

1925.



THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

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P A P E R

W. W. L. W.
Solicitor Clerk of the Senate.
28th Sept, 1925.

TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF

THE SENATE.

R E P O R T

of the

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS

relating to the proposed

CONSTRUCTION OF BOYS' NAVAL TRAINING ESTABLISHMENT

AT GEELONG (VICTORIA).

1925.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS.

R E P O R T

together with

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

relating to the proposed

CONSTRUCTION OF BOYS' NAVAL TRAINING ESTABLISHMENT

AT GEELONG, (VICTORIA).

MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS.

(Fourth Committee.)

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

Senate.

Senator John Barnes. †
 Senator Hattil Spencer Foll. †
 Senator Patrick Joseph Lynch. †
 Senator John Newland. †
 Senator William Plain. x
 Senator Matthew Reid. †

House of Representatives.

Arthur Blakeley Esq., M.P.
 Robert Cook Esq., M.P.
 David Sydney Jackson Esq., M.P.
 George Hugh Mackay Esq., M.P.
 James Mathews Esq., M.P.

x Ceased to be a Member of the Senate, 30th. June, 1923. † Appointed
 5th. July, 1923. † Resigned 28th. June, 1923.

I N D E X .

Page

Report
 Minutes of Evidence
 Plan

EXTRACT FROM THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NO. 24 DATED 26th. AUGUST,

1925.

7. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE - REFERENCE OF WORK - BOYS' NAVAL TRAINING ESTABLISHMENT AT GEELONG. - Mr. Hill (Minister for Works & Railways) moved, pursuant to notice, That, in accordance with the provisions of the Commonwealth Public Works Committee Act 1913-1921, the following work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for its investigation and report thereon, viz:- Construction of Boys' Naval Training Establishment at Geelong (Victoria).

Mr. Hill having laid on the Table plans, &c., in connexion with the proposed work, -

Question - put and passed.

LIST OF WITNESSES.

	Page.
Cayley, Captain Henry Priaulx, R.A.N., Second Naval Member, Department of Defence	...
Connell, Henry Gustavus, Chief Civil Engineer, Department of Works & Railways	...
Dix, Lieutenant Thomas Lewis, Officer in Charge of Boys, Training Ship "Tingira", Rose Bay, Sydney	...
Garcia, Rupert Clare, R.A.N., Commander Training Ship "Tingira", Rose Bay, Sydney	...
Murdoch, John Smith, Director-General of Works and Chief Arch- itect, Department of Works & Railways	...
Moss, Henry Percival, Chief Electrical Engineer, Department of Works & Railways	...
O'Connor, George Francis, Director of Naval Works, Defence De- partment	...
Percival, Arthur, Assistant Commonwealth Surveyor-General, Department of Home & Territories	...

BOYS' NAVAL TRAINING ESTABLISHMENT, GEELONG.

R E P O R T .

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, to which the House of Representatives referred, for investigation and report, the question of the construction of a Boys' Naval Training Establishment at Geelong (Victoria), has the honor to report as follows :-

INTRODUCTORY.

1. At the present time, boys for the Royal Australian Navy are trained aboard the training ship H.M.A.S. "Tingira", stationed at Sydney. The accommodation on this vessel is limited to that necessary for about 250 boys, with arrangements said to be entirely inadequate for officers, ship's company, and trainees. It is represented that the requirements of the Fleet have grown to such an extent that one ship cannot train the necessary number of boys, and that to provide for the requisite minimum of 300 boys, with room for expansion, further accommodation is necessary. If this accommodation is to be provided afloat, it would be necessary, in addition to spending a large sum of money on the "Tingira", to purchase and refit another suitable hulk, which, even if available, is said to present many inconveniences.

As a result of investigation outside Australia, it has been represented that a shore establishment offers better training facilities and improved living conditions besides being more economical than training afloat, and it is therefore proposed to provide a shore establishment on an area of approximately 46 acres at Geelong, portion of which area containing Osborne House has been occupied by the Commonwealth for some years for naval purposes.

PRESENT PROPOSAL.

2. The projected establishment entails the erection in the first instance of messing and sleeping accommodation for 300 boys; buildings for instructional purposes, hospital and isolation huts; messing and sleeping accommodation for ship's company; together with stores building, etc. It is proposed that the existing buildings be altered and converted for the use of the administrative staff and as officers' quarters.

ESTIMATED COST.

3. The estimated cost of the proposal as submitted to the Committee is set down at :-

FIRST STAGE

(Before Occupation).

	£	
Four dormitories (60 boys each)	15,840	
Half dormitory (40 boys) - addition to existing building	2,500	
Boiler House	2,000	
Cook House	2,000	
Bath house	2,360	
Latrines (10 W.C's in each)	520	
Miniature rifle range	450	
Boys' washing slab	600	
Disinfector building	250	
New Entries' Latrines and Bath house	350	
Sullage pit	75	
School, first portion (4 class rooms)	3,080	
Gun drill battery	3,000	
Guard house	2,000	
Garage	700	
Gymnasium	3,780	
Hospital - one wing	3,500	
Two zymotic huts	2,000	
Ship's Company block	5,000	
Ship's Company block - bathrooms, latrines, and sullage pit	1,545	
Seamanship block	3,150	
Central store	2,000	
Works department	2,000	
Boys' field latrine	200	
Boys' canteen	480	
Alterations and additions to Administ. block	1,500	
Warrant Officers' Galley		
Preliminaries and New Entries' Galley		
Sundry alterations to main house		
Erect mast from "Tingira"	50	
Ship's Company canteen	480	
Covered ways	400	
Contingencies say	3,190	£265,000
Furniture		2,000

CIVIL ENGINEERING:

Pier extension and boat davits	300	
Railway siding platform	250	
Railway level crossing	50	
Three football fields	300	
Two ship's company tennis courts	420	
Roads, pathways, sewerage, mains, stormwater, and contingencies	10,000	
	£11,320	
Say		£11,400

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING :

Two steam boilers, Disinfector, hot water service to baths, heating, kitchen equipment, and contingencies	7,100
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ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING :

Electric light and power installation, including mains and services	3,200
TOTAL	£88,700

SECOND STAGE (AFTER OCCUPATION)BUILDINGS :

	£	
Recreation Room	3,000	
Field Gun shed	1,270	
Captain's House	2,000	
Chapel	2,430	
Sports Pavilion	660	
Open drill shed	3,190	
Contingencies say	650	£13,200

CIVIL ENGINEERING :

Extension of pier	2,000	
Boat slip and repair shed	1,600	
Roadways, drainage, water supply, etc., and contingencies	5,000	£8,600

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING :

Electrical light and power, including main and services.	£1,500
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T O T A L. £24,300

THIRD STAGE (FUTURE).BUILDINGS :

	£	
Completion of Hospital and zymotic huts.	3,200	
Laundry	2,100	
Further dormitories	each 3,490	
Completion of chapel	1,000	
Completion of school	1,500	
Instructors' block	4,000	
Giant stride	100	
Swimming bath	4,545	£20,935

CIVIL ENGINEERING :

Football grounds	400	
Railway footbridge	500	£900

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING :

Electric light and power, including mains and services.	£1,700
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T O T A L £23,535

The date fixed for completion of the first stage is set down as February, 1927.

COMMITTEE'S INVESTIGATIONS.

4. The Committee visited the "Tingira", lying in Rose Bay, Sydney, inspected Osborne House, Geelong, and obtained evidence from the Second Naval Member of the Commonwealth Naval Board, the Commander of the

"Tingira", the Director of Naval Works, the Chief Commonwealth Architect, and others.

The "Tingira".

5. In 1912, the New South Wales Reformatory Ship "Sobraon", formerly a sailing vessel, was taken over by the Commonwealth Government at a cost of about £15,000, renamed the "Tingira", and at a further expenditure of £10,000 was converted into a naval training ship.

6. The purpose of this naval training school is to give 12 months' preliminary training to boys between the ages of 14½ and 16½ years before they are drafted to a vessel for sea training. The boys receive there the ordinary elementary education, besides instruction in such technical subjects as gunnery, seamanship, signalling, etc.

7. During the course, the more intelligent and studious lads have a chance of entering an advanced class and qualifying for a higher rating when they go to sea. When the boys have passed through the school, limited numbers are selected for various branches of special work, such as clerical, signalling, wireless telegraphy, etc., but the majority go into the seamen's branch. Their first sea appointment is to one of the cruisers which is specially detailed for the training of boys at sea. It is a unit of the squadron, but has a reduced number of able and ordinary seamen, its strength being made up by these trainees.

8. The "Tingira" is now 60 years old; her timbers are said to be rotten, and she is very damp. During the Committee's visit, it was apparent that the accommodation is inadequate for officers, ship's company, and trainees, and does not provide reasonable comfort for the boys now being trained on board; and as it was stated in evidence that it is essential that the Navy obtain an increase of 400 ratings before the middle of 1928, in order to man the new cruisers, it is obvious that some further training accommodation is necessary.

9. An area of about 8½ acres in Lyne Park near Rose Bay is set apart for the use of the Fleet, and the boys of the training ship play their games there, but the area is represented to be not nearly big enough for the boys alone, apart from the men of the Fleet.

Osborne House.

10. Osborne House is a large bluestone building which, with its surrounding grounds comprising about 28 acres, was offered to the Commonwealth at the instance of the Geelong Harbor Trust as a free gift, to

be used for naval purposes. It is a fine level site, with good natural drainage, situated in the vicinity of North Geelong Railway Station, and has frontages to Melbourne-road, Maguire-street, and Corio Bay. Apart from the advantages of the land, the establishment will face sheltered water, which is necessary for training the boys in boat work; and taken altogether, the position is considered an ideal one for a naval training establishment. --

11. Negotiations are proceeding with the State Government for the transfer to the Commonwealth as a free gift from the Geelong Harbor Trust of the original area and an additional 18 acres of land to round off the property and provide the recreation space considered necessary. When this is obtained, it is claimed that the area will be sufficient to provide in the future for 600 or 700 boys, which number, it is stated, will be ample to meet all needs of the Service.

Other sites.

12. The Committee ascertained in evidence that before deciding on Geelong, consideration was given to the location of the establishment at other sites, viz., George's Head, Sydney, Flinders Naval Base, and Jervis Bay; but all offered some objections.

13. George's Head does not lend itself to the construction of the buildings such as are proposed. With regard to Flinders Naval Base, it was reported that the creation of a boys' naval training establishment there would entail just as much cost for buildings as would Geelong, and in addition a considerable amount for clearing. Moreover, it offered the vital objection of mixing the boys and grown men.

14. In regard to Jervis Bay, it was reported that apart from the inadvisability of segregating in a remote locality a large unmarried instructional and maintenance staff for young people, the site presented many unsuitable features, the principal being the absence of an adequate supply of fresh water; the wooded, sandy, rocky, and swampy nature of the surrounding country, and the fact that sheltered water for boat work could only be obtained by the provision of a breakwater at very heavy expense. The investigating officer reported that an expenditure of probably £276,800 would be necessary at Jervis Bay prior to occupation, and that the running expenses of the establishment would be at least £7,000 per annum more than at Geelong.

15. Inquiries were made into the relative advantages of training

boys ashore or afloat, and the Committee was informed that in the preliminary training of boys for naval ratings ship work is not necessary. It is stated that in Britain naval opinion is practically unanimous that training ashore is more efficient than training on a ship, and is as much as 90% cheaper. The ship training of boys has been practically abandoned in Britain; only one training ship is now in use, and it is being retained only until an additional shore establishment is available.

Buildings.

16. It was explained in evidence that the whole system of grouping the buildings is to a large extent based on the latest principles adopted at Shotley, England.

In the case of the dormitories, single stories are suggested because they make for easier supervision. In these buildings the boys sleep in hammocks, and on turning out in the morning the hammocks will be made up and stowed away, leaving the whole of the dormitories free for dining and other purposes; the object being to accustom the lads to naval habits before they go to sea.

It was ascertained in evidence that the estimate submitted provides for the construction of the main buildings in weatherboard and fibro-cement. All the witnesses examined, however, intimated that construction in brick would be preferable as giving the establishment a greater suggestion of permanency, lessening the cost of maintenance, and reducing the risk of fire. This method of construction was put forward mainly on the score of expense, as it was stated that construction in brick would increase the cost to the extent of probably 20%, or an additional amount of about £13,000 on the establishment.

After giving the matter careful consideration, the Committee is of opinion that this extra cost is justified, and recommends that it be incurred so far as the principal buildings are concerned.

Water Supply.

It was stated in evidence that an 8-inch main passes along the western boundary of the property, and it is intended to connect to this a 4-inch main for the establishment's supply. It is reported that by this means an excellent water supply will be made available to meet all normal present and future needs, and give adequate pressure for use in case of fire.

Fire Protection.

18. Protection against possible outbreak of fire is provided by the location at points selected under the direction of the Chief of the Fire Brigades Board of 14 hydrants. At each hydrant will be placed a box containing 200 feet of hose.

Sewerage.

19. A 12-inch pipe connected with the Geelong main outfall sewer is being laid through the centre of the property, and permission is being obtained to connect to this the sewage reticulation from the establishment.

Electric Light and Power.

20. The Geelong electric light transmission line runs along the southern boundary of the property, and from this additional lines are being laid to serve the establishment. It was stated in evidence that current will be available at a price of 6d. per unit for lighting, and for power according to the following scale : First 100 units, 4½d. per unit; next 500 units, 2½d. per unit, and next 1900 units, 2d. per unit. Sufficient current will be available to meet all normal needs.

Title to the Property.

21. It was stated in evidence that apart from letters received intimating that the original area of about 28½ acres was being handed to the Commonwealth as a free gift by the Geelong Harbor Trust for use as a naval college, the Commonwealth possesses no documentary title to the property. Negotiations have been in train for some time for making available to the Commonwealth an additional 18½ acres on the same terms, but it was stated that legislative action on the part of the State of Victoria is necessary before this can be finalised.

The Committee considers that it is essential that the Commonwealth should possess a clear title to the whole of the 46½ acres required for the establishment before entering upon the large expenditure contemplated, and recommends that no further expenditure be incurred until such a title is obtained.

COMMITTEE'S DECISION.

22. With this reservation as to title, the Committee is satisfied from its investigation that an establishment of the class contemplated is necessary, and that Geelong offers an ideal site for its location; and recommends that when the land becomes Commonwealth property necessary

11.

construction work be put in hand as early as possible.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'H. Gargory'.

Chairman.

Office of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works,
Federal Parliament House, Melbourne,
22nd. September, 1925.