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The Parliament of the
Commonwealth of Australia

JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL
TERRITORY

Report on Proposals for Variations
of the Plan of Lay-out of the City of
Canberra and its Environs

(Sixty-eight A Series)

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JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

The Joint Committee on the Australian Capital Territory was first appointed by resolution of both Houses of Parliament in 1957 and has been reappointed in succeeding Parliaments. Both Houses resolved to appoint a Joint Committee on the last sitting day in 1956 but time did not permit the appointment of members. The present Committee was appointed for the life of the Thirty-first Parliament by resolutions of the Senate and the House of Representatives in March 1978.

The duties of the Committee as specified in its Resolution of Appointment are to:

- (a) examine and report on all proposals for modification or variations of the plan of lay-out of the City of Canberra and its environs published in the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* on 19 November 1925, as previously modified or varied, which are referred to the Committee by the Minister for the Capital Territory, and
- (b) examine and report on such other matters relating to the Australian Capital Territory as may be referred to the Committee:
 - (i) by the Minister for the Capital Territory, or
 - (ii) by resolution of either House of the Parliament.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

Chairman: Senator J. W. Knight
Deputy Chairman: Mr K. L. Fry, M.P.
Senator M. A. Colston
Senator S. M. Ryan
Senator B. C. Teague
Mr W. G. Burns, M.P.
Mr A. G. Dean, M.P.
Mr J. W. Haslem, M.P.
Mr U. E. Innes, M.P.
Mr P. E. Lucock, M.P.
Clerk to the Committee: Mr P. F. Bergin

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee approves the variation and recommends that construction of the road be expedited.

The Committee further recommends:

- (i) that Stage 2 of the West Yarralumla Tourist Road be included in the Sixty-ninth Series of Variations;
- (ii) that the Sixty-ninth Series of Variations be forwarded to the Committee no later than mid March 1980.

The Committee reminds the National Capital Development Commission and the Department of the Capital Territory of the recommendations in the Committee's report on the Sixty-seventh Series of Variations. The Committee recommends that the Minister for the Capital Territory ensures that before the next series of variations are gazetted these authorities should report to the Committee on their negotiations concerning:

- (a) the long-term development opportunities available to the Royal Canberra Golf Club, including Lee's Paddock, Dunrossil Drive and the Yarralumla Nursery;
- (b) arrangements with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation regarding Stage 2 of the West Yarralumla Tourist Road.

INTRODUCTION

1. In the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* of 31 October 1979, the Minister for the Capital Territory, the Hon. R. J. Ellicott, Q.C., M.P., pursuant to the powers conferred on him by section 12A of the *Seat of Government Administration Act 1910*, notified his intention to vary the plan of lay-out of the City of Canberra and its environs. Members of the public were invited to lodge objections in writing with the Secretary of the Department of the Capital Territory within twelve days of the publication specifying the grounds of those objections.
2. As part of its policy to stimulate public interest in and discussion on the proposals, the Department of the Capital Territory (DCT) advertised the variation in the *Canberra Times* on six occasions between 31 October and 12 November 1979. Displays showing the proposals were arranged by the DCT at the Belconnen Mall, Monaro Mall, Dickson Library, Woden Plaza, Cooleman Court and the Wanniasa Shopping Centre.
3. On 12 November 1979, pursuant to paragraph 1 (a) of the Resolution of Appointment of this Committee, the item contained in the Minister's proposals, and designated the 68A Series, was formally referred by the Minister for investigation and report. The Minister's letter referring these proposals for the Committee's consideration is at Appendix I.
4. The Committee in keeping with the practice established in the Thirtieth Parliament, held a public hearing on the proposals on 12 November 1979. Some twelve witnesses representing seven organisations and individuals appeared at the hearings. A list of the witnesses who appeared before the Committee is at Appendix II. The transcript of evidence given at those hearings will be available for inspection at the Committee Office of the House of Representatives or at the National Library. Appendix II also lists the four persons who lodged objections but were not called to give public evidence.
5. The Committee is conscious of the role of the A.C.T. House of Assembly as representing the views of citizens of the A.C.T. In the two previous variation inquiries the Chairman of the appropriate committee of the House of Assembly appeared before this Committee. However, because of the time constraints involved, it was not possible for a representative to appear before this Committee. This Committee did however have available to it the Report of the House of Assembly Committee when considering this Report. The House of Assembly Committee agreed to the variation. It noted that the variation will allow better utilisation of the land and would clear the way for construction of the Yarralumla Tourist Road.
6. The DCT and NCDC supplied jointly prepared briefing notes which set out the background to the variation. These briefing notes form Appendix III. The Gazette notifying the variation and a detailed map forms Appendix IV. For the sake of brevity details contained in the briefing notes are not repeated, unless necessary, in the Committee's Report. The briefing notes explain details of the variation such as the purpose, cost, existing and proposed development and the extent of community consultation. The Committee's Report should therefore be read in conjunction with the briefing notes and the transcript of evidence.

VARIATION 1

7. In its report on the Sixty-seventh Series of Variations the Committee recommended approval of a cul-de-sac to provide access to the proposed redeveloped Old Canberra Brickworks and as the beginning of a major tourist road in West Yarralumla. In making the recommendation the Committee was particularly aware of the need to ensure that the residential streets of Yarralumla are not overloaded with tourist traffic from outside the area travelling through the suburb to Weston Park and the Lake as well as commuter traffic seeking an alternative route to the city.

8. That same report acknowledged that the proposed brickworks development would generate additional tourist traffic. The Committee considered that such traffic should as far as possible by-pass the residential streets. Since that report in May 1979, the Old Canberra Brickworks has officially opened. Denman Street in Yarralumla is at present the sole access for traffic to the Brickworks site where development work is continuing. The Committee is concerned that such tourist traffic must use residential streets rather than the proposed tourist road.

9. The Committee also supported the view that the Royal Canberra Golf Club should be permitted to further develop as a national and international sporting facility. In the report on the Sixty-seventh Series the Committee recommended, among other things, that Stage 2 of the West Yarralumla Tourist Road which would extend the road on to Weston Park be included in the Sixty-eighth Series of Variations. It recommended that detailed discussions be held on Stage 2 with CSIRO, the Royal Canberra Golf Club and the Department of the Capital Territory as the authority responsible for the Nursery. It further recommended that at the Sixty-eighth Series, proposals be presented which would:

provide for the future extension and development of Royal Canberra Golf Club to appropriate national and international standards, including the possible reallocation or realignment of the boundary of (i) the Yarralumla Nursery; and (ii) Lee's Paddock.

10. In a letter to the Committee on 8 October 1979 referring the Sixty-eighth Series of Variations to the Committee the Minister for the Capital Territory said of Stage 2 of the tourist road:

Unfortunately, there has been insufficient time to complete all of the design work and negotiations to enable inclusion in this series. I would hope that these matters will be resolved in time for inclusion in the next series. A full report to the Committee on the current status of the project will be included in the briefing notes.

11. The Department of the Capital Territory in a letter to the Committee on 26 October 1979 indicated that approval of this variation would allow construction of Stage 1 of the road to proceed without delay. It was claimed that because of the extended negotiations about the location of Stage 1 of the road, little attention had been given to the Committee's recommendations on Stage 2 of the tourist road. In evidence to the Committee on the current variation the National Capital Development Commission informed the Committee that construction work on Stage 1 of the road could not commence until August 1980 at the earliest. Since the hearing NCDC has advised that the first stage of the tourist road will be completed in the financial year 1980-81.

12. The Committee is not satisfied with the response of the Department of the Capital Territory and the National Capital Development Commission to its previous recommendations concerning Stage 2 of the tourist road or the lack of action on the construction of Stage 1.

13. This variation would allow the relocation of a section of the tourist road about 35 metres east of the existing alignment. NCDC suggested that the land on the western side of the new alignment could then be made available to Royal Canberra Golf Club for possible extension to the course. The Golf Club does not consider the proposed changes would allow the club to fully develop to its potential. It was suggested by the advisers to the Golf Club that it was necessary for the Golf Club to be able to extend into the Nursery area. The Golf Club has sought an assurance from the Minister for the Capital Territory that some part of the Nursery could be made available so that the Golf Club could then produce a draft concept plan.

14. The Committee acknowledges the concern of the Golf Club over its future development. However, the proposed variation will assist in the development of the Club, particularly when action is taken on the Committee's earlier recommendations.

Conclusion

15. The Committee approves the variation and recommends that construction of the road be expedited.

The Committee further recommends:

- (i) that Stage 2 of the West Yarralumla Tourist Road be included in the Sixty-ninth Series of Variations;
- (ii) that the Sixty-ninth Series of Variations be forwarded to the Committee no later than mid March 1980.

16. The Committee reminds the National Capital Development Commission and the Department of the Capital Territory of the recommendations in the Committee's report on the Sixty-seventh Series of Variations. The Committee recommends that the Minister for the Capital Territory ensures that before the next series of variations are gazetted these authorities should report to the Committee on their negotiations concerning:

- (a) the long-term development opportunities available to the Royal Canberra Golf Club, including Lee's Paddock, Dunrossil Drive and the Yarralumla Nursery;
- (b) arrangements with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation regarding Stage 2 of the West Yarralumla Tourist Road.

John W. Knight
Chairman

13 November 1979

APPENDIX I



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Minister for the Capital Territory
Parliament House
Canberra, A.C.T. 2600

12 November 1979

My dear Senator,

I refer to your letter of 31 October 1979 regarding the proposed modification to the Yarralumla Tourist Road, and I agree that the Committee should consider the variation to the road alignment in the normal manner.

The proposed change was notified in Gazette No. S221 of Wednesday 31 October, and as you mention in your letter, a period of twelve days was allowed for public comment. I believe that this period, which is the statutory minimum, is quite reasonable considering the minor nature of the variation and the fact that the major issues were covered in considerable detail when the Committee considered the overall development during its inquiry into the 67th series of variations earlier this year.

In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1 (a) of the Committee's resolution of appointment, I hereby formally refer the variation to the Committee for investigation and report.

The proposal has been widely publicised and any submissions received by the Department of the Capital Territory will be referred to the Committee for consideration when it examines the variation.

Yours sincerely,

R. J. Ellicott
Minister for the Capital Territory

Senator J. W. Knight,
Chairman,
Joint Committee on the A.C.T.,
Parliament House,
Canberra, A.C.T. 2600

APPENDIX II

List of Witnesses

Witness

National Capital Development Commission

Mr Geoffrey John Campbell
Chief Planner

Mr John Wallace Nairn
Chief Engineer

Department of the Capital Territory

Mr Raymond George Gallagher
Assistant Secretary (Business Leases Branch)

Mr Kevin Raymond Black
OIC Statutory Processes (Residential Leases Branch)

Royal Canberra Golf Club

Mr David Joseph Crossin
President

Mr William Douglas Hawe
Secretary

Mr Nicholas Clark
Consultant

Mr James Innes Brett
Member

Private Citizens

Mr William Horsley Grey
Lot 2, Richard Road, Scotland Island, N.S.W. 2105

Mr George James Harvey
51 Schlich Street, Yarralumla

Mr Thomas Maxwell Hawkins
28 Arthur Circle, Forrest

Mr Rodney George Adrian Smith
5 Loftus Street, Yarralumla

Persons and organisations who made objections but did not appear at the public hearings

Lady Eileen Hudson
Garran

R. G. Miller
Yarralumla

J. & A. Moore
Yarralumla

Mr A. Wood
Yarralumla

APPENDIX III

DEPARTMENT OF THE CAPITAL TERRITORY
NATIONAL CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
SEAT OF GOVERNMENT (ADMINISTRATION) ACT 1910

Briefing Material

Proposals for Variation of Plan of Lay-out of the City of Canberra and its Environs

68A SERIES

PREPARED FOR PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE A.C.T.
CANBERRA
NOVEMBER 1979

SEAT OF GOVERNMENT (ADMINISTRATION) ACT 1910

**Proposals to Vary the Plan of Lay-out of the City of Canberra
and its Environs (68A SERIES)**

These briefing notes are intended to supplement the information contained in the notice of intention to vary the plan of lay-out of the City of Canberra and its environs which was published in *Gazette* No. S221 of 31 October 1979. They have been prepared for the inquiry by the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Australian Capital Territory into the 68A Series of Variations to the plan.

The variations have been referred to the Committee by the Minister for the Capital Territory, pursuant to paragraph 1 (a) of the Committee's instrument of appointment.

The 68A Series of Variations comprises one item, which is sponsored jointly by the National Capital Development Commission and the Department of the Capital Territory.

Copies of all objections and submissions received as a result of the Department's publicity of the proposal will be forwarded separately to the Committee.

Public Information

As part of its policy to stimulate public interest and discussion in the proposals, the Department advertised the variations in the *Canberra Times* on six occasions between 31 October and 12 November 1979.

The Department also mounted displays at the Belconnen Mall, Monaro Mall, Dickson Library, Woden Plaza, Cooleman Court and Wanniasa Shopping Centre.

The Department would again like to express its thanks to the managements of the shopping centres and to the Dickson Library for their co-operation in making space available for the displays.

Note on the 68th Series of Variations

On 6 November 1979, the Committee reported to Parliament on its findings on the Sixty-eighth Series of Variations which were notified in *Gazette* No. S200 on 21 October 1979.

The Committee recommended that fifteen of the eighteen variations be approved; that two not be approved; one item was withdrawn during the Committee's hearings.

The Committee's recommendations were acceptable and the Minister's formal notice of variation (which reflected the notice of intention with the changes recommended by the Committee) was signed on 6 November 1979 and tabled in both Houses of the Parliament.

68A Series of Variations to the City Plan

Variation 1

Map N5

Yarralumla, Section 94

1 PURPOSE

To relocate a section of the first stage of the proposed Yarralumla Tourist Road in order to provide better utilisation of land and improved lease boundaries between the road and the Royal Canberra Golf Club.

2 LENGTH

The length of road to be relocated is approximately 300 metres.

3 COST

No additional cost is involved.

4 EXISTING DEVELOPMENT

The road traverses land between the Royal Canberra Golf Club and the Old Canberra Brickworks.

5 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The proposed variation is intended to relocate a section of the road about 35 metres further east than the originally gazetted alignment. The land on the western side of the new alignment could then be made available to the Golf Club for possible future extensions to the course.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

The proposed road will have no additional effect on the environment to the original alignment.

7 PUBLIC INFORMATION/CONSULTATION

The proposed change has been referred to the Royal Canberra Golf Club. Because of the minor nature of the variation, the need for specific public consultation was not thought to be necessary. Substantial debate and consultation took place during early 1979 when the original alignment was proposed for inclusion on the plan.

VARIATION 1—(MAP N5):

YARRALUMLA, Section 94: Minor modification of previously gazetted alignment of a cul-de-sac between the Old Canberra Brickworks and the Royal Canberra Golf Club to provide better utilisation of land and to provide satisfactory lease boundaries.

