



Submission No. 5

(Fit-out for AFP, Edmund Barton Building)

SL 16/9/08

Committee Secretary
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works
pwc@aph.gov.au
PO Box 6021
Parliament House ACT 2600

4 September 2008

Dear Mr Catchpole

Thank you for the invitation to make a submission to your Committee.

Following the announcement by Mr Bob Debus MP, Minister for Home Affairs that the Australian Federal Police would be relocating their National Head Office to the Edmund Barton Building I am pleased to make the following submission.

The Commonwealth now has an opportunity to bring together a widely distributed number of AFP Employees and Operational units currently dispersed across the ACT. The AFPA welcome the undoubted operational and cultural benefits that will flow to the AFP. Despite enormous growth over the past five years the current AFP National Office is the same building that was occupied by the AFP in the mid eighties as its "temporary National Headquarters".

The Australian Federal Police Association (AFPA) feel it entirely appropriate that an Iconic building set close to the National Police Memorial, Parliament House, Foreign Affairs, Attorney Generals, and other stakeholders be adopted as our National Head Office. It is our understanding that the building, with significant improvements, is well capable of being made as secure as is necessary for AFP activities, it has room for further staffing and future consolidation of operational activities and it will provide a proud centre point for AFP Staff and those foreign and Australian partners with whom the AFP work.

Recognising the arduous nature of our duties, demanding and unpredictable work hours and commitment of AFP Staff we specifically want to see the building fit out accommodate the following:

- Appropriate security features to deal with threat of terrorist or other attack;
- Interior fit out to include generous individual work stations, maximum natural light and modern, safe environmental infrastructure;
- Important employee amenities including a secure child care centre, gymnasium, places to relax, dining options (both self catered and professionally catered) and places to walk;
- Ready availability to all employees to private meeting rooms, larger meeting rooms and large media briefing hall which will serve a number of purposes; and
- Attention to parking availability.

This building will provide opportunities for the AFP to do things which enhance employee pride in their Organisation. Things like uniform parades and ceremonies in the large secure open areas, greater organisational support such as on site child care, greater cohesiveness of staff where face to face can replace many electronic meetings all in an iconic building which, in itself, reflects the importance that the Government places on our activities.

The AFP needs to remain a respected and competitive employer of choice. The Federal Government has pledged 500 extra AFP Police Members over the coming 4 years. In every way the Edmond Barton Building is the right Head Office to effectively and respectfully accommodate our members.

To conclude:

- 1) the work is needed;
- 2) to the extent we have been briefed we feel the proposed work will adequately satisfy the need;
- 3) we cannot comment on the estimated cost of the work;
- 4) consistent with 3) above we cannot comment exactly whether the cost is justified without knowing the cost, however we can comment that very significant cost is justified to complete this important and overdue Public Work; and
- 5) we cannot comment on the amount of revenue, if any, the work will generate for the Commonwealth.

Yours sincerely



Jim Torr
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Federal Police Association
Level 9, AMP Tower, 1 Hobart Place
Canberra ACT 2600
Em: jim.torr@afpa.org.au
Mob: +61 (0)400 141 616
Tel: +61 (0)2 6285 1677
Fax: +61 (0)2 6285 2090
Web: www.afpa.org.au