

TABLED PAPER

*W. Bradshaw*  
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DEPARTMENT OF THE SENATE	
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<i>J. J. J.</i>	
Clerk of the Senate	

1978

Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

Joint Standing Committee on the New and Permanent  
Parliament House

Report

relating to the proposed construction of a  
cooling tower enclosure at the rear of the  
provisional Parliament House

Membership of the Committee

(31st Parliament)

Joint Chairmen

Senator the Honourable C.L. Laucke,  
President of the Senate

The Right Honourable Sir Billy Snedden, K.C.M.G., O.C., M.P.,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Members

The Honourable R.J. Ellicott, M.P.  
Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for  
the Capital Territory

Senator G.J. Evans (1)

Senator C.R. Maunsell (2)  
National Country Party Whip in the Senate

Senator J.I. Melzer

Senator A.J. Missen

Senator J. O'Byrne

Senator H.W. Young

Mr J.W. Haslem, M.P.

Mr U.E. Innes, M.P.

Mr L.K. Johnson, M.P.

The Honourable P.J. Keating, M.P.

Mr B. Lloyd, M.P.

Mr B.D. Simon, M.P.

Clerk to the Committee  
Mr D.M. Piper

- (1) Senator Evans was appointed to the Committee on 22 August, 1978 in place of Senator McIntosh.
- (2) Senator Maunsell was appointed to the Committee on 31 May, 1978 in place of Senator the Honourable T.C. Drake-Brockman, D.F.C.

Construction of cooling tower enclosure  
at rear of provisional Parliament House

Under clause 3 of its resolution of appointment, the Joint Standing Committee on the New and Permanent 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 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 the Parliament and the proposal has been approved by resolution of each House of Parliament.

On 13 September 1978 the Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for the Capital Territory, as the Minister responsible for administering the National Capital Development Commission Act 1957, referred to the committee a proposal to construct a cooling tower enclosure at the rear of the provisional Parliament House.

The committee has considered the proposal and reports as follows:

A recent survey of the air conditioning plant at Parliament House revealed that the plant is not operating at maximum efficiency the main cause being the existing cooling tower installation.

The present towers are located internally and discharge into the Senate courtyard. The hot, moist air is frequently confined under unfavourable wind conditions and recirculated into the tower intakes reducing both capacity and efficiency. Noise in the courtyard due to cooling tower operation is excessive and detracts from an otherwise pleasant area.

The existing cooling towers are approaching the limit of their economic life and the existing installation cannot be adapted to increase capacity or to resolve existing problems.

A new cooling tower is required to increase the capacity of the existing plant to meet current loads. In addition a new site is necessary to enable the tower to operate at its maximum efficiency with minimum interference to the building's occupants.

It is proposed to locate the new tower at the rear of the building adjacent to but separate from the electrical sub-station. The building will be 11 metres long, 7 metres wide and 3.5 metres high.

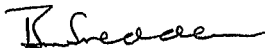
The Committee was advised that alternative sites were considered but none were considered suitable. One site, on the roof above the chillers, is feasible but would be more obtrusive both visually and acoustically.

The Committee accepts the need for the new cooling tower and agrees that the proposed site is the most suitable available.

The Committee supports the proposal and recommends construction of the work referred to it.



C.L. LAUCKE  
President of the Senate  
Joint Chairman



B.M. SNEDDEN  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Joint Chairman

20 September 1978