

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE 52ND MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY  
THE 8TH AND 9TH AUGUST, 1946, AT THE ADVISORY COUNCIL  
ROOM, CANBERRA.

The Committee met at 2 p. m.

PRESENT:

Mr. B. J. Waterhouse ( Chairman )  
Mr. C. S. Daley ( Executive Member )  
Mr. R. J. Keith Harris  
Mr. H. M. Rolland.

Mr. Rowland James sent an apology as his Parliamentary duties prevented his attendance. An apology was received also from Mr. Walters who was detained in Melbourne on urgent business.

INTERVIEW  
WITH  
MINISTER FOR  
INTERIOR:

By arrangement, the Committee called on the Minister for the Interior ( the Honourable H. V. Johnson ) at Parliament House. The Chairman and members were introduced by the Executive Member. The Minister said that he was glad to meet the Committee and regretted that he had not been able to do so earlier in his term of office. He stated that, owing to the closing hours of the Parliamentary session, and particularly the fact that he was awaiting the Parliament to deal with Bills in the House, he would not embark upon a discussion of a number of important questions concerning Canberra development that were uppermost in his mind and in regard to which he would be glad to have the advice and assistance of the Committee. The Chairman expressed the Committee's pleasure at meeting the Minister personally and said that Members would be anxious to give him all the assistance that they could in relation to planning matters so that the programme for the building of the National Capital might be advanced as rapidly as possible when this might be practicable. He indicated briefly the nature of the Committee's statutory responsibilities and mentioned that, although it was required to deal with many individual projects that arose for consideration constantly, it was directing its attention particularly to the larger problems that, owing to the lapse of time, should now be carefully reviewed before they were undertaken in the form contemplated several years ago. Included in these were the Railway, the Lake Scheme, the Water Supply, and the design for the Governmental and Civic areas. The Minister said that he was in accord with the necessity for revising schemes that had been prepared at a time when conditions were somewhat different from those existing to-day. He mentioned the Government's concern with housing which was, of course, of first priority. It was taking special steps to obtain additional tradesmen for Canberra and hoped to do something to improve the position in regard to supply of building materials. He thought that the present difficulties would last, at least for another twelve months. Mr. Johnson said that, if the Government were returned at the forthcoming elections, and he were still holding his present portfolio, he would arrange to have a general discussion with the Committee on the whole position of Canberra's development.

The interview then terminated and the Committee proceeded to the Advisory Council Room to proceed with consideration of the agenda for the meeting.

CONFIRMATION  
OF MINUTES:

The Minutes of the 51st meeting were confirmed. Messrs. Waterhouse and Harris expressed their endorsement of the action taken by the Committee at the 50th meeting which they had been unable to attend owing to transport difficulties.

NOTIFICATIONS  
BY EXECUTIVE  
MEMBER:

The following notifications were made by the Executive Member

*A.*

for the information of the Committee, viz:

(a) Netherlands Legation:

Information has been received that the Netherlands Minister has now advised his Government to approve of the scheme for additional buildings on Block 4, Section 5, Red Hill, on the understanding that the building will not be used permanently as offices. This conforms with the recommendation of the Committee and avoids anything prejudicial to the scheme for the Legation area in Yarralumla.

( Noted by the Committee and fuller details given by Mr. Daley for the information of Mr. Rolland. He was advised that the sketch plans for the proposed additions to the residence had been approved by the Committee. Any question of departure from these would be brought before the Committee for its consideration. )

(b) National University:

The Australian National University Act has been proclaimed and an Interim Council appointed. Provision for the Interim Council was made to enable action to be taken to develop the University project until such time as a full Council, in accordance with the terms of the Act, may be set up.

It will doubtless be interested in the planning of the buildings required for the University, which is to be on a much larger scale initially than was originally proposed, in view of the inclusion of special schools for research in Physics, Social Sciences and Medicine.

The Canberra University College will continue to exist as an integral portion of the University and be responsible for under-graduate teaching and special courses required for the Public Service.

( Noted and question of the steps to be taken regarding the building schemes discussed, including that of holding a competition, in accordance with the general assurances given by previous Governments. There was general agreement that a competition was desirable but the Committee considered that, at the present stage, it was not necessary to put forward any recommendation pending a move by the Interim Council of the University to study its requirements. )

(c) Workmen's Housing, Narrabundah:

The Minister for the Interior has approved of the recommendations in the Committee's report of the 15th July.

Alternative tenders have been received for the prefabricated houses for the Narrabundah temporary subdivision. These are much higher than was expected and the action to be taken is at present under consideration by the Department of Works and Housing.

( Noted. Mr. Rolland gave the Committee details of the tendering and indicated various alternative proposals, such as an arrangement for construction on a "cost-plus" or some similar basis, that were being considered. He referred to the "Triton" system of construction which might afford a basis for having the fabrication done in Melbourne. )

(d) Flats: Reid

Fresh tenders were received on the 16th July for the proposed blocks of flats at Reid but are still regarded as unsatisfactory. The action to be taken is now under consideration by the Minister for Works and Housing.

( Noted. )

(e) Canberra Community Hospital:

Tenders were received for the additional wing for the Nurses'

Quarters at the hospital. Although these were fairly high they were not regarded as unreasonable and the question of acceptance of an offer is now under consideration.

( Noted. )

BRISBANE BUILDINGS:

The Chairman stated that Mr. Harris and he had read with interest the record in the minutes of the Committee's meeting with Messrs. Moir and Oliphant. They had noted the further explanations given by these Architects in relation to the design they had put forward as a basis for the treatment of Brisbane Buildings, and were of the opinion that the suggestions made do not constitute an acceptable solution as compared with the scheme already put forward by the Committee and approved.

Mr. Rolland submitted a sketch ( Drawing No. C.D. 1157) which showed the effect of incorporating the balcony treatment in the working space of the upper floor. It was agreed that there would be no objection to such modification of the design already recommended.

The Executive Member raised the point as to whether the balcony treatment might still be adopted on East Row to match that of Sydney buildings, otherwise, he felt, there would be a tendency to enclose individual balconies in Sydney buildings which was contrary to the Building Regulations unless the inner wall were removed, a proceeding which would involve substantial alterations for structural reasons. Further consideration of this aspect of the matter was deferred pending the Committee's investigation of other aspects of the problem.

Then followed a discussion in which the question of levels around the whole of the block was considered, and it appeared that full information was lacking on this aspect. Mr. Harris stated that, whilst the design on East Row and portion of Alinga Street should undoubtedly conform to that adopted for Sydney Buildings, there might be some question of its modification on account of the levels on other streets. He suggested that Mr. Rolland be requested to have the road levels established for the whole of the block before the Committee made a further report to the Minister. Mr. Rolland promised to have this question examined.

RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISIONS- GRIFFITH NARRABUNDAH:

The Committee gave consideration to an amended sketch, Plan No. C.D. 1165, showing development of portions of Griffith and Narrabundah districts. This plan had been prepared under Mr. Rolland's directions and copies supplied to members.

After the details had been explained by Mr. Rolland and discussed by the Committee the plan was generally concurred in, and it was resolved to recommend for approval the adoption of the design and the amendment of the City Plan accordingly as a basis for development.

The Executive Member raised the question of an allocation of sites for development, as between the Department and private enterprise, and it was agreed that this was a matter which might be decided within the Department of the Interior between the Executive Member and the Development Surveyor. Mr. Daley stated that he would go into the matter accordingly with Mr. Sheaffe .

GENERAL REVIEW OF CANBERRA PLAN:

(a) Report by Executive Member:

In response to enquiry as to whether there was any immediate action suggested as a result of perusal by members of the Committee of the report submitted by the Executive Member some time ago, for the Minister's information, in relation to the principal works, services and problems remaining to be dealt with in connection with the development of the National Capital, the Chairman and Mr. Harris stated that they had perused the report with interest. Some of the matters referred to therein

had already received some attention and they proposed to give further study to the many items referred to in the report so that these might be dealt with progressively from time to time.

(b) Industrial Area:

The Committee proceeded to the north side of the City and made an inspection of areas on the right and left of the Federal Highway in O'Connor, Lyneham and Dickson.

It noted the extent of the area that had been proposed by Mr. Griffin for purposes of industry and lying between the Federal Highway and Mount Majura. It viewed also the areas adjoining the route of the Canberra-Yass railway and considered tentatively where suitable a industrial area might be located in the event of that railway having a "dead-end" at City.

Discussion on the matter included the advisability of planning a satellite area, out of the visual range of Federal Highway, definitely organised for industrial purposes, separated by park or other open treatment from the City, and linked with it by definite transport system. There were considerable differences in the minds of some members as to the extent to which industry might be attracted to the Territory. The Executive Member gave the Committee details of the conference, recently held at the Department of Post War Reconstruction, as the result of which a scheme to make Canberra a provincial City and the manufacturing centre for a large district extending from Wagga to the sea was not pursued. In its place, however, there had been discussed the desirability of providing in Canberra for industries connected with products of the Territory and particularly those related to the building trade. The object of this consideration of industry was to provide employment for the youth of the Territory and minimise the extent of their transference to other centres. These points were noted by the Committee for further consideration.

(c) Civic and Commercial Centre:

(i) At the instance of Mr. Harris the Committee had a discussion as to the necessity for settling the lines of development of commercial blocks around City Circuit. Mr. Harris referred to the suggestion that he had put forward a considerable time ago, the development of which had been requested but had not been undertaken, apparently, as he was informed, on account of the shortage of technical officers owing to pre-occupation with war requirements. Mr. Harris said that he did not claim that his suggestion was the only solution to the problem but he felt that it was time that the Committee took action to make some determination on this matter of the City shopping blocks as it affected other problems. He pointed out the difficulty in dealing with individual applications for blocks when the general principles for the shopping area had not been finally determined.

The Executive Member said that there had been a determination many years ago when the general design prepared by the Sulman Committee was approved by the Government. Mr. Harris' suggestion had in mind the modification of such plan with the object of consolidating the commercial blocks instead of extending them at intervals around the very considerable length of City Circuit.

In regard to Brisbane Buildings, he pointed out that the Committee had already concurred in the method of treatment and what was done on this block did not appear to affect either of the other alternatives except, perhaps, the treatment of Adelaide Buildings.

Mr. Harris produced a copy of the Sulman plan for the treatment of City Hill and its environs and a copy of the preliminary sketch of his own scheme.

Mr. Rolland also submitted a sketch No. C.D. 1211

that had been prepared in his Department showing possible treatment for Brisbane and Perth buildings on the East and likewise for Adelaide and Hobart Buildings on the West of the present City blocks. In each case the streets between the blocks were eliminated to provide a continuous building scheme. This arrangement was noted with interest by the Committee.

There was some discussion on these alternative schemes. It was agreed, finally, that Mr. Rolland would arrange for the Architect in his Sydney Office, who was dealing with Canberra matters, to see Mr. Harris and develop the sketch of his scheme so that its full effect and implications might be studied by the Committee as early as practicable.

(ii) North side Commercial facilities:

The attention of the Committee was next directed towards the diagrammatic plan, dated the 9th July, 1946, copies of which had been distributed by Mr. Rolland at the previous meeting. Mr. Rolland pointed out that this was prepared according to certain general principles, having relation to the population to be served, and was intended to raise points for discussion and by no means to be taken as a hard and fast proposal so far as its suggestions were concerned. It gave useful information for the Committee to consider.

The Committee noted the information which the diagram presented and there was some discussion regarding the principles on which it was set out.

Reference was made to the density of population as shown, and the facts affecting it, and as to whether built up areas were occupied residentially or for portion of the day only. The various factors, economic and otherwise, that bore on the situation were also discussed.

In relation to shopping blocks there was some discussion as to the extent to which general stores with service for a large number of people might be used instead of a greater number of single shops as being adequate for the needs of a neighbourhood centre.

It was realised that, in making an analysis of the plan, the main objective was to raise facts for discussion rather than to apply hard and fast principles in too strict or academic a manner.

The Committee felt also that there should be certain character and individuality, as well as variety, given to the planning of Canberra whilst, at the same time, making sure that convenience and economy were reasonably observed.

The Chairman said that the plan was of interest to show the relation between the various areas of present development and bring forward for consideration factors for which allowance must be made in planning.

Mr. Harris suggested that a further plan be prepared showing by dots the actual density of the present population rather than indications in a certain colour of built up areas. Mr. Rolland stated that he would arrange for further study to be given in the light of the discussion and would adopt the suggestions made by Mr. Harris for delineating the density of the population.

(d) South side of City: General Development:

The Members of the Committee indicated that they had noted Plans Nos. Canberra 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18, C.T.P. 3 to 8, relating to tentative proposals for south side development.

They had noted the analysis of existing population and the facilities available, and the projected development at intervals to provide ultimately for a population of 30,500. There was general discussion regarding the manner in which studies of this type should be conducted



and Mr. Harris suggested that he would like to see the population indicated by dots as was suggested in relation to development on the north side. In response to his question as to whether an aerial mosaic of Canberra had been made available the Executive Member stated that he had not seen one although the Air Force during the war had utilised the Canberra area very considerably for training in aerial photography. It appeared to be almost certain that the Air Force would be in possession of such a mosaic. Mr. Harris pointed out the value of such mosaics in considering planning problems and the help that they were to discussions. He instanced the mosaic obtained in relation to the town of Wagga Wagga with which some of the members of the Committee were familiar. It was agreed that the Executive Member would communicate with the Department of Air and ask if a copy of the mosaic of Canberra could be supplied for the assistance of the Committee in considering planning and development problems.

ADMINISTRATIVE

AREA: STEAM  
AND HEATING  
SERVICE:

Members of the Committee acknowledged receipt of copies of the report made available by Mr. Rolland in relation to the provision of a steam and hot water service to the proposed permanent administrative building, and to other official offices in the Governmental area and its neighbourhood, and supplied from the existing Power House at Kingston.

The Committee noted that the decision to adopt this method of supply definitely eliminated the proposal, previously discussed, for a local heating unit in the administrative area, and it felt that the solution was from many points of view a very advantageous one. In response to enquiries by the Executive Member there appeared to be no special points raised as a result of perusal of this report.

POWER HOUSE  
AND MECHANICAL  
WORKSHOP:

An inspection was made of the Power House and its immediate neighbourhood in relation to schemes for additional buildings and improvements to the present structures.

The site indicated for the Electrical Workshop between the existing cottages and Brisbane Avenue was noted and Mr. Rolland stated that this suggestion had now been abandoned in favour of a scheme to amalgamate the Electrical and Mechanical Workshop in a single building of two storeys. After viewing the present shops the Committee noted that a considerable area was available upon which a large building could be erected and, in view of the comparative permanence of the Power House, it decided that it saw no objection to the proposal for a permanent building for workshop purposes on the site proposed. Mr. Rolland stated that a building scheme would be prepared and submitted to the Committee at a later date.

The Chairman and Mr. Harris endorsed the approval given by the Committee at the last meeting to the raising of the chimney. Mr. Rolland pointed out that this was necessary to avoid the deposits of soot through the Power House and adjoining buildings on account of the lack of the chimney's height. It was suggested to him that the engineers undertake an investigation as to whether much of the soot could not be consumed. Insistence upon this is made in many towns. Mr. Rolland said that he would refer the matter to the Department's engineers.

Mention was made of the future extension of the Power House building to accommodate an additional boiler and the Committee discussed the architectural effect of this scheme. Details were not available as to the extent of the additions, and it was decided to ask Mr. Rolland to submit a plan showing the proposed extensions and to have checked the plan that was available indicating the relative position of the Power House and the Avenue.

Another point raised was the possibility of constructing proper concrete or brick bins for holding coal to avoid the necessity of the coal lying on the open ground being exposed to the wind, and thereby increasing the dust and grit nuisance in stormy weather.

Mr. Rolland said that he would refer this matter also to the Departmental engineers.

COMMUNITY  
HOSPITAL:  
OBSTETRIC  
BLOCK:

The position in relation to the proposed additions to the obstetric block, as examined at the last meeting of the Committee, was explained to the Chairman and Mr. Harris, who had not then been present.

The Executive Member reported that, as requested, he had seen the Works Officers and explained to the Architect who had prepared the plans the Committee's view that the projection of the building into the parking area should be foreshortened, that there should not be an entrance at that point, and that the waiting rooms should be eliminated. He understood that the Architect was to prepare an amended scheme accordingly.

Mr. Rolland stated that he believed the Hospital authorities did not favour the proposal to eliminate the waiting room because they considered that the present waiting room, which was really little more than a through passage, provided inadequate accommodation, and there was insufficient privacy.

The Chairman stated that, in these circumstances, it might be necessary to utilise one or more of the rooms intended as additional wards for this purpose. Mr. Rolland stated that he would obtain an amended plan for submission to the Committee.

WORKMEN'S  
HOUSES,  
YARRALUMLA:

The Executive Member submitted to the Committee a report by the Surveyor-General and sketches indicating alternative subdivisions of the area bounded by Banks, Denman, Hutchins Street and an unnamed street, which had been inspected at the previous meeting, and considered suitable as a site for the prefabricated houses for workmen in the brickworks area. These had been prepared as the result of joint consideration by the Works and Housing Department and the Property and Survey Branch, and the objective had been to leave a certain number of sites for permanent houses and so arrange the temporary houses that the services would be suitable, as far as practicable, for the final treatment of the section in its permanent form.

It was noted by the Committee that the proposal recommended involved the elimination of an unnamed street, as shown in yellow, between Denman and Hutchins Streets and the joining together of two sections.

The Committee agreed that there was no necessity to retain the street either for a temporary or a permanent scheme and that its elimination was desirable.

After considering the points raised by the Surveyor-General and reviewing the schemes the Committee expressed its concurrence with the Surveyor-General's view that scheme "B" afforded a better arrangement and admitted of the engineering services being readily adapted to the ultimate permanent subdivisional scheme.

It resolved accordingly to recommend -

(a) That the site adjoining Banks Street and shown on Plan No. C.D. 1197 be adopted;

(b) That the layout shown on Plan "B" be approved; and

(c) That the proposal for the elimination of the street on the approved City Plan shown in yellow on Plan "B" be adopted.

RAILWAY

Mr. Rolland stated that a plan had been prepared in his office suggesting alternative proposals for the development of the railway by reverting to a scheme that was under consideration by the Federal Capital Commission. This provided for transferring the line to skirt the lower slopes of Mount Ainslie instead of locating it in the vicinity of City with the attendant difficulties of road crossings and the severance in Reid and Braddon. A statement on the plan set out a number

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of considerations against the railway location as planned and in favour of the Ainslie scheme.

As the entire railway question was under investigation by the Commonwealth Railways Commissioner the Committee noted the suggestion made but deferred consideration of the points at issue pending the receipt of a report from the Railway Department.

TRAFFIC PROVISIONS:

Consideration was given to a report of the Traffic Advisory Committee, certain recommendations of which were referred for the Committee's advice by the Secretary, Department of the Interior, as they affected planning.

The nature of the Committee and its work were explained by the Executive Member who stated that the Committee, when set up, was originally called the "Visibility Committee" and its objectives included - - principally the examination of situations where, on account of planting or other circumstances, there were dangers to motor traffic at intersections or other points on important routes. It had since given advice generally on traffic matters and its name had recently been changed to Traffic Advisory Committee.

The Committee's report related principally to difficulties in the neighbourhood of City and the Committee considered the points on which its advice was requested as follows:

(a) Alinga Street:

The report mentioned the increasing congestion in that portion of Alinga Street between Northbourne Avenue and Mort Street. In this section there were certain permanent garden plots, between which parking of cars was permitted. There was a tendency to park also along the kerb. Omnibuses used the street and more recently the location of the Tourist Bureau in Sydney Buildings on this section involved the presence of large numbers of tourist coaches.

The Committee inspected Alinga Street and noted the conditions. It agreed to the suggestion for eliminating the centre garden plots.

(b) Alinga Street: Tourist Bureau Requirements:

The report suggested that the concrete strip between the outer edge of the lawn and the kerb line be widened to 6 ft. for the entire frontage of the Tourist Bureau. This was considered necessary to enable passengers and luggage to leave the tourist coaches without trespassing on a lawn area.

The Committee concurred in this proposal and raised the question as to whether it would not be better to carry the paving from the kerb to the Arcade. It noted the fact that the Tourist Bureau had a tenure of three years only, and it decided to suggest that paving be put down in slabs which could be readily removed and the lawn restored upon the transfer of the Bureau to other premises.

(c) Mort Street, City: Omnibus stop:

It was proposed in the report to make an alteration to the omnibus stop opposite the Civic Theatre on the western side of Mort Street similar to that made at Giles Street, the object being to enable the omnibuses to pull out of the traffic so as to set down and pick up passengers.

The Executive Member explained to the Committee the arrangement that was in force at Giles Street, which constituted, practically, the inclusion of portion of the parking area in the road to enable the omnibuses to halt out of the main traffic stream.

The Committee concurred in the proposal made in the report.



(d) Northbourne Avenue, Parking Area:

The report contained the suggestion that a parking area be established in the central plantation of Northbourne Avenue, between the public lavatories and Alinga Street, with entrances on the up and down routes, making provision for twenty two cars. It stated that an increase in the parking facilities was regarded as being necessary and that the position would be accentuated by the elimination of parking in the eastern section of Alinga Street consequent upon the removal of the garden plots.

After looking into this proposal the Committee felt that the position of the proposed parking area should be changed. It thought that the proper treatment for the area suggested would be by lawns and shrubs so as to enhance the whole appearance of what is at present an important City feature between the main shopping blocks.

It decided to suggest that the parking area be constructed on the northern side of the lavatory block, and that careful attention be given to its design in respect to ingress and egress both for convenience and safety in respect to the main traffic.

(e) Kingston: Parking in Jardine Street:

The report referred to recommendations made in an earlier report in relation to the parking sites in Jardine Street. As the Committee was unable to ascertain, during the meeting, what points were raised in the previous report, it was not in a position to deal with this item. It inspected Jardine Street and noted the existing arrangements. It thought that there would be no objection, if additional parking were required, to the establishment of a parking area on the east side of Jardine Street similar to that provided for on the west side.

It was decided to leave this matter in the hands of the Executive Member to consult with those concerned and apply the Committee's views, if necessary communicating with the Members.

LAKE SCHEME  
CONFERENCE  
WITH CONSULT-  
ATIVE  
COMMITTEE:

By arrangement, the Committee held a conference with the Consultative Committee, Parks and Gardens, to discuss the matters in relation to the Lakes Scheme raised by the Consultative Committee and referred to the Planning Committee by the Secretary, Department of the Interior.

The Consultative Committee was represented by its Chairman, Dr. Jacobs, Mr. M. J. Moir and Mr. L. F. Pryor, Superintendent of Parks and Gardens.

The Chairman welcomed the Members of the Committee and stated that the Planning Committee was glad to have a discussion with the Consultative Committee on matters of common interest. He understood that the matters at present with which the Committee were concerned were those dependent on a decision in relation to the Lake Scheme.

Dr. Jacobs intimated that the general question which he wished to mention was that of proper coordination between the work of his Committee and that of the Department of the Interior, the Planning Committee and the Department of Works and Housing. He thought that it would be desirable to have an active association between the two Committees, as continuance of planting and garden treatment was very closely interlocked with most of the projects for Canberra development.

Mr. Moir supported this statement and said that the Consultative Committee wished to have more knowledge of proposals that were being developed. The Superintendent of Parks and Gardens had to consider the propagation of trees for the purpose of the beautification scheme, and this was a fairly long range activity, involving, not only the production of well-grown trees when required, but also consideration of the types of trees that were suitable for various purposes.

*A.*

In regard to the Lakes he remarked that it was necessary to know whether the scheme as set out in the Griffin plan was to be implemented and if not what alterations were proposed. His Committee had to think ahead from fifteen to twenty years.

Mr. Pryor endorsed this view, especially the necessity for long range planning. It was not at present clear to him what was proposed in regard to important features such as the railway and the Lakes, and this absence of information limited his activities in regard to propagation. As examples, he mentioned the main entrance to the City by road traffic, the question of whether Northbourne Avenue would meet requirements for traffic, and whether, in planning, any allowance should be made for alteration in the width of the roadways in main avenues and the relation of planting in avenues to that in the important permanent establishments. The Parks and Gardens section would be glad to be acquainted as soon as possible with details of the long range plan for these reasons.

Mr. Rolland explained that his Department was reviewing important components of the plan, such as the Lake Scheme, from an engineering point of view. It had not been practicable to make this review during the war but, owing to the lapse of time that had occurred, the Planning Committee had requested his Department to examine the more important engineering schemes. Work in this connection was now in hand.

Mr. Daley mentioned the similar present position in regard to investigations into the railway and the water supply as well as the Lake Scheme. A definite decision in regard to these subjects must await an exhaustive revision of the data and its critical examination under modern conditions.

The Chairman asked if it could be indicated to the Committee what planting schemes were in mind in regard to which it was thought the Planning Committee might give its assistance and advice at the present time.

Mr. Moir explained the position in regard to the Governmental area. Considerable attention had to be given to this area to remove unsuitable trees and resume an active policy of beautification. Thinning of types fading out through disease or other reasons was necessary and considerable replanting would have to be done. The preparation for much of the work was dependent upon some knowledge as to what was intended in regard to the buildings.

His Committee knew that the Administrative Building for which foundations had been put in was likely to proceed and he presumed that a corresponding building on the western side of the area would follow. The position in regard to other buildings, however, was obscure. An important question, for example, was that of access to the sites of the buildings and feature planting in relation thereto. His Committee regarded the Parliamentary area as one having early priority. A fundamental question, of course, was the level to be adopted for West Lake. Mr. Daley stated that under the scheme as it stood the lake level at West Lake was 1825 feet, but, as previously indicated, the whole scheme was subject to review.

Mr. Rolland suggested that the Consultative Committee might give an indication of its high priority work in order that the Planning Committee could indicate whether any difficulties still existed in respect to the various items from the planning point of view.

Mr. Moir mentioned the Botanical Gardens and their relation to the University area. Important development would proceed within the Botanical Gardens, quite apart from the University, and he understood that the Planning Committee had a copy of Dr. Dickson's report on the gardens.

Northbourne Avenue and Canberra Avenue were two important thoroughfares which required much consideration. In regard to the latter there was the necessity to lower the level of the plantation over a considerable portion and a good deal of replanting would be necessary. Mr. Daley pointed out that practically the whole of the planting in this avenue had

been paid for by various bodies desiring a link with Canberra, and this circumstance was an important factor to consider in relation to schemes of replanting consequent upon an alteration in the level of the plantation. Unfortunately, for sentimental reasons, these plantations had been carried out under considerable pressure before the road levels were finally settled. The selections had been made from the stocks of plants available and this might have resulted in the utilisation of some types that have not since proved their worthiness or their capacity to endure.

The Chairman assured Dr. Jacobs and members of his Committee that the Planning Committee was glad to have the closest cooperation with his Committee. It was realised that tree planting was an integral portion of the beautification of Canberra and that considerable time was involved in making preparation ahead for subsequent planting. He mentioned Anzac Park as a feature which might be the subject of early investigation. The Planning Committee had given some attention to it several years ago. He felt that there were many other areas in regard to which schemes could be developed at the present time which were not affected by such questions as the Lakes or the Railway.

He believed that the two Committees should work together in close association as they really had the same objective. He thought it might be arranged for the Committees to have a joint meeting at intervals.

Dr. Jacobs thanked the Chairman and said that his Committee appreciated the way in which it had been received. He was sure that the work of the Committees would be assisted very greatly as the result of the collaboration proposed. He undertook to provide the Planning Committee with a list of the questions which the Consultative Committee felt were of urgent importance, with the object of obtaining some indication from the Planning Committee as to those in regard to which the way might appear to be clear to proceed, and if not for an indication of any difficulties that might remain to be cleared up.

PRIVATE  
ENTERPRISE  
BUILDINGS:


(a) Block 1, Section 18, Forrest: Burns Memorial Hall:

For the information of the Committee a large scale perspective of the proposed Burns Memorial Hall, submitted by Mr. A. S. Robertson, Architect, was produced. The Committee decided to confirm the tentative approval for this preliminary scheme, given as a result of correspondence with the Chairman and Mr. Harris. It was of the opinion that the set of sketch plans, as submitted, provided for suitable treatment, subject to further consideration of details and, in particular, the question of colour of the external brickwork.

(b) Section 22, Turner, R.S.S. & A.I.L.A. Memorial Hall and Club Rooms:

The advice given by the Committee at its last meeting respecting the allotment of portion of Section 22, Turner, as a site for a Memorial Hall and Club Rooms for the North Canberra Sub-Branch of the R.S.S. & A.I.L.A. was referred to and the Chairman and Mr. Harris stated their agreement with it.

Plans of the proposed building were shown to them and they noted the extent of the work. The Executive Member stated that a further communication on this subject had been received from the Commonwealth Surveyor-General, suggesting that, in view of the objections to the site on Section 22, an alternative site 200' x 279' facing Northbourne Avenue in the section immediately north of Section 42 might be selected. He requested an expression of the Committee's views on this point. He indicated that it was not felt that there was any duplication of purpose between the present application and that of the Returned Soldiers' Club at City as the latter Club was leased to the Canberra Returned Soldiers' Club Ltd. and was not in any way a soldiers' memorial.



The Executive Member explained that, although the site at City in West Row had been granted with the object of providing a club for returned soldiers, owing to the apathy of the latter the management had largely passed out of its hands, and membership was not confined to returned soldiers. Moreover, the membership list was full and the greatly increased number of returned soldiers from the recent war were not permitted to use the Club. It was for this reason that they desired to form a club for the North Canberra Branch of the League which would be solely for a returned soldiers' club and would be regarded as a memorial to Canberra soldiers who fell in the war.

It was resolved that the Committee, whilst fully appreciating the nature of the project, did not feel that it was an advantage to allocate a site on Northbourne Avenue for the purposes indicated in the plans. The land would soon be of considerable value and it was noted that a considerable portion of the site would be used for recreation purposes. This was regarded as uneconomical on land so close to the heart of the City. Moreover, the location of such an Institution on a main avenue would soon raise a parking problem for cars. In the third place the whole of this section had more recently been the subject of a scheme for the erection of flats by the Government which, though postponed, may later receive consideration.

The buildings on the land, should, in the Committee's opinion, be of two-storey design.

The Committee decided to suggest that the Department give consideration to the selection of a site where the disabilities mentioned would not obtain, and where the allocation of a suitable area, presumably at a very low rental, might be made, quite conveniently for the purposes of the application and the uses to which it is proposed the land shall be put.

NEXT  
MEETING:

A suggestion was made that the September meeting should be held in Sydney. The Executive Member stated, however, that he expected to be going on leave towards the end of August and that he would be away well into September. It was decided, therefore, to omit the September meeting and hold the next meeting early in October in Canberra unless, in the meantime, some urgent circumstances dictated the making of other arrangements.

Mr. Rolland left at 3.30 on Friday, the 9th August, to catch the plane to Melbourne and the meeting terminated at 5.30 p. m.

C O N F I R M E D

*R. Keith Harris.*

CHAIRMAN

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