



SUBMISSION 12



4 March 2003

Mr Quinton Clements
Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital
and External Territories
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Clements

I refer to the Chairmans's letter to the Auditor-General in relation to the Parliamentary Parking Zone Inquiry dated December 2002. Mr Barrett has requested that I respond on his behalf.

As an agency located within the Parliamentary Zone this enquiry has direct relevance to us, particularly as the availability of car parking is a matter of increasing concern to the staff of the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO). By way of background, we have considerably fewer car parking spaces than we need at Centenary House and our staff use the on street parking in the Barton area to make up the shortfall. From our perspective, the most significant issue is the shortage of parking within the Zone, with the prospect of further reductions as more people and their cars move into the area as high density residential accommodation is completed and additional commercial office accommodation is built and occupied. We also note that the recent conversion of a large public car park on the northern side of Brisbane Avenue to a private car park for the exclusive use by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has further reduced the availability of car parking facilities for our staff. We are also concerned about the increasing risk of accidents occurring in the streets adjacent to Centenary House caused by vehicles being parked on both sides of the streets.

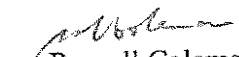
Should metered parking for example, be introduced throughout the Zone, it would effectively remove any existing spaces as the typical interval for metered parking is too short to be useful for most staff.

While we are aware that there may be FBT implications for our staff, the ANAO submits that there is an urgent need for a parking station to be built in the Barton area to assist in alleviating the already existing acute shortage of parking facilities.

We look forward to seeing the findings of the hearing and would appreciate the opportunity to comment on any proposals that might affect the ANAO.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further please do not hesitate to contact Denzil Bourne on 62037661 or email: denzil.bourne@anao.gov.au

Yours sincerely


Russell Coleman
Executive Director
Corporate Management Branch