

DEPARTMENT OF THE PARLIAMENT
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The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

Joint Standing Committee on the
New Parliament House

Report relating to proposed work in the
Parliamentary Zone :

Construction of extensions to
Commonwealth Avenue, Kings
Avenue and Melbourne Avenue,
Land Axis bridges, intersection
improvements and other works.

Membership of the Committee

(32nd Parliament)

Joint Chairmen

Rt Hon. Sir Billy Snedden, KCMG, QC, MP
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Senator the Hon. H.W. Young
President of the Senate

Members

Hon. W.M. Hodgman, MP
Minister for the Capital Territory and Minister Assisting
the Minister for Industry and Commerce

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Mr G.G.D. Scholes, MP

Clerk to the Committee

Mr D.M. Piper

PROPOSED WORK IN THE PARLIAMENTARY ZONE

Construction of extensions to
Commonwealth Avenue, Kings
Avenue and Melbourne Avenue,
Land Axis bridges, intersection
improvements and other works.

1. Under clause 3 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.

2. 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(i) 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.

3. On 26 August 1982, by letters to the Joint Chairmen, the Minister for the Capital Territory, as the Minister responsible for administering the National Capital

Development Commission Act 1957, referred to the Committee the following proposal:

Construction of extensions to Commonwealth Avenue, Kings Avenue and Melbourne Avenue, Land Axis bridges, intersection improvements and other works.

4. The proposal was tabled in the Senate on 9 September 1982 and in the House of Representatives on 26 August 1982. The Committee has considered the proposal and reports as follows.

5. Construction of the new Parliament House requires complementary works in the form of roads, bridges and landscape elements to complete the setting for the new building and link it with the balance of the Parliamentary Zone and with Canberra's metropolitan road network.

6. The Committee noted that the National Capital Development Commission in consultation with the Parliament House Construction Authority has developed a provisional program of works intended to facilitate access to the new Parliament House and allow for further development of the Parliamentary Zone. Included in the proposed works is the construction of roads and relocation and augmentation of services. Also included is the establishment of the formal land axis along the line between Capital Hill and Camp Hill envisaged by Walter Burley Griffin and reflected in the design of the new Parliament building and its main entrance forecourt.

7. The principal works proposals were summarised for the Committee as follows:

(a) Commonwealth Avenue extension:

To provide direct access to the new Parliament House, especially from the City Centre, it is proposed that Commonwealth Avenue be extended by bridging over State Circle and Capital Circle.

(b) Kings Avenue extension:

To provide direct access to the new Parliament House, especially from the airport, it is proposed that Kings Avenue be extended onto Capital Hill by bridging over Capital Circle.

(c) Melbourne Avenue extension:

To provide direct access to the Executive Government entrance in the new Parliament House, it is proposed that Melbourne Avenue be extended by bridging over Capital Circle from State Circle.

(d) Over bridges on Capital Hill and State Circles:

The design of the new Parliament House and its main entrance forecourt is based on Griffin's concept of a road connection between Capital Hill and Camp Hill. The proposed works comprise twin carriageways lined with trees and separated by a broad grassed median. These would be carried over Capital Circle as a single, full width bridge and over State Circle in the form of two separate bridges.

(e) Intersection improvements:

To provide safe and efficient vehicular movement it is proposed that works be carried out at the intersections of Kings Avenue and State Circle and Commonwealth Avenue and Langton Crescent.

(f) Other works:

It is proposed to provide traffic route lighting and augment existing lighting. Landscaping works are proposed to reinstate and improve the landscaping of the areas disturbed in the construction process and adjacent to the land bridge.

8. The Committee was advised that the estimated cost of all the works proposed is \$20m at June 1982 prices.

9. In considering these proposals the Committee was concerned to ensure

- (a) that the road system within the new Parliament House site would be linked by suitable direct connections to the metropolitan arterial road network and to the balance of the Parliamentary zone;
- (b) that the overall proposals for roadworks and landscaping would complement the new Parliament House and its immediate setting within Capital Circle, and
- (c) that future development in the Parliamentary zone would not be adversely constrained by the current proposals.

10. Following examination of the material submitted to it and discussions with representatives of the National Capital Development Commission and the Parliament House Construction Authority the Committee agreed to the proposed works.

11. The proposals constitute variations to the plan of layout of the City of Canberra and accordingly have been considered by the Joint Committee on the Australian Capital Territory. That Committee's conclusions are contained in its report on the 78th Series of Variations which was presented to Parliament on 14 October 1982.

12. This Committee notes that the Joint Committee on the Australian Capital Territory approved the proposals with the exception of those relating to the Commonwealth Avenue and Kings Avenue extensions on which it deferred consideration.


13. Your Committee believes that approval should be given to those parts of the proposals which are supported by both this Committee and the Joint Committee on the Australian Capital Territory.


14. Accordingly your Committee recommends that Parliament approves the following proposals in the terms of the Parliament Act 1974;

- (a) roads and bridges between the provisional Parliament House and the new Parliament House on the Land Axis;
- (b) intersection improvements at the junction of Commonwealth Avenue, Langton Crescent and Queen Victoria Terrace, and

(c) the extension of Melbourne Avenue by bridging over Capital Circle from State Circle.

15. The proposals relating to the Commonwealth Avenue and Kings Avenue extensions will be the subject of a later report by your Committee.


(Harold Young)
President of the Senate


(B.M. Snedden)
Speaker of the House of
Representatives

27 October 1982