

1984
THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS

REPORT

relating to the construction of a

NEW BUILDING FOR THE AUSTRALIAN FILM AND TELEVISION SCHOOL

North Ryde,
New South Wales

(Second Report of 1984)



MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE
ON PUBLIC WORKS

(Twenty-Seventh Committee)

Senator Dominic John Foreman (Chairman)

The Honourable Wallace Clyde Fife, M.P. (Vice-Chairman)

Senate

House of Representatives

Senator Gerry Norman Jones

David Bruce Cowan, Esq., M.P.

Senator Bernard Francis
Kilgariff

Peter Hertford Drummond, Esq., M.P.

Leonard Joseph Keogh, Esq., M.P.

Eamon John Lindsay, Esq., M.P.

John Saunderson, Esq., M.P.

EXTRACT FROM

THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NO. 40 DATED 10 NOVEMBER 1983

6 PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE - REFERENCE OF WORK - AUSTRALIAN
FILM AND TELEVISION SCHOOL, NORTH RYDE, N.S.W. :
Mr Hurford (Minister for Housing and Construction),
pursuant to notice, moved - That, in accordance with
the provisions of the Public Works Committee Act 1969,
the following proposed work be referred to the
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for
consideration and report: Construction of new building
for the Australian Film and Television School, North
Ryde, N.S.W.

Mr Hurford presented plans in connection with the proposed
work.

Question - put and passed.

WITNESSES

Burroughs, P.E., Esq., Principal, Gold Coast College of Technical and Further Education, cnr Heeb Street and Benowa Road, Benowa, Queensland

Gunthorpe, J.H., Esq., Managing Director, Link Management Pty. Ltd., G.P.O. Box 1039, Brisbane, Queensland

McGrath, P.M., Esq., First Assistant Secretary (Major Projects), Department of Housing and Construction, P.O. Box 111, Dickson, Australian Capital Territory

Morgan, F., Esq., Deputy Director, Australian Film and Television School, 13-15 Lyonpark Road, North Ryde, New South Wales

Morrison, A., Esq., Controller Program Services, Australian Film and Television School, 13-15 Lyonpark Road, North Ryde, New South Wales

Slater, D.J., Esq., Assistant Director (Acting), Department of Housing and Construction - New South Wales Region, Tower Building, Australia Square, Sydney, New South Wales

Walton, S., Esq., Director, Australian Film and Television School, 13-15 Lyonpark Road, North Ryde, New South Wales

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PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUILDING FOR THE AUSTRALIAN FILM AND
TELEVISION SCHOOL, NORTH RYDE, NEW SOUTH WALES

R E P O R T

By resolution on 10 November 1983 the House of Representatives referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for investigation and report to Parliament the proposal for construction of a new building for the Australian Film and Television School at North Ryde, New South Wales.

The Committee has the honour to report as follows:

THE REFERENCE

1. The proposal referred to the Committee is for the provision of new facilities for the Australian Film and Television School on a site of 3.6 hectares of land at Macquarie University, North Ryde. The elements of the work comprise:

- three television and film studios
- seating for 250 in two small theatres
- a dubbing theatre
- two radio studios
- an administrative library
- training areas
- workshops, and research and technical support areas
- landscaping and carparking

The new building will replace inadequate leased facilities in nearby Lyonpark Road, North Ryde. The estimated cost of the proposed work is \$13.0 million at August 1983 prices.

THE COMMITTEE'S INVESTIGATION

2. This work was referred to the former Committee by the House of Representatives on 27 October 1982.

3. The former Committee received written submissions and drawings from the Australian Film and Television School, and the Department of Transport and Construction. A Sectional Committee of the former Committee took evidence from their representatives at a public hearing in Sydney on 6 December 1982. Written submissions and evidence was received from Link Management Pty Ltd. Written evidence was also received from the Department of Administrative Services, Crawford Productions Pty Ltd, the Television Society of Australia, McElroy and McElroy, the Australian Broadcasting Commission, TWV Enterprises Limited, the Federation of Australian Radio Broadcasters, the Canberra College of Advanced Education, the International Association of Art Critics, the National Institute of Dramatic Art, Capital 7, the Queensland Film Corporation, Mr Phillip Noyce (Verite Film Productions), the Producers and Directors Guild of Australia, the South Australian College of Advanced Education, and the Film Editors Guild of Australia.

4. Prior to the public hearing the Sectional Committee inspected the existing premises in Lyonpark Road, North Ryde, and the site for the proposed new building within the grounds of Macquarie University. The Sectional Committee also visited the studios of ATN Channel 7 at Epping.

5. The former Committee was unable to report on this reference before the 32nd Parliament was dissolved on 4 February 1983. The reference therefore lapsed with the dissolution of Parliament.

6. The proposal was re-referred to the Committee on 10 November 1983. On 7 February 1984 a Sectional Committee inspected the existing premises of the Australian Film and Television School and the site for the proposed building.

7. The Committee considered the evidence placed before the former Committee and resolved that, pursuant to Section 24 of the Public Works Committee Act 1969, the evidence taken by the former Committee be considered as evidence taken by this Committee.

8. The Committee also received, and considered as further evidence on the proposal, updated information provided by the Australian Film and Television School and the Department of Housing and Construction.

9. The Committee resolved that a further public hearing into the proposed work was not necessary.

10. The Committee's proceedings will be printed as Minutes of Evidence.

THE AUSTRALIAN FILM AND TELEVISION SCHOOL

11. Establishment In the 1960s the need for a formalised system of training for professionals in the film and television industries was becoming evident. In 1964, a UNESCO seminar held in Adelaide set up a working party to explore the possibility of establishing a film and television school in Australia. In 1968 the Australian UNESCO Committee for Mass Communication held a seminar in Sydney to identify training needs and to suggest how training should be provided. Delegates recommended that a national film school should be established as soon as possible.

12. This recommendation was supported by the Film Committee of the Australian Council of the Arts, and submitted to the then Prime Minister, the Rt Hon (now Sir) John Gorton. In December 1969 the Prime Minister announced that a film and television training school would be established and appointed an Interim Council to develop the proposal to set up the school.

13. Following the preparation of three reports, the proposals of the Interim Council were implemented in April 1972. The Government approved the conduct of an Interim Training Scheme as a pilot for the Fulltime Program. This scheme was held in 1973 and provided 12 scholarships for one year's study with commercial film production units, the then Commonwealth Film Unit, television stations, and the Australian Broadcasting Commission, as well as instruction at the Sydney offices of the Interim Council. In 1973 Open Program training also began, providing both industry training and courses for educational media producers and media teachers. These latter courses led to the development of the National Graduate Diploma Scheme in 1977 (now the Graduate Program).

14. The School was formally established under the Australian Film and Television School Act 1973, as an independent statutory authority of the Commonwealth, with the status of a College of Advanced Education. The Act requires the School to enable and encourage the production of film and television programs of the highest creative, technical and artistic excellence, by providing advanced training and research. Amendments to the Act in 1976 extended these responsibilities to include radio and audiovisual communication.

15. Training Programs The School operates three major training programs:

- The Fulltime Program: This program is a three year course of fulltime professional and practical training for students specialising in film and television writing, direction, camera, sound, editing, and production management, leading to the award of a Diploma of Arts (Film and Television). A further element of the Fulltime Program is a one year course in screenwriting for writers who have proven their ability in some other form. Approximately 25 students are accepted into the Fulltime Program each year, and approximately 75 students are therefore in training at any one time.
- The Open Program: This program provides short-course part-time training for people already working in film, television and radio, and also in education. Open Program courses range from several hours to several weeks duration and are conducted both at the school, and away from the school in all States and Territories. In 1982/83 over 2,000 people participated in Open Program courses, averaging just over five days training each, spread over 126 courses in thirteen centres throughout Australia, one in Fiji and one in Papua New Guinea.
- The Graduate Program: This is a one year graduate diploma course in media, taught co-operatively with universities and colleges, generally part-time, for teachers, trainers, and educational media producers.

Like the Open Program, students undertaking this course are distributed throughout the States and Territories, and 319 students were enrolled in the the Program in 1983.

16. In addition to these training programs, the School undertakes international training, generally in co-operation with the Australian Development Assistance Bureau, and also under reciprocal bilateral arrangements with similar institutions overseas.

17. The research and development activity required by the Act is carried out by the Research and Survey Unit and the Resources Unit. These Units publish journals, monographs and manuals, and produce training films and tapes.

18. Costs The Australian Film and Television School is a statutory authority of the Commonwealth and although it generates certain revenues, its operations are essentially funded by the Commonwealth.

19. High technologies are involved in the film and television industries, and training in these fields is therefore very expensive. In 1982/83, the school's expenditures were approximately \$5.5 million, of which \$1.7 million was generally for administrative purposes. Expenditures in the major areas of training and research were as follows:

	\$M
Fulltime Program	1.741
Open Program	.471
Graduate Program	.211
Research and Survey Unit	.129
Equipment and Technical Services	.785

20. The most costly area of the School's operation is its primary function, the conduct of the Fulltime Program. Staff salaries and wages for the Fulltime Program account for \$810,000 and student grants-in-aid, training assistance and allowances account for \$409,000 (students are not eligible for Tertiary Education Allowances). The cost of running the Fulltime Program is approximately \$23,000 per student per year, or \$70,000 per graduate over three years.

21. Revenue Of the \$5.5 million expenditure in 1982/83, \$5.1 million was provided by the Commonwealth. The School received further income of approximately \$400,000 from the hire of equipment and facilities, fees for services, tuition fees, and other miscellaneous income. Miscellaneous income includes external support, and in the last financial year the School received the following non-government financial assistance: sponsorship of student exchange from the Australia-Japan Foundation, sponsorship of a documentary from the Toe Truck Theatre Company, and an endowment from the Nine Network. This financial assistance is relatively minor and in 1982/83 it amounted to \$14,540.

22. Value of Training Since the establishment of the Australian Film and Television School, fulltime students have graduated from the one-year Interim Training Scheme in 1974, and annually from the three year Fulltime Program since 1978.

23. Although training at the School is very expensive, it is of considerable value to the film and television industries. Graduates have enjoyed a very high employment rate in film and television, with most quickly moving into positions of some creative influence. A number of films produced by graduates have been major box-office successes in Australia and many films have received national and international recognition. A number of graduates have won major awards for their work.

24. Many industry professionals have been retrained in new techniques through Open Program courses, and overall, a high proportion of those working in Australian film and television have been trained or retrained at the School.

25. Since 1974 graduates from the Australian Film and Television School have clearly established a reputation for excellence in the Australian film and television industries.

26. On an international level the School is one of the newest to come into existence, and has already established itself as a leader in many ways. It is the only School in the world which has fully integrated professional television, film and radio training.

THE NEED

27. Existing Accommodation Since its inception in 1973, the Australian Film and Television School has been housed in temporary leased premises. During 1973-75, the school operated from an office block in Help Street, Chatswood. In 1975 it moved to 13-15 Lyonpark Road, North Ryde, where a factory warehouse was partially converted to meet the School's anticipated needs for a period of five years, pending the provision of permanent accommodation.

28. In 1975 an additional warehouse was leased at 3 Lyonpark Road to accommodate the Open Program, and in 1978 further accommodation was rented at 10 Lyonpark Road to house the Graduate Program, the Writing Centre, set storage and the outside broadcast vehicle.

29. The Australian Film and Television School has occupied these leased premises for a longer period of time than originally intended and the buildings have now been inadequate for a number of years. The premises are operationally inefficient and place

heavy burdens on both students and staff. Offices and work areas are small and remote from one another, and are poorly appointed. Few offices have any daylight.

30. Studios: The studios and the necessary technical support and staging areas cannot cope with the demands placed upon them. Considerable time and effort is spent setting up and breaking down equipment and facilities between training activities, when equipment and scenery stands should remain available to students for follow-up work. The studios are the only available spaces for building and standing sets, and these activities reduce the actual studio time that is available for production and student training exercises. Consequently, the existing studios can cater for only about 50 per cent of the required production and training load.

31. Theatres: The existing theatres are also insufficient and inadequate. The theatres are used for the screening and discussion of production work through its various stages of editing, for the study of existing films and television programs, and for the examination of exercise work. The theatres are further needed for meetings of students and staff, for industry gatherings and public screenings, and for special events such as graduation ceremonies. None of these activities can be adequately carried out at present as the theatres are too small and they do not provide optimal viewing conditions.

32. Workshops: The workshop areas also have space limitation problems. The Sound Workshop, for example, has only one small office in which to house three staff, fifteen fulltime students, their files and teaching materials, and some of their equipment. Another small room serves as a sound transfer suite, a radio control room and a sound effects library. There is no separate room available for the auditioning, analysis and discussion of students' work, or for general teaching activities.

33. The School has no proper rehearsal space, and the offices and small meeting rooms used for rehearsals have no sound isolation and are restricted in space. This inhibits the extent and quality of training, and often results in further demands being placed upon the studios.

34. Support Areas: The support areas are also restricted. There is inadequate storage space and efficient work areas. Corridors are used for students' lockers, and for storing equipment and teaching materials. The Resources Unit is located in a building separate to the library and inclement weather creates problems in the regular transfer of books, papers, films and equipment between these areas of the School.

35. Physical Separation of Facilities: The physical separation of the three buildings makes the movement of people and the transfer of equipment awkward and inefficient. It is also difficult to conveniently locate common functions such as clerical support, technical maintenance, and equipment stores. Many staff and students are required to walk several hundred metres to visit the canteen, booking office, main studios, library, theatres, accounts and staff offices, and to attend many routine meetings and training activities.

36. Disadvantages of Leased Premises: The Australian Film and Television School pays an annual rental of \$353,000 for the existing premises, and the leases for all buildings are due for renegotiation on 30 June 1984. The conditions of lease do not allow building modifications that would improve operational efficiency. The main studio needs to have its roof raised to 10m, which is not permissible under the lease, and local government regulations prevent the necessary extension of the staging and studio service areas and the construction of garages to protect vehicles. Even if approvals could be obtained the structural nature of the building would prevent the achievement of acceptable technical standards for studios, theatres and craft workshop areas.

37. Committee's View of Existing Accommodation The Sectional Committee's inspection of the existing premises of the School enabled Members to see the accommodation problems first hand. The Committee agrees that the existing space and facilities are insufficient for existing needs, are badly appointed, and awkwardly disposed, and that there is a case for the provision of new facilities.

38. Accommodation Requirements The gross floor area of the Australian Film and Television School's existing premises is 5328m². Although there are no plans to expand teaching programs in the foreseeable future, the School requires a significant increase in gross floor area to provide for those activities and functions that are presently severely cramped. Additional space is also required for new facilities that cannot be accommodated in the existing premises.

39. The School requires studios, craft workshop areas, and associated technical facilities, theatres and discussion rooms, and accommodation for staff, library, and administrative and technical services.

40. Studios: Two large film and television studios are needed to meet the teaching and production demands of the three training programs and the Resources Unit. A further small studio is also required for basic film and video training, for some Open Program courses, and as an insert-studio for major productions in the large studios. Radio training requires properly equipped studios for music and drama production, as well as for talks and presentations. Control rooms and central equipment areas are necessary for the operation of the studios. Film and television studios also require adequate staging areas for the construction, storage and assembly of sets and props.

41. Inadequate studio and staging facilities in the present premises have severely restricted the nature and duration of training activities and production work. New and additional studios of a larger size are therefore required to increase the flexibility of operations and to meet the demands for studio time of productions and training exercises. The new studios must be of a high standard and equipped and operated at a professional level.

42. Craft Workshop Areas: New high standard craft workshop areas are required. The camera workshop requires space in which cameras can be operated, tested and maintained under controlled conditions. The sound workshop requires space in which material can be recorded, synthesized, mixed and auditioned, and where students can learn to operate the equipment. The editing workshop must provide a dust free environment and controls over ambient light and sound, as well as isolated individual workrooms, for teaching students to edit videotape and film. The production management workshop requires space in which students can set up and operate production offices. A distraction free writing workshop with individual writing areas and discussion and rehearsal rooms is also required. All of the craft workshops need ready access to the library, theatres, rehearsal and discussion rooms, and to studios.

43. Theatres and Discussion Rooms: Theatres that provide professional projection conditions are required for proper appraisal of films and students' work. Students need to view, analyze and critically discuss artistic and technical aspects of existing film and television programs. Students' work has to be shown and discussed both during production and on completion.

44. A dubbing theatre is required for teaching the mixing of film sound tracks. The theatre must have good acoustics for the mixer to accurately hear and balance the separate voice, music, effects and other tracks which have to be mixed into the final sound track, and matched with the picture track of a film.

45. Library: There is a need for a larger library with additional accessible storage space, and with facilities for reading, viewing and listening to the material in the School's collection. The library holds films, videotapes, and audiotapes, as well as books, periodicals, scripts and production documents. Students use the library as a study area, as well as a source of material for their own production work.

46. Equipment and stationery stores: New accommodation is needed to bring the equipment and stationery stores together and to improve distribution links to all areas of the School. The present stores are too small and too widely dispersed for efficient operation due to the physical separation of the existing buildings. A wide variety of equipment has to be stored, and when issued, regularly moved between buildings. The present distribution of stationery and office supplies is equally inefficient.

47. Dining and Recreation Facilities: A new dining and recreational area is required. It was put to the Committee that dining and recreation facilities are important social, creative and educational areas in an institution such as the Australian Film and Television School. These areas are important as venues for serious conversation between staff, students, and visiting professionals. Well appointed accessible and comfortable amenities are also important for maintaining creative energy and technical efficiency.

48. Design Considerations: The relationship between spaces within the School is very important. For maximum efficiency activities should be grouped in functional areas with reasonable access to service facilities and other related functional areas. The existing premises do not provide an efficient functional relationship between the various areas of the School.

49. Committee's Conclusions The existing premises of the Australian Film and Television School are insufficient for existing needs, are badly appointed, and dispersed.

50. New accommodation is needed for the Australian Film and Television School.

THE PROPOSED WORK

51. Building The proposal is for construction of a two storey studio and teaching complex with a gross floor area of 11,500² (plus courtyards) on a site at Macquarie University, North Ryde.

52. The proposed building will provide the necessary functional areas to fulfill the previously defined accommodation needs. These work areas will be distributed throughout the building as follows:

Level 1: Studios and control rooms, wardrobe and make-up, dining, craft training rooms, editing rooms, radio training, sound and camera workshops, reprographics, stores and garaging.

Staging areas and plant rooms will also be at this level.

Level 2: Main entry, rehearsal rooms, theatres, Open Program, training rooms, theatres, Directorate, administrative offices, writing workshop, design and graphics, library and research facilities.

Construction details are set out at Appendix A, and floor plans of each level are shown at Illustrations C and D.

53. The proposed building will be constructed on a sloping site falling away from the front of the block. The main entrance will therefore be at level 2. Teaching areas, workshops, specialist spaces, etc., will be clustered into functional areas and linked to a diagonal access spine.

54. The functional areas of the building comprise collections of multi-size square and rectangular rooms and spaces. The external appearance of the building will correspond to these irregular spaces, and straight regular walls will therefore not be evident.

55. The diagonal spine will be a feature of the development and it will have a raised curved roof with glazed sides above the normal ceiling height of level 2, to provide for the penetration of sunlight into central areas of the building.

56. Tall vertical spaces, three stories in height will be provided in the studios to increase the range of camera angles and for the installation of professional studio lighting. The floor level of the studios will be on level 1 and the curved hangar roofs will project above level 2.

57. A dining area will be provided and additional dining/social space will be available externally with the inclusion of a terraced gazebo. The gazebo will terminate the diagonal access spine which continues beyond the dining area and projects beyond the rear of the building.

58. Two internal courtyards will contribute to the open airy atmosphere of the building, and when landscaped, will enhance the appearance of the completed development. The courtyards will also have a functional use as quiet areas where students can consider ideas and contemplate creative aspects of their work.

59. There will be no staff rooms or student common rooms in the building.

60. Design Considerations The main criteria in the development of the proposal was to ensure that the building would provide production and technical facilities of a high professional standard as expected in a modern production house. This would ensure that students trained at the School would become fully productive on entering industry, without the need for further familiarisation training.

61. The spaces within the proposed building have been designed to be adaptable, and the building itself is capable of extension to cater for future developments and technological changes that are occurring within the film and television industries.

62. There has been considerable staff and student input in the development of the proposal, and expert staff were consulted at various stages of the design brief. In particular, the views of staff and students were carefully considered when determining the functional relationships of the various areas of the proposed building.

63. Overall, the management of the Australian Film and Television School is pleased with the design and believes that the building will provide appropriate and adequate accommodation. They believe that the spaces are well disposed and set out in an efficient manner, and could be easily modified to cater for future changes.

64. Lavish Design The former Committee's overall impression of the proposed building was that considerable architectural licence had been allowed in the development of the plans, and that the design is somewhat lavish.

65. This impression was influenced by the appearance of the building with its "sculptured" facade, and by the incorporation of such features as a terraced gazebo, double height ceilings in the dining area (now deleted from the proposal), the pedestrian spine with double height spaces, secluded landscaped courtyards, and the roofing detail.

66. The former Committee felt that the facilities required by the Australian Film and Television School could be provided in a less grandiose building, and for considerably less than the \$13.0 million that the proposed building is expected to cost.

67. Departmental Justification of Proposed Building In response to the former Committee's expressed concern about lavishness, the Australian Film and Television School and the then Department of Transport and Construction provided evidence to justify the construction of the building as proposed.

68. Representatives of the Department of Transport and Construction rejected the Committee's view that the proposed building is lavish. They stated that the costs were high because of the earthworks, and the requirements of special areas for functional and technical reasons. They further stated that a building of this nature should be aesthetically pleasing, and that while this had some cost implications, the proposed building will not be lavish.

69. The Department also maintains that the building, as proposed, will be a cost-effective solution to the problem of providing the required facilities for the Australian Film and Television School. The finishes throughout the building will be spartan and similar to those found in any TAFE college. Furthermore, conventional construction techniques will be used, similar to a large factory/workshop using steel frames and beams, and concrete flat plate floors on concrete columns. It also

provided figures to show that the cost per square metre compared more than favourably with the capital costs of similar industry and teaching institutions.

70. With regard to specific aspects of the proposed building, the Department explained that the studios needed to be on the same level. Because of the slope of the land, this could be most economically achieved by setting the studios in a diagonal relationship across the land. The diagonal nature of the pedestrian access spine was therefore the result of logical planning rather than an imposed design idea. The diagonal spine provides an efficient system of major pedestrian circulation between functional areas of the building and enables a close relationship between all workshops and studios. The Department also states that the spine is an efficient use of space and that the so called triangular 'waste' spaces adjacent to the spine will be effectively used as social and recreational areas. Furthermore, the cost penalty of the diagonal configuration is minimal and is more than offset by reduced excavation and the increased circulation needs of a rectilinear proposal. The diagonal spine also enables a more favourable orientation of the overall development.

71. The gazebo is, in effect, an outdoor terrace or extended balcony designed as seating space for lunching out of doors in fine weather, for tutorials, or for private study or project planning. This out-of-doors design is a cheaper alternative than providing the required floor space within the building fabric, and it makes use of natural light and ventilation. It will also encourage greater use of outdoor areas of the School. The cost of the gazebo is in the order of \$40,000.

72. Representatives of the School pointed out that high levels of capital investment are characteristic of the film and television industries, and that the costs involved in providing and equipping the building reflect these facts of industry. They claim that the facilities must be of the highest standard and up to date so that trainees can move into professional practice without long and expensive reorientation or retraining. Furthermore, the provision of high standard facilities will enable the School to further develop its research and development work.

73. Committee's Conclusion The design of the proposed building is satisfactory.

SITE

74. The proposed building will be constructed on a site of 3.6 hectares on the campus of Macquarie University - see Illustration B. It will be bounded by Epping Road to the southwest, Balaclava Road to the southeast, and the university grounds to the north and east.

75. The site has a significant slope, falling away from the front of the block. The slope of the land has had a major influence on the design of the building. The building will occupy 23 per cent of the site and car parking will occupy a further 30 per cent. Two houses that are currently situated toward the Epping Road boundary of the block will be retained. The rest of the site will be landscaped and space is available for future expansion of the building.

76. Sydney's north shore was the preferred location for the Australian Film and Television School as it is the centre of greatest concentration of film and television studios and production houses, film laboratories, and service agencies.

The School believes that this is important because of the close interaction between the School and industry, and the frequent use of laboratories and service agencies.

77. Macquarie University will grant a lease of the land to the Commonwealth at a nominal rental. The term will be 45 years with two 20 year options.

78. Committee's Conclusion The site selected is suitable.

OTHER OBSERVATIONS

79. During its investigation the Committee became acutely aware that film and television training is very expensive. At current prices, each graduate being trained costs the government approximately \$70,000 over a period of three years. In addition, the government is now being asked to provide a \$13.0 million building. Although the new building will cater for administrative activities and some Open Program training, it will primarily be used for the training of 75 full-time students. The Committee finds it hard to reconcile this substantial financial input with such a small numerical output of graduates - i.e., only 25 from the Fulltime Program each year.

80. The former Committee's investigation revealed strong industry support for the Australian Film and Television School. Sixteen submissions were received from film and television production organisations, industry associations and educational institutions, emphasizing the value of film and television training to Australian industry, and expressing confidence in the quality of training and in the professional competence of graduates from the School.

81. There is a close association between the School and industry, and industry provides the School with a certain amount of support. This support is mainly in kind, in the use of

facilities, such as commercial television studios, and in the placement of students on work experience assignments. However, there has been little direct financial support for the School.

82. Through the establishment of the Australian Film and Television School, the government has relieved industry of much of its training responsibilities. The Committee is therefore of the opinion that the provision of film and television training at government expense represents a substantial indirect subsidy to the film and television industries. This "subsidy" is in the order of \$5.1 million per year (recurrent and capital costs) as well as the once only cost of the building now proposed. The Committee believes that industry should accept a greater share of the cost of training, and should make some financial contribution to match its strong moral support for the Australian Film and Television School.

83. If there were greater cost sharing between industry and government in the provision of film and television training, the Committee would have less reservations in supporting this proposal, and it is therefore of the view that the Australian Film and Television School should seek substantial financial support from industry. The major television networks and production companies could perhaps be approached to provide scholarships for full-time students at the School. And although it is small, diversified and often freelance in structure, some form of return on investment could also be achieved from the film industry through the imposition of a small levy on box-office takings at the cinema. The national film school in Sweden is financed in this manner, and when the Australian Film and Television School was first proposed it was suggested that Australia follow the Swedish example.

84. The Committee notes that the Australian Film and Television School has little incentive to enter into fund raising activities at present. Under existing arrangements the School's appropriation is correspondingly reduced as it raises funds from external sources. It therefore receives little net benefit from the funds that it is able to raise. The government may wish to review this type of funding policy, as organisations such as the Australian Film and Television School need to experience a real benefit if they are expected to engage in substantial revenue raising activities.

85. Committee's Conclusions The Committee believes that the Australian Film and Television School should pursue significant financial assistance from film and television industry bodies, for example, through the provision of student scholarships.

86. The Committee also believes that the government should consider other means of cost recovery from the Australian film and television industries.

87. The government should review funding policies which do not enable organisations such as the Australian Film and Television School to experience real benefit from any external financial support.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS

88. The Department of Home Affairs and the Environment has accepted that this proposal is of limited environmental significance, and accordingly has agreed that the submission of an Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary.

LIMIT OF COST

89. The limit of cost estimate for the project when referred to the Committee is \$13.0 million at August 1983 prices, made up as follows:

	\$M
Building Works	11.33
External Works	0.81
Special Items	<u>0.86</u>
	13.00

PROGRAM

90. The Department of Housing and Construction propose to call tenders for the project as soon as possible. The estimated time of construction is 20 months.

91. Committee's Conclusion The Committee agrees to construction of the work in this reference, provided that every effort is made to obtain financial support from industry along the lines suggested by the Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

92. A summary of recommendations and conclusions of the Committee and the paragraph in this report to which each refers is set out below:

Paragraph

1. THE EXISTING PREMISES OF THE AUSTRALIAN FILM AND TELEVISION SCHOOL ARE INSUFFICIENT FOR EXISTING NEEDS, ARE BADLY APPOINTED, AND DISPERSED.

Paragraph

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| 2. | NEW ACCOMMODATION IS NEEDED FOR THE AUSTRALIAN FILM AND TELEVISION SCHOOL. | 50 |
| 3. | THE DESIGN OF THE PROPOSED BUILDING IS SATISFACTORY. | 73 |
| 4. | THE SITE SELECTED IS SUITABLE. | 78 |
| 5. | THE COMMITTEE BELIEVES THAT THE AUSTRALIAN FILM AND TELEVISION SCHOOL SHOULD PURSUE SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM FILM AND TELEVISION INDUSTRY BODIES, FOR EXAMPLE, THROUGH THE PROVISION OF STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS. | 85 |
| 6. | THE COMMITTEE ALSO BELIEVES THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONSIDER OTHER MEANS OF COST RECOVERY FROM THE AUSTRALIAN FILM AND TELEVISION INDUSTRIES. | 86 |
| 7. | THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD REVIEW FUNDING POLICIES WHICH DO NOT ENABLE ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS THE AUSTRALIAN FILM AND TELEVISION SCHOOL TO EXPERIENCE REAL BENEFIT FROM ANY EXTERNAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT. | 87 |
| 8. | THE LIMIT OF COST ESTIMATE FOR THE PROPOSED WORK IS \$13.0 MILLION AT AUGUST 1983 PRICES. | 89 |

Paragraph

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|----|--|----|
| 9. | THE COMMITTEE AGREES TO CONSTRUCTION OF THE WORK IN THIS REFERENCE, PROVIDED THAT EVERY EFFORT IS MADE TO OBTAIN FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM INDUSTRY ALONG THE LINES SUGGESTED BY THE COMMITTEE. | 91 |
|----|--|----|

D.J. Foreman.
(D.J. FOREMAN)
Chairman

Parliamentary Standing Committee
on Public Works,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA A.C.T. 2600

8 March 1984

APPENDIX A

CONSTRUCTION

1. Planning and Design The building will have two levels with accommodation in six principal categories: studios, theatres, teaching spaces, workshops, administration and services.

2. The broad distribution of accommodation will be as follows:

Level 1: Studios and control rooms, wardrobe and make-up, dining, craft training rooms, editing rooms, radio training, sound and camera workshops, reprographics, stores and garaging.

Staging areas and the main plant rooms will also be at this level.

Level 2: Main entry, rehearsal rooms, theatres, Open program, training rooms, Directorate, administrative offices, design and graphics, library and research facilities.

3. The central circulation spine at Levels 1 and 2 will connect all functional areas. Staircases will be provided along this spine for vertical movement. Courtyards will be provided to allow entry of light and air to offices, training and rehearsal rooms.

4. Access and Parking The main pedestrian entry to the building will be at Level 2. This will be directly accessible from car parks, bus stops in the University grounds, Balaclava Road and Epping Road.

5. Vehicular access will be provided to the building via a system of roads connecting to existing public roads.

6. Formal car parking will be provided for 210 cars and space is available for additional car parking on grassed areas.

7. Provision for the Disabled The School will be on two levels. The building is designed for wheelchair access, with a lift servicing all levels.

8. A unisex toilet will be provided for the disabled on each level.

9. Foundation and Structure The foundation material is sandstone at an average depth of two metres. Simple isolated pad and strip footings will be used.

10. The structure of the building falls into two distinct categories:

- Administration, study and workshop areas will consist generally of reinforced concrete flat plate floors, supported by circular columns, with a steel-framed roof consisting of purlins spanning between universal beams.
- Studios will be free-standing steel framed structures, with special acoustic provisions. Rolled steel columns, braced for lateral stability, will support bow-string trusses.

11. External Finishes The external staircases, columns and slab edges will be constructed in a white off-form concrete.

12. The building will be clad externally with pre-finished lightweight insulated metal panels. The windows and doors will be aluminium, coated with an epoxy finish.

13. Internal Finishes Internal finishes have been chosen to satisfy specific functional requirements, as well as to minimise maintenance. Generally, they will comprise:

- Walls - bagged and painted brick; lightweight partitions; acoustic linings to sound sensitive areas.
- Floors - carpets to theatres, workshop wings, administration, dining and social areas; special composition flooring in studios; ceramic tiles in toilets; steel trowel screed finish in staging, stores and plant rooms.
- Ceiling - generally acoustic tile or plasterboard; exposed off-form concrete to plant rooms, stores and circulation spine; exposed steel structure and insulated roof decking in staging areas.

14. Acoustics Many of the activities carried on within the building are sensitive to outside noise. There is therefore a requirement to provide specific acoustic conditions within many of the specialised spaces.

15. Noise problems will be overcome by isolating sensitive areas from noise sources, and utilising special construction techniques to achieve high levels of sound attenuation.

16. Sound absorptive and reflective materials will be incorporated within the studios and theatres. Special consideration has been given to noise which is generated by air conditioning and lighting.

17. Landscaping Existing tree plantings along Epping Highway and Balaclava Road will be reinforced to screen buildings from those directions.

18. Low level shrub planting will be used to reduce the impact of the parking and service areas.

19. To the north and east, planting will integrate with the open character of the University landscaping.

20. Paving, seating, trees and other planting will be provided in the courtyards.

21. Native plants will predominate to give the building an Australian identity.

22. Electrical Services The building will be supplied from a dedicated sub-station servicing a consumer main switchboard.

23. Specialised electrical loads such as dimmers, camera control equipment, audio equipment and editing equipment, will be supplied from a power network of sub-mains and distribution boards, independent from the general purpose power.

24. Lighting will generally be fluorescent, with colour corrected tubes being used where necessary. Emergency lighting and illuminated directional signs will be provided as required.

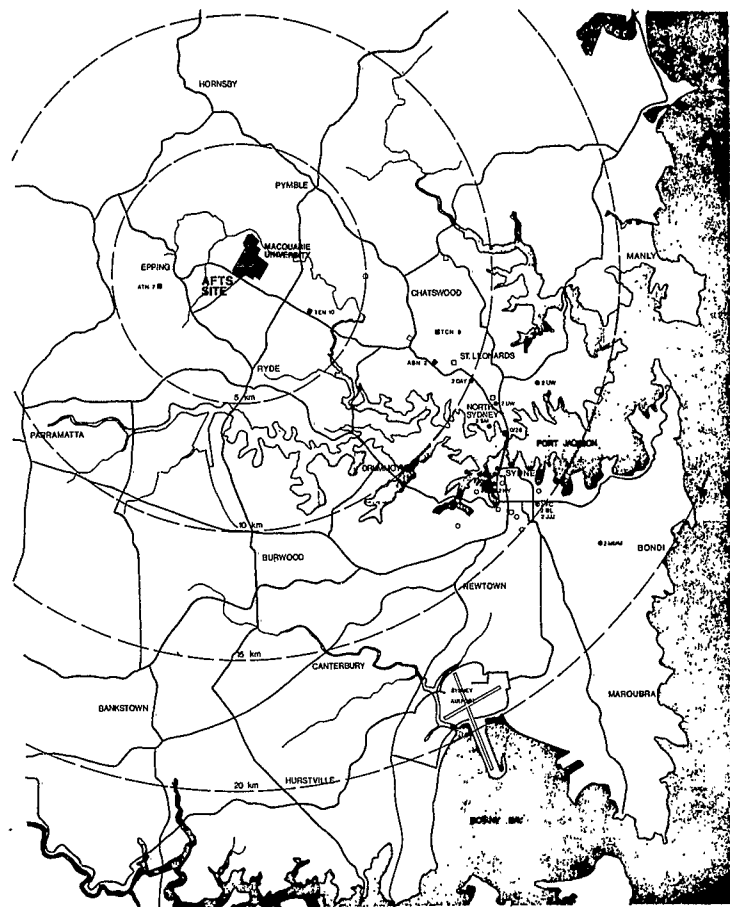
25. Provision will be made for special lighting requirements including;

Dimmer controls in studios
Outlets in studios for floor lights
House lighting in theatres

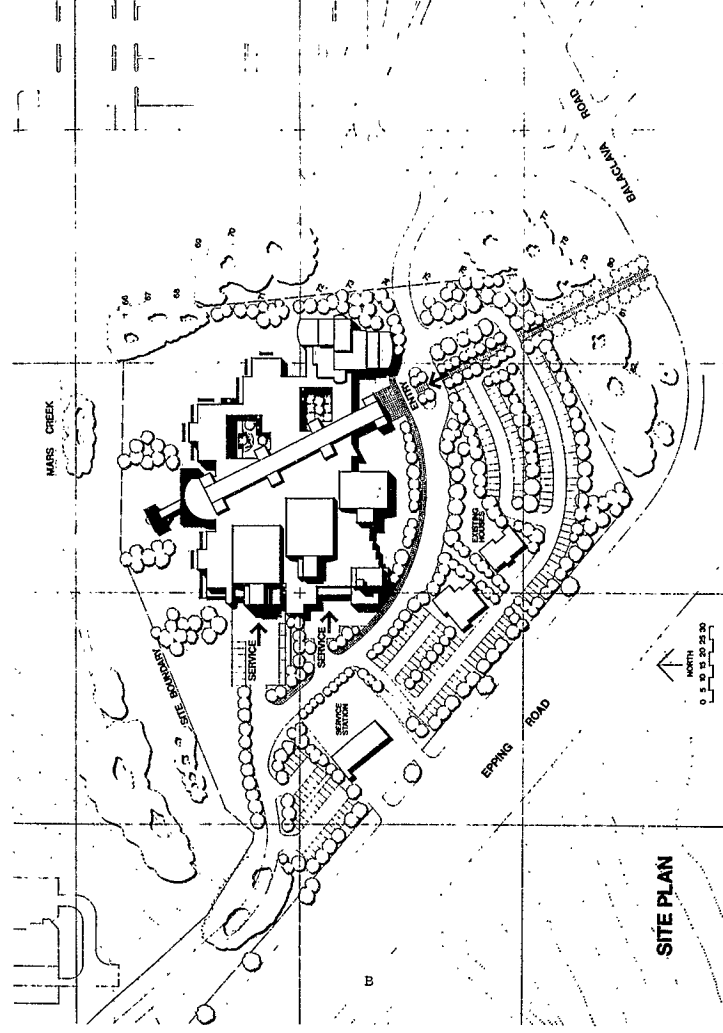
26. Hydraulic Services Adequate water, sewerage and drainage facilities are available to the site.

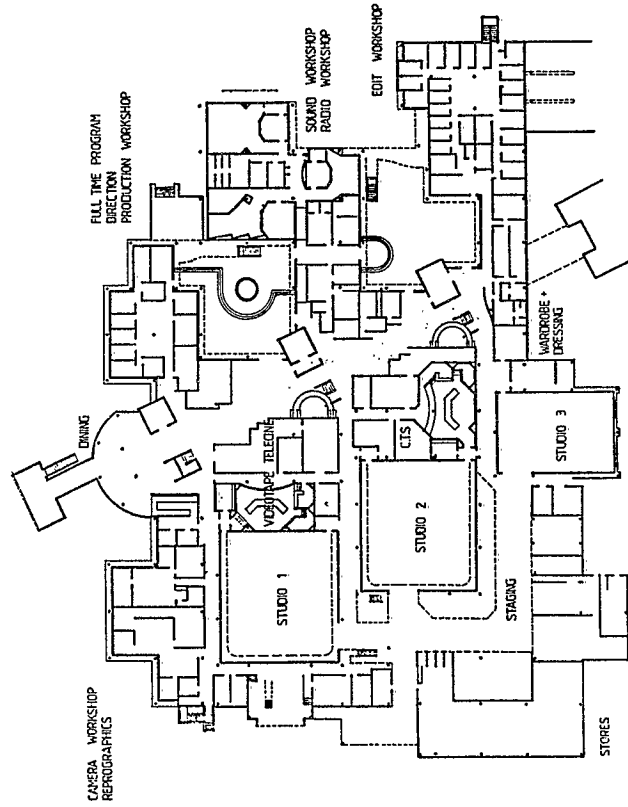
27. Mechanical Services The studios and associated areas, theatres and technical studios will be air conditioned.
28. The building facades will incorporate sun screens to minimise penetration during the summer months.
29. Offices generally will not be air conditioned, but will be provided with mechanical ventilation and heating.
30. A number of independent air handling systems required by the air conditioning and ventilation, will be located throughout the complex to reduce the cost of ducting.
31. Chilled and heated water will be supplied to each air handling system from a central plantroom located at the edge of the building.
32. Fire Protection An automatic fire sprinkler system will be provided throughout the building designed to meet all regulations. An external system of fire hydrants will be located to suit Fire Brigade requirements, and an internal system of fire hydrants and fire hose reels will be located in accordance with regulations. Portable extinguishers will be provided where necessary.
33. Security Because of the large amount of valuable equipment located in the building, an electronic intrusion detection system is proposed.
34. Outside security lighting will be provided in accordance with University policy.
35. State and Local Authorities The N.S.W. Department of Environment and Planning, who have development control of the Macquarie University campus, have indicated their agreement with the proposal.

36. The N.S.W. Board of Fire Commissioners has indicated that they are satisfied with the fire escape and fire fighting provisions.
37. The building design has been developed in consultation with the University Architect, and has been approved by the University Council.
38. The traffic implications have been discussed with the Ryde Traffic Committee, and their requirements have been incorporated.
39. Discussions with the Sydney County Council, Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board and Telecom, have confirmed that all services are readily available.



A **LOCATION PLAN**

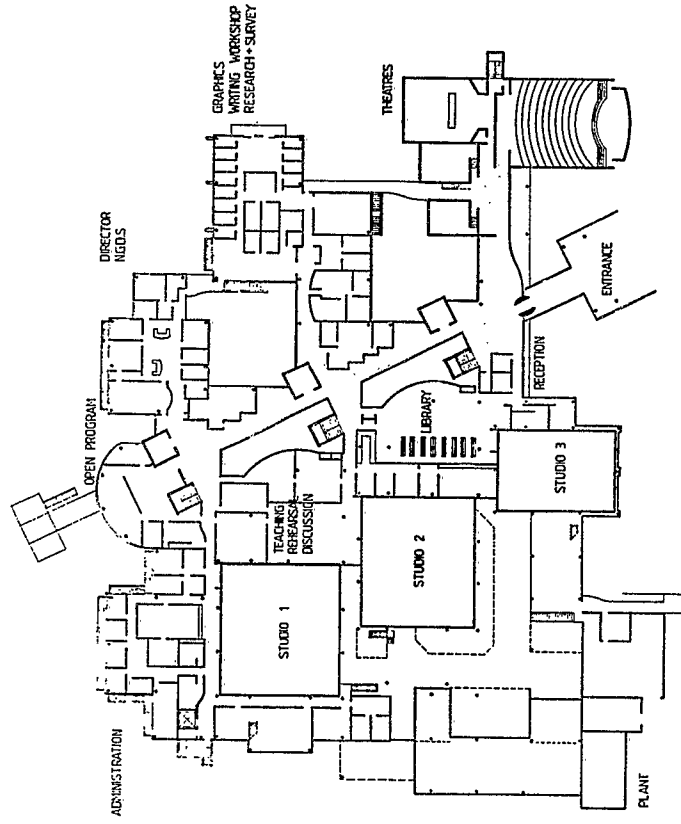




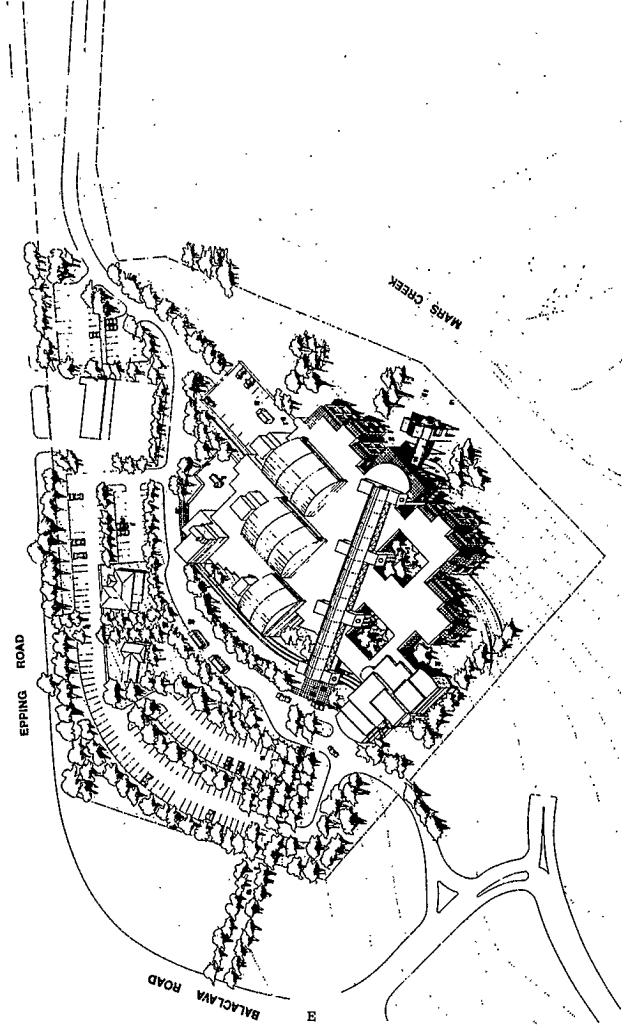
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LEVEL 1



LEVEL 2



AXONOMETRIC VIEW