



DEPARTMENT OF THE SENATE  
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PRESENTED

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*Mong Ewa*



*The Parliament of the  
Commonwealth of Australia*

*Joint Standing Committee  
on the Parliamentary Zone*

*Report relating to  
proposed works in the Parliamentary Zone*

*High Court Cooling Tower  
Baldessin 'Pears' Sculpture*

*February 1992*

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MEMBERSHIP OF THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE  
PARLIAMENTARY ZONE

(Thirty-sixth Parliament)

Joint Chairmen

Senator the Hon K W Sibraa  
President of the Senate

Hon L B McLeay MP  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Members

Senator B Archer

Senator J Coates

Senator M A Colston

Senator M E Reid

Senator K Sowada

Hon J D M Dobie MP

Mr R E Halverson MP

Hon A C Holding MP

Mr C Hollis MP

Mr M J Lee MP

Secretary to the Committee

Mr P F Bergin

## PROPOSED WORKS IN THE PARLIAMENTARY ZONE

Under paragraph 1 of its resolution of appointment, the Joint Standing Committee is authorised to consider and report on matters coming within the terms of section 5 of the Parliament Act 1974 by resolution of either House of the Parliament or by the Minister responsible for administering the Parliament Act 1974.

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. Subsection 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 the Parliament and the proposal has been approved by resolution of each House of Parliament.

## BACKGROUND

On 20 November 1991 the Minister for the Arts, Tourism and Territories, referred to the Committee two works proposals for inquiry and report. The first proposal is for the erection of the Baldessin 'Pears' Sculpture in the vicinity of the National Gallery. The second proposal relates to the construction of a cooling tower for the High Court of Australia.

The Committee was briefed by proposals by representatives of the National Capital Planning Authority and the organisations involved in Canberra on Tuesday 26 November 1991.

## THE PROPOSALS

### The High Court Cooling Tower

The proposal is for a separate cooling tower for the High Court which previously shared a common system with the National Gallery. The current arrangement was considered to be inefficient in that the air-conditioning for the High Court was inadequate. The tower will be placed on a landscaped traffic island within Parkes Place.

Concerns by the National Gallery regarding the impact of the development have been responded to by Australian Construction Services who advised that the possibility of air pollution from the tower intruding across the Australian National Gallery entrance and Sculpture Garden is extremely remote.

### The George Baldessin 'Pears'

The Baldessin 'Pears', a group of six giant pears, are to be located on the median strip near the access road to the National Gallery. It was suggested that the pears would reinforce public awareness of the gallery and assist in alerting visitors to the Gallery which attracts some 500,000 visitors each year.

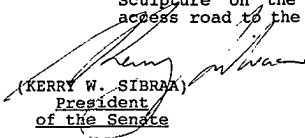
### CONCLUSION

The Committee accepts the need for the work in the Parliamentary Zone and the Chairmen wrote to the Minister on 10 December and advised him of this. The Committee did note however, that it had a continuing interest in the Zone and the future proposals might not be so readily agreed.

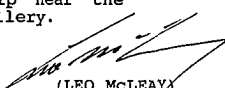
### RECOMMENDATION

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

- (a) the High Court Cooling Tower; and
- (b) the location of the Baldessin 'Pears' Sculpture on the median strip near the access road to the National Gallery.



(KERRY W. SIBRA)  
President  
of the Senate



(LEO McLEAY)  
Speaker of the House  
of Representatives



National Capital Planning Authority

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## MINISTERIAL SUBMISSION

THE MINISTER FOR THE ARTS, TOURISM AND TERRITORIES  
PORTFOLIO MINISTER

Date 16 SEP 1991

SUBJECT **PARLIAMENTARY ZONE WORKS APPROVAL - BALDESSIN 'PEARS'  
SCULPTURE AND HIGH COURT COOLING TOWER**

### PURPOSE

To request your agreement to table two proposals for works in the Parliamentary Zone and conjointly refer the proposals to the Joint Committee on the Parliamentary Zone for its inquiry and report.

### BACKGROUND

Section 5(1) of the Parliament Act 1974 requires that no building or other work is erected in the Parliamentary Zone unless a proposal for the work is laid before each House of the Parliament and the proposal has been approved by resolution of each House.

The two proposals for works in the Parliamentary Zone are the erection of the George Baldessin 'Pears' sculpture adjacent to the Australian National Gallery, and the construction of a separate cooling tower for the High Court of Australia.

Both proposals have previously been advised to you, but the lack of an acceptable Committee to inquire and report on the proposals precluded them being referred to Parliament.

### SUBMISSION

As you are aware, the constitution of a Joint Committee on the Parliamentary Zone has now been agreed by the House of Representatives and the Senate. The Committee will be jointly chaired by the Presiding Officers.

The erection of the Baldessin 'Pears' sculpture is viewed by the Director of the Australian National Gallery as a positive initiative to reinforce the public approach to the Gallery and help to reverse the falling attendance figures. A summary of the proposal and site plan is attached.

The construction of the separate cooling tower for the High Court of Australia will improve the air conditioning quality for the building by reducing the demand caused by it presently sharing a common system with the adjacent Australian National Gallery. As a result, the air conditioning quality of the Gallery building must also improve resulting in a better environment for the exhibits. A summary of the requirement and proposed construction details are attached.

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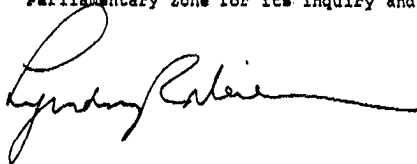
The proposals are required to be tabled in accordance with the Parliament Act 1974. A suggested Notice of Motion and a Motion is attached. A similar Notice of Motion and Motion is provided for Senator Richardson who represents you in the Senate.

The works proposals also are to be referred to the Joint Committee on the Parliamentary Zone for its inquiry and report. A suggested letter to the Joint Chairmen is provided for your consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

That you:

- (a) table the two proposals in the House of Representatives and request Senator Richardson to table them in the Senate; and
- (b) refer the two proposals to the Joint Committee on the Parliamentary Zone for its inquiry and report.



LYNDSAY R NEILSON  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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MINISTERIAL ACTION

Approved/Noted/Please discuss



WORKS IN THE PARLIAMENTARY ZONEAUSTRALIAN NATIONAL GALLERY - BALDESSIN PEARS

The Australian National Gallery (ANG) is seeking approval to locate the George Baldessin 'Pears' sculpture on the median strip near the access road to the ANG from King Edward Terrace (Block 7, Section 29 Parkes).

The ANG attracts up to 500,000 visitors to Canberra per annum. All market and visitor research conducted to date reveals severe problems with external directional signs, i.e. a lack of indication of the location of the ANG. The Director of the Gallery believes that the positioning of the proposed distinctive sculpture, a group of six giant pears, besides being attractive in its own right and enhancing the ambience of the surroundings, will reinforce public awareness of the Gallery and assist in alerting visitors to its location and car park area.

A photo montage of the visual presentation of the sculpture and site plan is attached.

The National Capital Planning Authority has considered the project in detail and considers that it would be quality addition to the Parliamentary Zone.

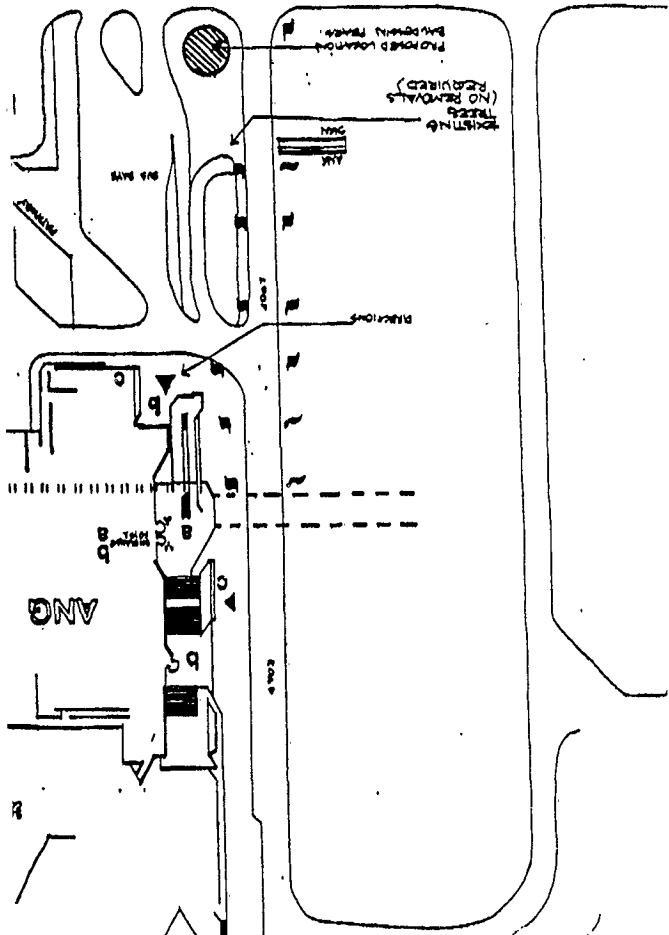


ILLUSTRATION OF BALDESSIN 'PEARS'  
IN PROPOSED LOCATION AT FRONT OF  
NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA

HCSA

HUDSON

1:500 approx.



WORKS IN THE PARLIAMENTARY ZONEHIGH COURT COOLING TOWER

The High Court of Australia's air conditioning system currently operates in conjunction with the Australian National Gallery system via an underground duct.

A 1988 High Court of Australia (HCA) Long-Term Maintenance Requirements Report advised that the air conditioning system was inadequate and that a separate cooling tower was necessary.

Australian Construction Services (ACS) were engaged to design the cooling tower. The tower could not be placed within or on top of the Court building and so ACS proposed that it be located on the landscaped traffic island within Parkes Place connected to the existing HCA/ANG air conditioning duct.

The Australian National Gallery (ANG) expressed concern regarding the potential impact that this development would impose on the Gallery. ACS has responded to these concerns advising that, because the proposed cooling tower uses a 'by-pass electromagnetic' water treatment approach which eliminates the need to use chemicals, the possibility of air pollution intruding across the ANG entry or the Sculpture Garden is extremely remote.

The attached drawings depict the location and form of the proposed cooling tower.

The National Capital Planning Authority supports the proposed works.

