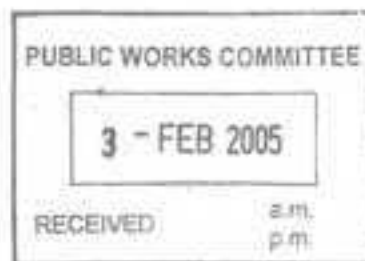


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Joint Standing Committee on Public Works
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Attention: Ms Vivienne Courto

Dear Ms Courto

Ref No: C03/08759

**DITR RESPONSE TO PWC SUBMISSION FROM THE COMMUNITY
AND PUBLIC SECTOR UNION (CPSU)**

Thank you for referring a copy of the letter dated 2 February 2005 from the CPSU concerning the fitout of new leased premises for DITR.

DITR appreciates the assistance that CPSU members have provided in the consultation processes within the organisation to date. We also appreciate the support the CPSU expressed in their submission for the new proposal and for the range of staff facilities that are being provided, including the child care centre.

With respect to the findings of the CPSU survey as outlined in their submission, the following points are noted:

- The 40 responses represent about 3.3% of staff. While it was not appropriate for the CPSU to have access to all staff under the Department's email system, CPSU members were sent the survey by email. Additionally, the survey was placed on an electronic bulletin board that all staff have access to on 12 January.
- A high proportion of the respondents support the need for the new premises and believe they have been genuinely informed and consulted on the project, as acknowledged in the CPSU submission.
- While only a small proportion of respondents disagreed with the above statement on consultation, we will continue to explore opportunities to improve the consultation process further. We believe the workstation trials to be held over a four week period in May this year will provide a good opportunity for staff to provide input on their personal space in the building.

- Although the overall area being leased will reduce, the new building will be far more efficient. The building is designed specifically to meet DITR's requirements and has larger floor plates which increases space efficiency and reduces circulation areas. We know from the completed sketch plans that the average staff member will be better off in the new building compared to the space they have now. In addition, there will be more common staff facilities, including meeting rooms, break-out areas and internal and external amenities.

Access to natural light and OH&S are obviously important considerations that we are addressing through the design process, including the assistance of appropriately qualified consultants. All workstation zones are adjacent to windows to maximise natural light at the work point.

The staff suggestions for free carparking and a gymnasium have cost implications that would normally be considered as part of the overall package of staff remuneration and conditions in the Certified Agreement (CA) process. While a number of staff facilities in the new building were included in the current CA (including the child care centre), free carparking and a gymnasium were not considered in the negotiations.

The other suggestions for staff facilities listed at paragraph 24 of the CPSU submission are, in fact, being provided in one form or another.

DITR acknowledges the need for a continuing program of strong consultation on the project and welcomes the ongoing involvement and support of the CPSU and its members as part of that process.

Yours sincerely



Robyn Foster
General Manager
Business Services Group
Corporate Division

3 February 2005