



1983

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE NEW  
PARLIAMENT HOUSE

REPORT RELATING TO PROPOSED WORKS IN THE  
PARLIAMENTARY ZONE

COMMONWEALTH AVENUE AND KINGS AVENUE EXTENSIONS  
TO THE NEW PARLIAMENT HOUSE

CONSTRUCTION OF PIER PROTECTION UNDER COMMONWEALTH  
AVENUE BRIDGE

CONSTRUCTION OF TWO STANDARD BUS SHELTERS AND ONE  
ADDITIONAL STREET LIGHT IN KING GEORGE TERRACE

Membership of the Committee

(33rd Parliament)

Joint Chairmen

Senator the Hon. D. McClelland  
President of the Senate

The Hon. Dr H.A. Jenkins, MP  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Members

The Hon. T. Uren, MP  
Minister for Territories and Local Government

Senator M.A. Colston

Senator G. Georges

Senator K.J. Martin

Senator M.E. Reid

Senator K.W. Sibraa

Senator B.C. Teague

The Hon. J.D.M. Dobie, MP

Mrs R.J. Kelly, MP

Mr B. Lloyd, MP

Mrs H. Mayer, MP

Mr L.B. McLeay, MP

Mr P.M. Ruddock, MP

Secretary to the Committee

Mr D.M. Piper

PROPOSED WORKS IN THE PARLIAMENTARY ZONE

Commonwealth Avenue and Kings Avenue extensions to the New Parliament House.

Construction of pier protection under Commonwealth Avenue Bridge.

Construction of two standard bus shelters and one additional street light in King George Terrace.

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(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.

Commonwealth Avenue and Kings Avenue Extensions

On 26 August 1982, by letters to the Joint Chairmen, the then Minister for the Capital Territory as the Minister responsible for administering the National Capital Development Commission Act 1957 referred to the Committee the following proposals:

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

The proposals were tabled in the House of Representatives on 26 August 1982 and in the Senate on 9 September 1982. The Committee considered and agreed with these proposals, noting in its report of 27 October 1982 as follows:

"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."

The Joint Committee on the Australian Capital Territory has now given further consideration to the Commonwealth Avenue and Kings Avenue extensions and in its Second Report on the 78th Series of Variations presented to Parliament on 22 September 1983 approved the proposals "... providing the visual impact of the rising roadways is minimised". This condition arose from a concern of the Committee that the ground level adjoining the ramps and particularly that near the Commonwealth Avenue ramp should be raised to soften its impact by reducing the visual height of the ramp.

The Committee further stated "... that by providing an undulating earth form on which part of the ramp sits, with plantings to further soften its appearance, the circular perimeter will remain visible, without the ramp being the imposition on the landscape that it was in the form first proposed. The ramps should have parapet, rather than overhead, lighting to minimise their visual height".

Your Committee has now further considered the proposals and supports the views expressed by the Joint Committee on the Australian Capital Territory in agreeing to the proposed extensions of Commonwealth Avenue and Kings Avenue subject to steps being taken to minimise the visual impact of the rising roadways.

The estimated cost of the proposed work is \$5.3 million.

#### Pier Protection, Bus Shelters and Street Light

On 24 May 1983 and 5 August 1983 by letters to the Joint Chairmen, the Minister for Territories and Local Government, as the Minister responsible for administering the National Capital Development Commission Act 1957, referred to the Committee the following proposals:

Construction of concrete barriers around the base of the piers supporting the Commonwealth Avenue overpass above Flynn Place.

Construction of two standard bus shelters and one additional street light in King George Terrace.

These proposals were tabled on 25 August 1983 and 14 September 1983 respectively.

The Committee has considered the proposals and reports as follows:

Construction of concrete barriers around the base of the piers supporting the Commonwealth Avenue overpass above Flynn Place

The National Capital Development Commission has proposed the construction of concrete barriers around the base of the piers supporting the Commonwealth Avenue overpass above Flynn Place. Four barriers, each approximately 60m long and 750mm high are proposed. The purpose of the barriers is to protect the piers from vehicular impacts.

The estimated cost of the proposed work is \$120,000. Construction is programmed to commence in November 1983.

The Committee agrees to the proposed work.

Construction of two standard bus shelters and one additional street light in King George Terrace

The National Capital Development Commission has proposed the construction of two standard bus shelters and one additional street light in King George Terrace.

The estimated cost of the proposed work is \$9,000.

The Committee has deferred consideration of these works pending receipt of further advice.

Conclusion

Under the terms of the Parliament Act 1974, the Committee recommends that Parliament approve:

- (i) the Commonwealth Avenue and Kings Avenue extensions subject to steps being taken to minimise the visual impact of the rising roadways; and
- (ii) construction of concrete barriers around the base of the piers supporting the Commonwealth Avenue overpass above Flynn Place.



(D. McCLELLAND)  
President of the Senate



(H.A. JENKINS)  
Speaker of the House  
of Representatives

Joint Chairmen

6 October 1983