

General comments and recommendations

State/Local Government Issues

- 6.1 During the Inquiry the Committee was confronted with an issue that was of direct concern to the South Australian Government and the Adelaide City Council. The issue concerned pedestrian access to the proposed new building. The Committee notes that, as a committee of the Federal Parliament, it not necessarily well placed to resolve such matters.
- 6.2 On this occasion, the Committee views the question of access as one requiring an amicable resolution between the two government parties concerned. The Committee urges dialogue to be maintained with the relevant parties in order to reach a mutually satisfactory outcome.

Project Cost

- 6.3 The Inquiry presented the Committee with a situation where there was variation in the cost of the project when referred by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration in the House of Representatives and the cost of the project in the Department of Finance and Administration (DoFA) supplementary submission. The supplementary submission that notified the Committee of the cost variation was presented to the Committee a few days before the public hearing. As is often the case in such circumstances, the variation involved a higher cost.

- 6.4 With regard the Commonwealth Law Courts proposal, the Committee was informed a few days prior to the hearings of a revised cost.
- 6.5 While the Committee accepts that the nature of design and construction projects entails cost variation, it nevertheless expects DoFA and other agencies proposing public works should ensure that detailed, accurate and current costings are provided in the parliamentary motion when a work is being referred to the Committee.

Energy Savings

- 6.6 The Committee is mindful of the need for new buildings to be energy efficient and is therefore pleased that the proposed Commonwealth Law Courts complex in Adelaide will be built with energy saving concepts in mind. They include:
- a building management system;
 - the capture and re-use of rainwater for evaporative cooling and flushing;
 - the use of natural light; and
 - solar energy for the production of hot water and to generate electricity.
- 6.7 The Committee commends DoFA and all other relevant parties for this.

Consultations

- 6.8 The Committee notes that consultations are continuing on heritage and accesses related issues with the relevant organisations. These should be maintained until appropriate solutions are found.

Recommendation 1

- 6.9 **The Committee recommends that the Department of Finance and Administration ensure ongoing consultations in relation to heritage and access matters are maintained with the Australian Heritage Commission and the Adelaide City Council.**

Support for the Project

- 6.10 The Committee has concluded that the proposed new Commonwealth Law Courts complex in Adelaide is long overdue.
- 6.11 The proposed building should provide necessary space for the various jurisdictions and alleviate the problem of visiting courts having to use facilities of the State's courts.
- 6.12 The submissions received on this particular referral made constructive and appropriate criticisms of the design concepts. The Committee is pleased that relevant suggestions have since been incorporated into the revised plans.

Recommendation 2

- 6.13 **The Committee recommends that the proposal to build a Commonwealth Law complex in Adelaide proceed at a cost of \$76.600 million.**

Hon Judi Moylan MP

Chair

7 June 2001