

DEPT. OF THE SENATE  
No. 685  
Presented 31 OCT 1951  
*John Edward*  
CLERK OF THE SENATE

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS

R E P O R T

Relating to the Proposed

Erection of an

AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE EXCHANGE AND POSTAL BUILDING

at

SOUTHPORT, Queensland.

-----oOo-----

31st October, 1951.

For Senator O'Byrne,

I bring up the Report of the  
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works,  
relating to the following work :-

Proposed erection of an Automatic  
Telephone Exchange and Postal  
Building at Southport, Queensland,

~~and I move that the Report be printed.~~

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS

-----oOo-----

R E P O R T

relating to the proposed

erection of a

TELEPHONE EXCHANGE AND POSTAL BUILDING

at

SOUTHPORT, Q'LD.

-----oOo-----

LIST OF WITNESSES.

	<u>Paragraph in Evidence.</u>
BELL, E.A., Ceramic Engineer, Director and Manager of Southport Bricks & Tiles Pty.Ltd.	57-64
BENSLEY, Mark, Superintending Engineer, Postmaster-General's Department, Brisbane.	73-79
CAREY, C.C., President, Chamber of Commerce, Southport.	68-72
EDWARDS, R.L., Assistant Director-General (Buildings), Postmaster-General's Department, Melbourne.	11-13, 35-40 and 84-93
EVANS, H.P., Home Designer, Nerang Street, Scuthport.	53-56
FINLAYSON, Malcolm, Principal Architect, Department of Works & Housing, Brisbane.	24-34
MORRISON, L.A., Superintendent, Telephone Branch, Postmaster-General's Department, Brisbane.	19-23
O'BRIEN, B.J., Superintendent, Postal Services Branch, Postmaster-General's Department, Brisbane.	80-83
PAGE, R.E., Assistant Director-General, Engineering Services, Postmaster-General's Department, Melbourne.	14-17
PEAK, Leonard, Mayor of Town of South Coast, Southport.	41-52
PHILLIPS, H.W., Director of Architecture, Department of Works & Housing, 271 Collins Street, Melbourne.	1-10
STRADWICK, M.R., Assistant Director-General (Telephones), Postmaster-General's Department, Melbourne.	18
VEALE, L.F.V., Secretary-Treasurer of the Queensland Postal Institute, and Secretary of the Australian Postal Workers' Union Country Committee.	65-67

## CONTENTS.

	<u>Paragraph in Report.</u>
<u>SECTION I - INTRODUCTION.</u>	
The Southport district	1
The existing facilities	3
<u>SECTION II - THE PRESENT PROPOSAL.</u>	
The complete scheme	5
The building -	
The Ground Floor	6
The First Floor	7
The exchange	8
Estimated cost	9
<u>SECTION III - THE COMMITTEE'S INVESTIGATIONS.</u>	
General	11
Necessity for the project -	
General	12
The exchange	13
Local subscribers' lines	14
Trunk lines	17
Long line equipment	19
Automatic trunk switching equipment	21
Growth of traffic	22
The building -	
Architecture	27
Floor space -	
The Ground Floor	30
The First Floor	32
Construction	33
Engineering services	34
The foundations	37
The site	38
Financial statement	42
Labour and materials	44
Amenities	45
<u>SECTION IV - SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS.</u>	
Summary of recommendations by the Committee	47

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS.

TELEPHONE EXCHANGE AND POSTAL BUILDING,

SOUTHPORT, Q'ld.

-----

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 erection of a Telephone Exchange and Postal Building at Southport, Queensland, has the honour to report as follows :-

SECTION I - INTRODUCTION.

THE SOUTHPORT DISTRICT.

1. Southport is situated on the coast of Queensland approximately 50 miles to the south of Brisbane, and is an old established and leading holiday resort. It is the administrative centre of a number of flourishing seaside resorts which, as a whole, are referred to as "Town of South Coast". This group is made up of the following towns - Surfers' Paradise, Broadbeach, Mermaid's Beach, Burleigh Heads, Miami, Tallebudgera, Palm Beach, Currumbin, Tugun, Bilina, Kirra and Coolangatta. The surrounding district supports a rich agricultural and pastoral industry consisting of dairying and mixed farming including arrowroot, banana and pineapple production.

2. The population of Southport is 10,000 excluding holiday visitors, and the outlying districts have a population of approximately 10,000 people. During the summer months the population increases three-fold, and in the winter months visitors come in large numbers, particularly those from the southern States who are attracted by the ideal winter climatic conditions of Southport.

THE EXISTING FACILITIES.

3. The present post office is a timber framed structure erected in 1909, the main entrance being at the corner of Nerang and Scarborough Streets. A flight of wooden steps is

necessary at this point owing to the slope of the ground. An extension in the form of a timber framed wing was added in 1949 to the rear of the post office building to accommodate exchange and long line equipment, pending the provision of a new telephone exchange building.

4. Southport has been served for many years by a magneto manual exchange which has been accommodated in the post office building. The manual switch room is 22' x 39' and is filled to capacity with switchboards, equipment, test racks and other necessary apparatus. Since the war development has been particularly rapid, and recently the exchange room had to be enlarged to accommodate additional equipment. Further development will have to be met by increased space within three years, and a new building will be essential if satisfactory services are to be maintained.

## SECTION II - THE PRESENT PROPOSAL.

### THE COMPLETE SCHEME.

5. Plans and estimates of cost of a building for telephone exchange and postal purposes at Southport have been prepared upon a request made by the Postmaster-General's Department in 1946. It is proposed that the building will be erected in two stages, the first providing for the telephone exchange, long line equipment and trunk line equipment, and the second stage providing for a new post office and mail room, and all necessary amenities. It is anticipated that the first floor of the second stage may permit the allocation of a small area of office space for local representatives of some Commonwealth departments. It is proposed that the first stage will be put in hand as soon as possible, and the estimated time of completion is two years, but a decision regarding the second stage will not be made until a later date.

### THE BUILDING.

#### The Ground Floor.

6. In the present proposal, confined to the first stage of the complete programme of building, the ground floor

will occupy an area of 12,545 square feet, providing a usable space of 10,320 square feet. It will be subdivided to provide Telephone Hall, Exchange Room, Air-conditioning Room, Power Room, Battery Room, Subscribers' Installations Room, Cable Room, Female Rest Room, First Aid Room, and Store. It will also provide Male and Female Locker Rooms, Drying Room, Bicycle Rooms and Toilets. The building will be constructed of local brick, faced with textured wire cut bricks, and the architectural trim to windows and column facings will be of terra cotta.

#### The First Floor.

7. Stage one for the first floor will accommodate in the usable space Exchange Equipment Room, Long Line Equipment Room, Store and Test Rooms, Superintendent Technicians' Rooms, and Welfare Room. Store, Staff Locker Room and Toilets will also be provided on this floor.

#### THE EXCHANGE.

8. Development in Southport has been such that it has doubled in the past ten years, and development of Surfers' Paradise has been much greater. Continued growth of the area is anticipated, and it is estimated that 3,000 lines will be needed by 1975. The proposal is to instal equipment with an initial capacity of 1,800 lines, while the growth in the services in adjacent areas such as Surfers' Paradise and Nerang, which will trunk into Southport, will be catered for by junction switching equipment to be installed in the Southport building. It is also estimated that there will be 135 trunk channels terminating at Southport by 1974, and 25 trunk positions will be needed to handle the traffic, compared with the 9 in operation at the present time.

9. Modern equipment will have to be installed in order that the switching of these trunk channels can be carried out expeditiously. Suitable space will have to be provided for the long line equipment and automatic trunk switching equipment, and the building proposed is planned to cater for the requirements of the district for the next 20 years.



## THE ESTIMATED COST.

10. The estimated cost of the complete project is £193,100, but stage 1 now proposed, will cover the exchange building at an estimated cost of £124,600, made up as follows :-

Building	...	...	...	£109,050
Electrical installation	...	...	...	£2,500
Mechanical	...	...	...	£11,800
Roads and paths	...	...	...	£250
Water supply and drainage				<u>£1,000</u>
				<u>£124,600</u>

SECTION III - THE COMMITTEE'S INVESTIGATIONS.

## GENERAL.

11. After making a study of the plans submitted, the Committee took evidence in Melbourne from officials of the Postmaster-General's Department and the Department of Works and Housing, in order to be fully apprised of the nature of the project and the details of the whole proposal. The Committee travelled to Southport to carry out inspections of the site, and of the present exchange and post office. Evidence was taken from departmental officials concerned with the present establishment and having an interest in the new proposal. In addition the Committee sought evidence from the Civic authorities, local home designer, representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, the brick company, and the staffs concerned.

## NECESSITY FOR THE PROJECT.

General.

12. Although the reference to the Committee was concerned with the first stage of the work, and dealt with the new exchange building, it was bound up with the larger question of the complete building including the post office and amenities. The evidence taken by the Committee therefore comprised mainly information relative to the exchange activities, but also covered the demand for increased facilities for the postal section.

The Exchange.

13. It was explained to the Committee that the provision of additional building accommodation, so far as the

new exchange is concerned, is essential to meet development in four main sections of the services.

14. Local subscriber' lines.- The telephone service at Southport is of the manual magneto signalling type, the exchange equipment being located in a small switchroom, badly overcrowded with all the apparatus necessary for the work. The apparatus includes 9 trunk operating positions, 6 local positions and 2 'B' positions. The room also contains the main distributing frame, test racks, junction rack, monitor's position and other miscellaneous equipment. Much of the equipment is of a very old pattern and is nearing the end of its useful life. The accommodation of all this apparatus in one room makes working conditions for the telephonists, and servicing conditions for the technicians, most uncomfortable. In addition there is not enough space to meet anticipated growth beyond the end of 1953.

15. As pointed out earlier in this report, Southport is the centre of a large tourist resort area as well as an area of rich pastoral country from Surfers' Paradise down to the New South Wales border. Several small exchanges are planned in this area, and they will all be connected through the Southport exchange. In order to handle this rapidly growing traffic efficiently it is most desirable to convert the Southport exchange to automatic working as soon as possible. It was in fact demonstrated to the Committee that, to continue the expansion of the present system, it would be necessary to incur a much higher expenditure and to use a much larger staff. It was stated in evidence that, if the automatic exchange is not established the traffic will require 44 operating positions as against 25 for automatic, and a staff of 112 instead of 67 by the end of the 20 year period to 1974. The savings resulting from the installation of the automatic exchange, compared with expanding the manual exchange during that period, would amount to £45,000 for equipment and £21,800 per annum for staff.

16. Quite apart from the savings in money, however, the reduction in the number of operating positions and staff would allow smaller floor areas to be used and economies to be

made in the provision of building accommodation. In addition to these economies the automatic exchange will possess many favourable features which will enable the department to provide much more efficient services and to save a great deal of time in handling local and long distance calls.

17. Trunk lines.- Due to the geographical position of Southport in relation to the trunk line systems of Queensland and New South Wales, it has been chosen as the main trunk switching centre for the district. There are at present 40 trunk channels terminating at Southport and 30 trunk channels from Brisbane passing through Southport to centres beyond. It is estimated that by 1974 there will be 135 trunk channels terminating at this exchange. The position is so acute that, as an interim step to give a measure of relief, a radio trunk line link is to be installed. This is expected to provide 22 channels by the end of 1952.

18. Modern facilities must be provided in order that the switching of these trunk channels as required can be carried out most expeditiously. This involves the installation of switchboard positions equipped with the modern operating aids, and space must be provided for this purpose.

19. Long line equipment.- The importance of Southport as a trunk line centre has been stressed, but, in order that trunk line channels may be derived from the trunk cable, which is to be laid from Brisbane to Southport, it is necessary to install a large amount of trunk terminal equipment.

20. The present trunk line carrier plant is installed in a small wooden structure adjacent to the temporary exchange room, and the space available is not only unsuitable, but is inadequate for the development necessary in the future. Suitable space is planned on the first floor of the proposed exchange building for the long line equipment, while the associated battery and power plant is to be on the ground floor.

21. Automatic trunk switching equipment.- Another feature which arises from the large number of trunk lines to be catered for at Southport is the provision of automatic trunk

switching equipment. This equipment is to be located on the first floor of the new building and will provide for the expeditious handling of through trunk calls from other centres. In addition it will allow distant trunk line operators to connect to nearby trunk exchanges by dialling direct through the automatic trunk switching equipment. This means that a distant trunk line operator may obtain any subscriber directly without the necessity of calling upon the services of an intermediate trunk line telephonist. This will greatly increase the efficiency of the system, and it will result in a considerable saving of time and staff.

#### Growth of Traffic.

22. In order to assess the necessity for the new exchange, both at the present time, and in future years, the Committee gave consideration to the recent growth of the town and surrounding districts, as well as to the views advanced to indicate the possibility of growth in the future. Some valuable evidence was advanced by the Civic authorities and by the Chamber of Commerce concerning the present position in relation to the facilities available and in regard to the development of the "Town of South Coast". A review of the number of dwellings occupied, of building operations in the district, and expenditure by the Council, offered convincing proof of rapid development, in spite of severe building restrictions at present in force. Optimistic opinions were expressed with regard to future development, particularly when conditions improve to a point where normal building operations can be permitted, and it was suggested that it is not too much to anticipate that the town may develop in the very near future into a suburb of the capital city, serviced by electric trains, and having a resident population working in Brisbane.

23. At one time Southport was purely a tourist centre, but it has been chosen to assist the Government's programme of decentralisation of industry. Developments which have occurred since the war include several clothing factories, a brick works, mineral sand treatment works, a retreading and vulcanising works, two foundries, a fibrous plaster factory, as

well as a glazed earthenware pipe and brick works to be opened within twelve months. Major business organisations have purchased land in the main street area, three new churches have been built, and numerous minor works have opened or are planned for the near future.

24. No doubt was left in the minds of the members concerning the effect of the present inadequate services, so far as the business of the town is concerned. Various incidents and experiences of delays and difficulties encountered recently were referred to in order to stress the degree of urgency with which the business community regards the necessity for additional facilities at the present time.

25. The population of the town is now 10,000, and, during the summer months it increases three-fold. Council expenditure on new works now includes improved facilities such as roads, civic buildings, foreshore beautification, water conservation schemes and other important works. These and other undertakings give evidence of the progress that has been made, and are a clear indication that the future of "Town of South Coast" is assured. There is every indication that Southport and its satellite towns will continue to be the main holiday centre of Queensland, and greatly accelerated telephone, telegraph and postal demands will have to be met with better facilities and buildings to accommodate them.

26. In consideration of all the reasons advanced in the evidence before the Committee there is no doubt that the provision of the new exchange is an urgent necessity.

#### THE BUILDING.

##### Architecture.

27. The plans present a carefully considered scheme to house all the required functions of the new **exchange**, and form part of the complete project envisaged for the future. The building presents a two-storied facade to Nerang Street, and will join with the future Post Office on the corner of Nerang and Scarborough Streets to make an important unit in the town buildings. Situated in the centre of the business activities of the town it is in a prominent position, and will be one of the most noticeable structures in the area.

28. The building is to be faced with textured wire cut bricks of local manufacture and pleasing appearance. The architectural trim to the elevations, such as the surrounds to windows and column facings, will be of architectural terra cotta, forming an embellishment not readily envisaged from the perspective drawing. The elevation presents a rather utilitarian appearance which seems to be very generally favoured by modern architects. Some disappointment was expressed by laymen who studied the plans, and the desire was expressed for something more ornate as suitable for such an important corner building in this position. However, other witnesses regarded it as modern and suitable for the purpose. The Committee is of opinion that the building, when completed according to plan, with the textured bricks and terra cotta surrounds, will adequately portray the modern style while filling the purpose for which it is built, and will provide well for the services envisaged for the next 20 years.

29. At the same time the Committee recommends that, as the exchange fronts the main business street of the town, some treatment by the provision of a few feet of garden and shrubs, similar to that adopted for the Commonwealth Bank in the same street, would add considerably to the general appearance.

#### Floor Space.

30. The Ground Floor.- Some slight amendments were made to the allocation of space on the Ground Floor between the date of reference to the Committee and the time when the departmental evidence was presented, but no alteration was necessitated in the plan of the building itself. Space is provided for a large telephone hall which will no doubt be greatly appreciated after the makeshift arrangements available at the present time. The main part of this floor is taken up with the trunk exchange, air conditioning room, battery room and power room, while rooms are also provided for subscribers' installation and workshop, male and female locker rooms and toilets, female rest room, drying room, bicycle racks, and covered ways.

31. The plans also indicate the nature of the future post office space on this floor, though the exact allocation will

not be decided until the final plans of the post office building are being considered.

32. The First Floor.- This floor will contain accommodation for the local subscribers' automatic exchange and long line equipment together with the usual ancillary rooms associated with these activities. Space will also be provided on this floor for a welfare room to be used by male and female staff in both the post office and telephone exchange buildings.

#### Construction.

33. It is proposed that the building shall be constructed in brick of local manufacture, faced with textured wire cut bricks, and having terra cotta surrounds to window and column facings. The first floor stairs will be of reinforced concrete supported on the load bearing external and internal walls of the ground floor, or by columns and beams where required. The roof will be supported on trusses and will be covered with corrugated asbestos cement sheets. Window frames will be constructed of extruded metal sections, and it is proposed that the windows in the North and West elevations shall be glazed with non-actinic glass.

#### Engineering Services.

34. The mechanical services to be provided consist of an air-conditioning plant, exhaust ventilation for the battery room, and a small emergency generating plant. Full air-conditioning plant, with automatic controls, is planned to serve the exchange on the ground floor, and the exchange and long line equipment rooms, as well as technicians' rooms on the first floor. The ten telephone booths will also be connected to this system.

35. Fluorescent lighting will be provided in all working areas, including equipment racks, in accordance with the standards required by the Postmaster-General's Department, the remainder of the lights being of the incandescent type.

36. It was explained to the Committee that, in the climatic conditions experienced at Southport air-conditioning is essential, both for the comfort of staff and the public, as well as for the maintenance of satisfactory working of the delicate telephone apparatus in the exchange.

The Foundations.

37. During the course of the inquiry the Committee sought information regarding the foundations planned for the building, but it was stated that no details of the foundations had yet been designed. Owing to the rapid development of Southport and the indications of continued development in the future, it was suggested that, in the future, it may be found desirable to complete a building on this important and central site capable of providing considerably more accommodation than is at present estimated as essential. When the new post office is planned it is possible that additional floors might be necessary over the proposed exchange. The Committee therefore recommends that, when the foundations for this exchange are being designed, consideration should be given to providing some additional strength to the footings, so that the foundations will be sufficiently strong to carry more floors, if the rapid development of the town makes it desirable in future years.

THE SITE.

38. The site is a rectangular block situated at the corner of Scarborough and Nerang Streets, with a frontage of 109 feet to Scarborough Street and 173 feet to Nerang Street. The site is now occupied by the post office building and a residence which, until recently, was occupied by the Postmaster. It will be necessary to dispose of this wooden building for removal before the new exchange building can be erected on the site. The Committee was informed in evidence that the site is eminently suitable for a building of the kind proposed, and no difficulty is anticipated in obtaining a solid foundation. The ground was stated to be well drained and without water seepage.

39. The Committee is satisfied that the site is a good one and well situated for use by the department and the public. Some doubt exists, however, in regard to the quality of the ground. It was pointed out that trouble has been experienced with seepage under one of the stores built on the same side of the street, where it is necessary to have a pump working continuously underneath the shop during the wet season, because



provision for proper drainage was not made when the premises were being erected. It is therefore recommended that special precautions be taken in connection with the drainage of the site before the new exchange is erected upon it.

40. In considering the size of the site in relation to the building to be placed upon it, and the services to be carried out in the building, it appeared that entry for vehicles to the rear of the building will be restricted, and additional space for this purpose would be desirable. It was explained to the Committee that the Postmaster-General's Department had made efforts to secure for such a purpose an additional strip of land from the adjoining Police Department property, but without success. A suitable area of ground with no building upon it exists along the post office building alignment, but it was understood that the area was intended for use when the court house was erected. As there is some mention now of using the adjoining block for a maternity clinic instead of the court house, it is considered possible that arrangements could be made to transfer the strip required for postal purposes.

41. The Committee is of the opinion that some extra space is desirable in which to provide for vehicular access to the rear of the building. If such land can be obtained, part of it could also be used to set back the building to effect the suggested alteration to the appearance of the front of the building. The Committee therefore recommends that negotiations should be initiated with the State Government with a view to obtaining a few feet of additional land out of the block, at the rear of the exchange, which it is understood is to be used as a clinic.

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

42. The details of the total estimated cost of the new exchange include in addition to the cost of the building the expenditure necessary on plant, equipment and installation. The outlay for the establishment of the exchange at the assumed date

of cutover in 1954 is :-

Capital cost new -

Building, complete with ground and first floors ... ..	£124,600
Automatic exchange equipment for 1,800 lines, including battery and power plant ... ..	£76,500
Long line equipment installation	£120,000
Manual trunk exchange switchboards, including an all-position switchboard suite ...	£20,500
Automatic trunk exchange equipment ... ..	£54,000
Subscribers' equipment, cost of replacing magneto instruments with automatic type ... ..	£24,000
Line construction, cost of diverting cables ... ..	<u>£6,000</u>
	£425,600
Capital cost new and in situ (including subscribers' instruments and line plant) ...	£516,000
Annual working expenses ...	£28,770
Total annual charges, including working expenses, interest and depreciation ...	£59,210

43. The annual revenue from telephone rentals, local calls and phonograms originated from subscribers' lines and public telephones connected in the Southport exchange unit fee area during the twelve months ended the 30th June, 1951, totalled approximately £17,000, whilst from originating trunk line calls during the same twelve months £25,500 was received, or £42,500 in all. Based on existing charges for rentals and calls, it is estimated that the total annual revenue from these sources will increase to £97,000 by 1954, and that by 1974 it will exceed £235,000 per annum.

LABOUR AND MATERIALS.

44. The Committee made inquiries regarding the amount of labour and materials to be used on the building, and the impact of the project upon local house building programmes. It was generally understood that the bricks and timber needed for the work could be procured fairly readily in the locality without undue restriction of supply to private building contractors as a

consequence. Some concern was felt regarding the use of 200 tons of cement while the present supply position is almost desperate in Southport. However, mention was made of a plan to deliver cement by direct shiploads to the various ports on the Queensland coast, and, with the addition of supplies from overseas, it was felt that the position could be satisfactorily met. In any case, there was an eager desire for immediate relief from the present difficult telephone situation, and it was considered that nothing should be done to prevent the erection of the new exchange at the earliest possible date. The Committee is satisfied that the effect on local house building will not be sufficient to warrant any delay in proceeding with this project.

#### AMENITIES.

45. The Welfare Room provided in the plans for the new exchange building will provide space for amenities which are badly needed at the present time. Although the rest room at present used by the telephonists is pleasant and useful for the female staff using it, the facilities which have been possible in the overcrowded post office for the other staff are very poor and cramped. The new building, with its more modern provisions will be welcomed by the staff of all sections, and will provide most of the amenities usual in such buildings. The Committee was informed, however, that, owing to the scattered nature of the "Town of South Coast", the members of the Postal Institute at Southport are largely restricted in their activities to the use of library facilities. At the present time inadequate provision is made for this service by one small cupboard, and the Committee recommends that this phase of the staff activities should be catered for in the new welfare room by the provision of suitable cupboards for the purpose.

46. When the building is completed, and especially when the new post office is erected, the number of the staff expected to use the building will probably be such as to require the provision of showers in accordance with the standards adopted

for these departmental buildings. It is therefore recommended that, as the necessary services will be connected to the drying room, consideration should be given now to installing a shower for use of the staff.

SECTION IV - SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS.

47. The following is a summary of the recommendations made by the Committee after study of the plans and the evidence obtained in the inquiry :-

1. There is an urgent necessity for the exchange. (paragraph 26)
2. The plans generally make suitable provision for the services envisaged as necessary for the next 20 years. (paragraph 28)
3. As the exchange fronts the main business street of the town, some treatment, by the provision of a few feet of garden and shrubs, similar to that adopted for the Commonwealth Bank in the same street, would add considerably to the general appearance. (paragraph 29)
4. The site is suitable for the purpose. (paragraph 39)
5. Special attention should be given to the possibility of seepage on this site, as difficulty has been experienced on other land on the same side of the street. (paragraph 39)
6. Some extra space in which to provide vehicular access to the rear of the building is desirable. (paragraph 41)
7. Negotiations should be initiated with the State Government with a view to obtaining a few feet of additional land out of the adjoining block at the rear, intended to be used later for a clinic. (paragraph 41)
8. When the foundations are being planned in detail consideration should be given to providing some additional strength to the footings, so that the foundations will be sufficiently strong to carry more floors if the rapid development of the town makes it desirable in future years. (paragraph 37)

9. The amenities provided are satisfactory, but, as the library constitutes the major part of the Postal Institute activities, suitable book cupboards should be provided in the Welfare Room.  
(paragraph 45)
10. As the number of staff expected in the building in future will probably require the addition of showers, provision of this facility in the drying room section might be considered now.  
(paragraph 46)
11. The Committee is satisfied that the effect on local house building will not be sufficient to warrant any delay in proceeding with this project.  
(paragraph 44)

ALLAN McDONALD

Chairman.

Office of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works,  
Parliament House,  
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

25 OCT 1951