

1984

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE
NEW PARLIAMENT HOUSE

REPORT RELATING TO PROPOSED WORK IN THE
PARLIAMENTARY ZONE

PROVISIONAL PARLIAMENT HOUSE - TEMPORARY EXTENSIONS

Membership of the Committee
(Thirty-third Parliament)

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

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PROPOSED WORK IN THE PARLIAMENTARY ZONE

Provisional Parliament House - Temporary Extensions

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.

On 4 June 1984, by letters addressed to the Joint Chairmen, the Minister for Territories and Local Government, as Minister responsible for administering the National Capital Development Commission Act 1957, referred to the Committee a proposal for temporary extensions to the provisional Parliament House.

This proposal was tabled in the Senate and the House of Representatives on 5 June 1984.

The Committee has considered the proposal and reports as follows.

The passage of the Representation Act 1983 will result in the election of an additional 12 Senators and 23 Members at the next elections for the Senate and the House of Representatives. These expanded numbers will need to be accommodated while the Parliament continues to sit in the provisional Parliament House and it is the intention of the Presiding officers that all Senators and Members in the enlarged Parliament should be provided with rooms of their own in, or adjacent to, the present building.

The brief required the provision of accommodation for 35 Members/Senators in separate rooms each with a single staff member and essential facilities and services to enable these parliamentarians and their staff to operate.

The following criteria were used in the development of the proposal.

Provision of the new accommodation for Senators and Members should be at least equal to that in the existing building in size, facilities and amenity. To quantify the total requirements, an area of $21m^2$ was assumed to be an appropriate size for a room to house a Senator or Member and one staff person.

Senators and Members should be located as close as possible to their respective chambers using an allowable travel time for divisions of 3 minutes on the basis of a maximum distance of 360 metres at a speed of 2 metres per second.

The proposal should avoid disruption to the proceedings of the Parliament and the normal work of the occupants of the building during the construction process. In meeting this criterion it was seen as an advantage if the construction period could continue through the sitting days of the two Houses.

The proposal is for construction of a two-storey prefabricated modular building sited in the House of Representatives gardens and linked to the existing building by a covered walkway at the first floor level.

This new Annex will provide airconditioned accommodation for the following:

- . 12 of the 17 Members currently occupying offices on the Senate side of the House; the vacated rooms will then be available for allocation to the 12 additional Senators
- . 24 other Members of the House of Representatives
- . support staff for the private Members
- . locker/change rooms for attendants
- . lunch room for attendants
- . toilets, plant rooms and attendant boxes.


A Ministerial suite, M112, will be lost in providing the link to the existing building. This will be replaced by re-allocating accommodation. The balance of the former Ministerial suite will provide offices for two Members. The area on the ground floor adjacent to the Post Office which is to be vacated by the attendants will be converted to a committee room.


The building will be located between the bowling green and the tennis courts, set back from the road to approximately align with the hedge and thus avoid disruption of existing underground services. The green keeper's pavilion will require relocation.

The estimated cost of the proposed works is \$1,300,000. If the proposal is approved in the current period of sittings completion would be achieved by February 1985.

When Parliament is relocated in the new Parliament House these prefabricated demountable units will be removed and disposed of or re-used to the best advantage.

The Committee supports this proposal and recommends that Parliament approve the proposal in the terms of the Parliament Act 1974.


(D. McCLELLAND)
President of the Senate


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

Joint Chairmen

6 June 1984