

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

54TH MEETING HELD IN CANBERRA ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY,  
THE 14TH AND 15TH NOVEMBER, 1946.

NOTES ON MEETING

The meeting was attended by Mr. B. J. Waterhouse, Chairman; Mr. C. S. Daley, Executive Member, and Mr. R. Keith Harris.

Messrs. Rolland and Walters were unable to attend and owing to the fact that in the new Parliament the Public Works Committee had not been appointed the Chairman from that body was not available.

OBJECT OF MEETING:

Mr. Daley explained that he had considered it advisable, in view of the Government's desire to remove a number of temporary buildings to Canberra, including 200 houses, that an investigation be made in relation to sites for these at Canberra although it was doubtful whether Messrs. Rolland and Walters could attend.

After consulting the Chairman it was agreed that the meeting would be held in Canberra and that the conclusions would be subject to confirmation at the meeting to be held in Sydney the following week.

CONFERENCE WITH DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF WORKS:

For the information of the Committee it was arranged for members to confer with the Deputy Director of Works, Mr. Limburg, who supplied plans of the timber houses which it was proposed to remove from Tocumwal and gave general details of the buildings. He said that these might be regarded as houses forming part of permanent development as they would be considerably improved in quality and design by the treatment proposed during re-erection.

In regard to office accommodation he indicated the types of military hut, approximately 80' x 22' which it had been suggested be moved to Canberra and grouped together and provided with incidental accommodation for occupation by certain branches of the Department.

Information was also given by Mr. Limburg concerning the War Workers' Hostel from Mulwala which it had been suggested be removed completely to Canberra to provide accommodation for approximately 100 persons. Photographs and plans of this structure were supplied and also plans of the Nurses' Quarters from Narellan camp which were being removed to Canberra but were surplus to requirements for the purpose of Workmen's Camp at Barton. It had been suggested that these quarters might be suitable for a small hostel or alternatively for incorporation with the War Workers' Hostel.

In regard to the timber houses Mr. Limburg indicated that ten sites had already been selected by Messrs. Daley and Sheaffe in Ainslie to provide for erecting the first instalment of houses which had already been delivered. These were on Blocks 2, 3 and 4 of Section 24, Ainslie, and Blocks 10, 11 and 12 of Section 25, and Blocks 1, 2, 7 and 8 of Section 74, Ainslie.

In company with Mr. Limburg the Committee inspected these blocks and considered the planning of the houses thereon as shown in the plans. This was generally approved subject to the houses on blocks 10, 11 and 12 of Section 25 being brought more generally into alignment. This, Mr. Limburg stated, was practicable because the work of erection on these blocks had not actually been commenced.

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT:  
(a) 200  
Timber  
Houses:

The Committee reviewed the City plan with the object of suggesting a suitable site for the 200 timber houses. It was deemed inadvisable to distribute these throughout existing subdivisions in view of the provisions of the Regulations and commitments to private enterprise in regard to brick areas. It was thought that the proposal provided

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an opportunity for selecting an area upon which houses could be disposed economically in accordance with the Committee's general views regarding the conserving of land subject to provision of proper amenities.

Mr. Daley stated that Mr. Sheaffe and he had considered that a site in O'Connor between the area proposed for building concrete houses and Macarthur Avenue would be suitable. This was inspected in company with Mr. Sheaffe who assisted the Committee in the consideration of the proposal.

It was resolved to recommend this area as suitable to provide for between 150 to 200 houses subject to replanning of existing streets.

It was suggested that levels of the area be obtained in order that an architectural layout might be prepared.

The Committee expressed its concurrence in the selections already made in respect to ten sites in Ainslie.

(b) Concrete houses, Turner:

The Committee noted the designs for concrete houses in Turner and O'Connor for which tenders had already been called and were under consideration. The plan of subdivision had not been completed but it was expected that this would be ready for submission at the meeting the following week in Sydney.

(c) Narrabundah: Demountable Housing Scheme:

The Committee noted generally particulars of the Tulloch system of construction which was being adopted for the 75 houses for which a contract had been let for erection at Narrabundah.

Office Accommodation

Consideration was given to the possible sites for locating Defence Huts, either singly or in groups, for housing branches or sections of Departments.

Mr. Daley stated that he had conferred with the Property Officer, Mr. Charlesworth, who informed him that it would be quite convenient to group the whole of the temporary buildings, providing for approximately 20,000 square feet of accommodation, in one area as he could readjust existing accommodation to meet expanding needs of Departments.

The areas considered were the lower slopes of Capital Hill near the junction of Commonwealth Avenue with State Circle, Camp Hill between the present Secretariat Buildings and the area on which temporary buildings have been erected for the Prices Commission. The balance of opinion was in favour of selection of the last mentioned area in view of the fact that it had been already devoted to buildings of a temporary character. It was felt that the presence of buildings in a fairly prominent position would lead to their replacement by permanent buildings on proper locations more readily than if they were placed on less conspicuous sites.

Hostel accommodation:

Some difficulty was experienced in selecting a suitable site for a temporary hostel and it was decided that it be not advisable to place it on a main avenue or in direct association with permanent buildings.

After carefully reviewing the areas of the City it was decided to suggest that subject to further examination regarding the availability of services a site between Commonwealth Avenue and Constitution Avenue, approximately on Lawson Crescent, be selected both for the War Workers' Hostel and the small hostel to be constituted by the Nurses' Quarters from Warellan camp with some additional accommodation as shown in Drawing No. 168548.

Minor Industrial Area, Turner:

Consideration was given to the design prepared several years ago for the Minor Industrial Area, Turner. Mr. Daley stated that the Property and Survey Branch was anxious to have this design finally settled because many applications were now being received for minor industrial blocks and it was intended to lease the land subject to a general building plan.

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