SUBMISSION 3

APESMA

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
22 JAN 2003
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POA

22nd January 2003

The Secretary
Public Works Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Email: jcpw@aph.gov.au

Dear Sir

Re: Bureau of Meteorology, Melbourne – Fit-out of New Premises

I refer to the 4th January 2003 invitation for submissions with respect to the above. Our short submission follows.

Introduction
The Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists & Managers, Australia and the Professional Officers' Association (Victoria) are organisations registered under the Federal Workplace Relations Act. They represent a large number of professional, research and IT staff employed by the Bureau of Meteorology Melbourne and throughout Australia. In conjunction with other associations with members in the Bureau we have taken a keen interest in the Bureau's Melbourne-based relocation project with some of our members participating on Staff Advisory Groups.

Space Allowance Per Staff Member
This issue has emerged as one of the key areas of concern for us in our discussions with the Bureau of Meteorology. As such we consider it appropriate to bring the matter to the current investigation by the Public Works Committee.

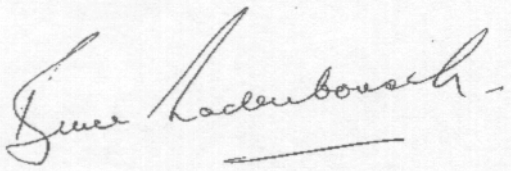
To this point the Bureau has made a number of decisions with respect to space allowances per person (excluding common and shared facilities). The area of most concern to us is the decision with respect to APS Levels 1 to 6 employees. In respect of APS Level 6 employees the Bureau proposes to allocate 8 sq metres per person whilst in the case of APS Levels 1-5 employees the allocation proposed is 6.5 sq metres per person.

Our concern arises out of the fact that many Bureau staff at these levels employed in professional, research and IT roles use above average amounts of technology compared with their counterparts in other roles. We believe that the space allocations being proposed by the Bureau would be counterproductive to creating an efficient professional working environment unless special efforts were made to utilise flat computer screens, well-designed work stations that maximise accessibility and storage space and significant amounts of higher partitioning to dampen noise levels. We have advocated a 9 sq metre space allocation per employee at these levels in the open-plan environment proposed.

Conclusion
We apologise to the Committee for the shortness of this submission due to the fact that two of our key officials involved with the relocation project are currently on annual leave.

We seek an opportunity of addressing the Committee with respect to the matter raised in this submission and any other matters we subsequently consider to be desirable.

Yours faithfully



BRUCE NADENBOUSCH
For & On Behalf of APESMA and POAV

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