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<i>J.R. Odgers</i>
Clerk of the Senate

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

REPORT

relating to the proposed erection of a

COMMUNICATIONS TOWER

at

Black Mountain, A.C.T.

(ELEVENTH REPORT OF 1972)

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PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS

COMMUNICATIONS TOWER
BLACK MOUNTAIN, A.C.T.

R E P O R T

By resolution on 17 May 1972, the House of Representatives referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for investigation and report to the Parliament, the proposal for the erection of a communications tower at Black Mountain, Australian Capital Territory.

The Committee have the honour to report as follows:

PART I - INTRODUCTION

THE REFERENCE

1. The proposal referred to the Committee is for the erection of a single multi-purpose communications tower on Black Mountain, A.C.T. to provide for the expected growth of radio/telephone (R.T.) trunk traffic and television programme relay facilities involving the National Capital. It will also provide for the co-masting of present and future television transmission antennae and for future mobile radio telephone, frequency modulated (F.M.) and paging broadcasts to serve the Canberra region.
2. In the resolution of the House of Representatives referring the work to the Committee, we were asked to note that the Government has not endorsed a particular design for the tower. The Committee was asked to express views on whether the function of the proposed tower should be

confined to communications only, or whether having regard to tourist considerations, it might incorporate certain revenue producing facilities in the form of a rotating restaurant or a viewing platform or both.

3. Several possible tower designs were tabled in the House of Representatives, their estimated cost ranging between \$5m and \$6m.

THE COMMITTEE'S INVESTIGATION

4. The Committee received written submissions and drawings from the Australian Post Office and the Department of Works and examined their representatives at public hearings in Canberra. These authorities jointly recommended a communications tower having technical, viewing and restaurant facilities at an estimated cost of \$6.0 million. We also took evidence from representatives of the Australian Broadcasting Control Board, the National Capital Development Commission, the Department of the Interior as well as from a number of interested organizations. In addition, written submissions from several individuals were also received.

5. We inspected the site for the proposed facilities on Black Mountain and viewed the Canberra city area from the vantage points on Black Mountain, Mount Ainslie and Red Hill. An inspection was also made of Mount Crace.

6. The proceedings of the Committee's public hearings are recorded in the Minutes of Evidence which are to be produced in printed form as soon as practicable.

BLACK MOUNTAIN

7. The Site In the Canberra scene, Black Mountain, whose summit is 2,667 ft above sea level and 800 ft above the level of Lake Burley Griffin, lies generally about two miles west of the Parliamentary Triangle and the