

1987

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE NEW PARLIAMENT HOUSE

REPORT RELATING TO THE PARLIAMENTARY ZONE DEVELOPMENT PLAN
AND
PROPOSED WORKS IN THE
PARLIAMENTARY ZONE

MEMBERSHIP OF THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE
NEW PARLIAMENT HOUSE
(Thirty-fourth Parliament)

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THE PARLIAMENTARY ZONE DEVELOPMENT PLAN
AND
PROPOSED WORKS IN THE PARLIAMENTARY ZONE

PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS LIGHTING
NATIONAL LIBRARY CARPARK
TREASURY BUILDING CARPARK
PARLIAMENTARY ZONE ROADWORKS

Under Clause 4 of its resolution of appointment, the Joint Standing Committee on the New Parliament House is authorised to consider and report on matters coming within the terms of section 5 of the Parliament Act 1974 as may be referred to it by the Minister responsible for administering the National Capital Development Commission Act 1957, or by resolution of either House of the Parliament.

Section 5 of the Parliament Act 1974 gives Parliament control over the erection of buildings or other work within the Parliamentary Zone which is defined in the Act. Sub-section 5(1) of the Act provides as follows:

No building or other work is to be erected on land within the Parliamentary Zone unless the Minister has caused a proposal for the erection of the building or work to be laid before each House of Parliament and the proposal has been approved by resolution of each House of Parliament.

PARLIAMENTARY ZONE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Background

On 19 February 1987 the Minister for Territories referred the Parliamentary Zone Development Plan to the Committee for its consideration and report.

This Plan, dated January 1986, was prepared by the National Capital Development Commission and had been tabled in the Senate on 18 February 1986 and in the House of Representatives on 14 February 1986. The Commission had prepared and published two previous reports on the Parliamentary Zone Development Plan - the first in June 1982 and the second in September 1983.

The Committee had received a substantial briefing from the National Capital Development Commission officers early in 1986 and received a further briefing at meetings on 27 February 1987 and 27 March 1987. A site inspection was also undertaken by the Committee members.

In discussion the Committee raised a number of important issues with NCDC officers. These included questions related to the fundamental traffic plan, road systems, traffic flows, long stay and short stay parking, public transport facilities, pedestrian movements and projected numbers of visitors for subsequent years.

The Committee believes that a number of these issues, particularly parking, will need further consideration in the future. However, it believes that the plan as presented provides a sound basis for development of the Zone. A copy of the current Parliamentary Zone Development Plan is an appendix to this report.

Conclusion

The Committee approves the overall concept for development within the Parliamentary Zone as outlined in the National Capital Development Commission Parliamentary Zone Development Plan dated January 1986.

PROPOSED WORKS

On 24 November 1986 by letters addressed to the Joint Chairmen, the Minister for Territories, as Minister responsible for administering the National Capital Development Commission Act 1957, referred to the Committee the following proposal:

Pedestrian crossings lighting - installation of standard high intensity lighting at the 7 marked pedestrian crossings within the Parliamentary Zone.

The proposed works involve the erection of 12 metre high standard lighting columns adjacent to the pedestrian crossings with 400 watt metal Halide High Intensity Lighting. The power supply cables will be underground. The total estimated cost of the work is \$31,400.

On 18 February 1987 by letters addressed to the Joint Chairmen, the Minister for Territories referred to the Committee the following proposals:

National Library carpark - construction of an additional carpark and provision of carpark lighting at the National Library of Australia.

The proposed work involves the construction of a carpark for approximately 70 vehicles and the erection of 50 lighting columns each 4.5 metres high to light the existing and new carparks. The power supply cables will be underground. The total estimated cost of the work is \$358,000.

Treasury Building carpark - construction of an additional carpark and provision of carpark lighting in the vicinity of the Treasury Building.

The proposed work involves the construction of a carpark for approximately 97 vehicles and the erection of 8 lighting columns each 4.5 metres high to light the new carpark. The power supply cables will be underground. Additional landscaping will be planted to screen the carpark.

The total estimated cost of the work is \$250,000.

Roadworks Parliamentary Zone north - construction of roadworks and associated landscaping in the Parliamentary Zone north of the provisional Parliament House, and the installation of lighting throughout the Zone.

The proposed work which will be constructed over several years comprises two 10 metre wide two-way roads, separated by a grassed and paved area, between King George Terrace and the lake foreshore. This is the proposed mall, which will link the new Parliament House and the lake. As well, two 10 metre wide one way roads are proposed between Parkes Place West and the Mall. The latter roads will provide access to the National Science and Technology Centre.

It is also proposed to progressively erect lighting columns each 4.5 metres high at approximately 24 metre centres to light the roads within the Zone including the land bridge. The power supply cables will be underground.

The total estimated cost of the roadworks and landscaping is \$2.7 m. Stage one of the work to provide access to the National Science and Technology Centre is estimated to cost \$1.2 m.

Conclusions

The Committee accepts the need for the provision of lighting to the pedestrian crossings in the Parliamentary Zone and for the construction and lighting of an additional carpark at the National Library of Australia on the basis that this carpark is designated as short stay parking. These proposals are appropriate for the Zone and are supported by the Committee.

The Committee does not approve the proposal to construct an additional carpark in the vicinity of the Treasury building. The Committee believes that the area nominated by the National Capital Development Commission is not appropriate for use as long stay parking and that short stay parking for visitors and tourists is a higher priority in the Parliamentary Zone.

At this time the Committee is not prepared to support in full the proposed construction of roadworks and associated landscaping in the Parliamentary Zone north of the provisional Parliament House, adjacent to the land axis and will report to Parliament at a later stage on certain aspects of this proposal.

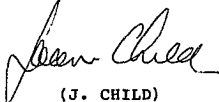
However the Committee does support the construction of the east west roads between Parkes Place and the proposed Mall to give access to the parking areas associated with the National Science and Technology Centre. The Committee also approves the construction of a road north of King Edward Terrace adjacent to the land axis to provide access to the main approach to the National Science and Technology Centre. Installation of the proposed lighting for these roads is also supported by the Committee.

The Committee approves the installation of the proposed lighting on the land bridge between the provisional Parliament House and the new Parliament House.

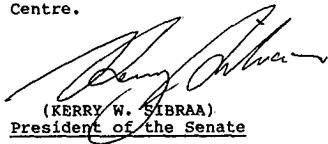
Recommendations

The Committee recommends approval of the following proposed works in the Parliamentary Zone:

- (a) installation of standard high intensity lighting at the seven marked pedestrian crossings within the Parliamentary Zone;
- (b) construction of an additional carpark and the provision of carpark lighting at the National Library of Australia on the basis that this carpark is designated as short stay parking;
- (c) construction of the east west roads between Parkes Place and the proposed Mall to give access to the parking areas associated with the National Science and Technology Centre;
- (d) construction of a road north of King Edward Terrace adjacent to the land axis to provide additional access to the National Science and Technology Centre, and
- (e) installation of the proposed lighting on the land bridge between the provisional Parliament House and the new Parliament House and on the roads associated with the National Science and Technology Centre.



(J. CHILD)
Speaker of the House
of Representatives



(KERRY W. SIBRAA)
President of the Senate

1 April 1987

Parliamentary Zone Development Plan

The National Capital Development Commission has the statutory responsibility to 'plan, develop and construct' the City of Canberra as the National Capital of the Commonwealth. In the specific case of the Parliamentary Zone the Commission is required by virtue of the *Parliament Act 1974*, to obtain the approval of each House of Parliament prior to the erection of buildings or other works.

The purpose of the Development Plan is to establish a physical pattern of roads, subdivision and potential building sites as a basis for future development proposals which in turn derive from growth and change in levels of activity, such as employment, tourism, functions of the *Parliament*, national institutions and so forth. The implementation of the Plan is dependent upon the availability of funds from the budget.

Lake Foreshore. A tree-lined promenade is proposed along the Lake edge to be serviced by the existing footway. The footway is to be widened and will incorporate a cycle parking for tourist buses adjacent to the ferry wharf.

New Buildings. It is proposed that, subject to Parliamentary approval, the Archive and Exposition Building and the National Science Centre be located on these sites.

King George Terrace. Although not essential it is considered desirable that this road be widened on the north side of Capital Parade, partly to discourage east-west through traffic and partly to create a civic space in front of the Provisional Parliament House thereby minimising the number of interruptions to the continuity of the median from a pedestrian viewpoint.

Camp Hill. The natural summit of the hill will be covered to permit the construction of dual carriageways bringing over both Capital and State Centres thereby connecting the new and old Parliament buildings. These works are currently being constructed. Camp Hill is to be landscaped and will incorporate passive recreation and some facilities to cater for tourist overflows from Capital Hill. A limited number of surficial parking areas will be included and used in such a manner that in the longer term they could be utilised as building sites to house activities requiring close proximity to Parliament.

Commonwealth Avenue Extension. To provide direct access to the new Parliament House, especially from Civic Centre. These works are currently being constructed.

Ferry Wharf. At the point where Capital Parade meets the Lake it is proposed to construct a ferry wharf and breakwater. Functionaries will allow tourists to visit this and other points of interest on the Lake travelling by ferry. Visually it will mark the intersection of the land axis and the water axis in place of Griffin's proposed Water Gate.

Capital Parade. The realisation of Griffin's proposed mall in the form of a dual carriageway to allow north-south movement by vehicles and pedestrians between the New Parliament House and the Lake. The wide median is to be lined on either side by native trees and landscaped into areas of varying character to create useful and visually attractive active and passive recreation spaces.

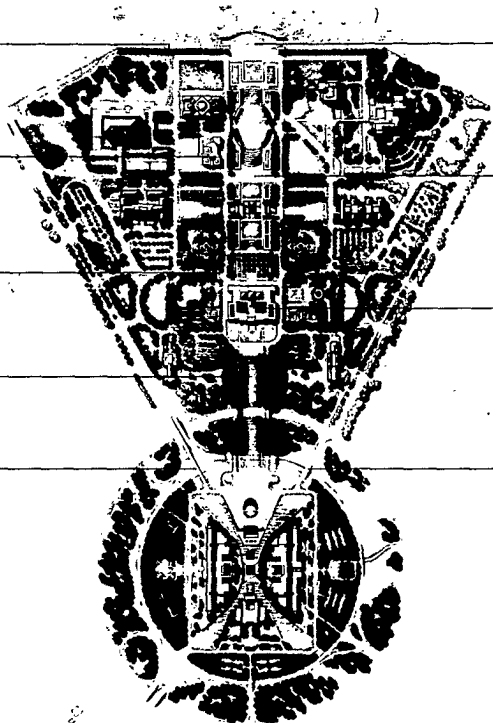
Provisional Parliament House. It will be necessary to refurbish the existing building when its future use has been determined. The south facade and the roof will have to be reconstructed because of their visibility from the New Parliament House. Because of the centrality of this particular site it is important that a tourist information centre be located in the building after its evacuation by Parliament or alternatively, a new building for such a purpose be erected in the vicinity. The east and west gardens may require replanning, depending upon the future use of the Provisional Parliament House.

Kings Avenue Extension. To provide direct access to the new Parliament House, especially from the airport.

Appendix to the Parliamentary Zone Development Plan

Since the publication of the document in January 1985, there have been several amendments to the original plan, the most significant ones being:

- the National Science and Technology Centre, which is now under construction;
- the reduction in size of the National Archive and Exposition Building;
- the central axial spaces called Capital Parade is now referred to as the Mall;
- the diagonal road south-west of the High Court forecourt, known as King Edward Terrace and the East Mall road has been denied;
- a Peace Park and Peace Walk were approved by Cabinet in December 1986 for future development. These are to be located on the new foreshore to the north of the National Library.



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