as proposed
12th Aug. to 21st Aug.	Construction of Southern Intercepting Sewer, Canberra	47,000	47,000	..	..	Recommended as proposed
10th June to 10th Sept.	Erection of a Secretariat Building at Canberra, including Post Office and Automatic Telephone Exchange	96,140	96,140	..	..	Recommended as proposed