

The Deputy Director, Posts and Telegraphs, in his communication, advised that the present automatic telephone exchange service at Canberra, operated from No. 1 Secretariat building, was fast reaching saturation point, and it was proposed to establish three new exchange buildings to meet the growing telephone needs of the Australian Capital Territory: one a new central exchange and two branch exchanges at Civic Centre and Manuka. The central exchange proposed to be established on the site now applied for would serve all the administrative buildings in the locality, and its position, being very close to the existing exchange, would make it comparatively easy to pick up the existing cable runs which radiate from the latter.

Mr. Knight, Surveyor of the Property and Survey Branch of the Department of the Interior, was present during the discussions of the Committee which subsequently inspected the proposed site.

The Committee was of the opinion that the site suggested should be devoted to an important building for which it would be necessary to provide for more immediate and constant access by the public than is the case with respect to a telephone exchange, and it decided to suggest that a site on the northern side of the junction of Windsor Walk and Blackall Street be selected for the exchange building. The Committee requested, however, that it be advised as to the proposed use of the building now containing the Post Office and Telephone Exchange, and generally referred to as Commonwealth Offices, East Block.

Consideration was given to a proposal by the Director of Works, A.C.T., for the variation of the location of the access road to the Demountable Houses Area, Narrabundah, as indicated on plan TP. 4/49.

It was noted that, when the computation sheet was prepared from previous sketches submitted to the Committee ( CD. 1140, TP.24/48 and TP.74/48), it was found that the curve of the southern access road, when extended, cut into the plantation of the future 200' avenue by approximately 30 feet. The proposal shown in Plan TP. 4/49 was to turn the access road in a large radius curve to keep the road pavements clear of each other and separate traffic of different types, namely, access road and main road traffic and, when it was decided to construct the main radial road, to provide a short link road to connect the two separate roads.

The Committee approved of the proposal.

The Surveyor-General and Chief Property Officer submitted a plan indicating several sites as possible alternatives for the firewood depot at Ainslie which he reported as being engulfed by city development, and recommended an area ( marked "B" on the plan) in the southern corner of Block 18, Canberra City District, being situated immediately north of the junction of the main stock route to Yass with the Federal Highway. It was stated that the Chairman of the Firewood Supplies Committee had acquiesced in the selection of site "B".

Mr. Knight, Surveyor of the Property and Survey Branch of the Department of the Interior, who was present during the Committee's discussion on the matter, intimated that a site having an area between 10 and 15 acres for woodyards may be required on the northern side of Canberra for approximately the next twenty years. He also stated that most of the bulk supplies of firewood obtained north of Canberra were brought in over the Federal Highway.

The Committee considered that an alternative position to site "B" should be found because of its proximity to the Federal Highway which is the main road approach used by travellers to Canberra from Sydney. It recommended an investigation into the suitability of the eastern portion of Block 41, Canberra City District, which, it considered, could be satisfactorily screened, by a plantation, from visibility from the Federal Highway and, at the same time, provided, probably, with easy connection with the Highway by the construction of a short access road.

NARRABUNDAH  
DEMOUNTABLE  
HOUSES AREA:  
VARIATION OF  
ACCESS ROAD.

WOODYARDS: NEW  
SITE ON NORTH-  
ERN SIDE.

TURNER, SECTION  
48: SITING  
OF HOUSES, &c.

Consideration was given to the proposed siting of 20 brick houses in Section 48, Turner ( east of Sullivan's Creek), as suggested in Plan No. 18302 which had been developed from the layout indicated by Plan TP. 83/48.

The plans mentioned were submitted by Mr. Litchfield who explained their relevant details to the Committee.

The Committee agreed to the proposed siting of the houses in accordance with Plan A.C.T. 18302, but recommended that the area situated in the northern portion of Section 48- allocated in the Plan " to proposed Church, Social Hall and Tennis Court, and Church Residence" - be not allocated for any specific purpose at present, and that any reference to its possible use be deleted from the Plan until such time as it might become necessary to consider its disposal.

OMNIBUS SHELTER:  
LONDON CIRCUIT  
( NEAR MULWALA  
HOSTEL) :

A proposal for the construction of an omnibus shelter on the southern side of the junction of London Circuit and Constitution Avenue, Parkes ( near Mulwala Hostel), was explained by Mr. Litchfield who tendered plans A.C.T. 18377 and 18382.

The Committee noted that the main purpose of the proposed shelter was to serve residents of Mulwala Hostel, particularly those requiring transport to the Government offices on the south side of the City.

The suggested site was later inspected by the Committee which agreed to the location and the proposed design in accordance with the Plans referred to above.

NARRABUNDAH:  
PRE-SCHOOL  
CENTRE:

Plan A.C.T. 18359 and a coloured perspective design were also presented by Mr. Litchfield to illustrate proposals for the design of a Pre-School Centre at Narrabundah.

Mr. Litchfield explained that the Centre was intended to be a two-unit type situated in that portion of Narrabundah where the demountable type of houses have been erected; and that the buildings would be constructed of timber with vertical boardings and a shallow-pitched skillion roof.

The Committee concurred in the proposed layout of the Centre and design of the buildings in accordance with the plan and design submitted.

YARRALUMLA:  
SITE FOR  
WORKMEN'S  
TEMPORARY  
HOSTEL

Mr. Litchfield informed the Committee that, on developing the plans of the site for the proposed Workmen's Hostel at Yarralumla ( near Westlake cottages) recommended and agreed to by the Committee at its 73rd meeting, it was found that the provision of sewerage facilities would be a major engineering problem and would involve a much greater expenditure than would be justified in connection with the construction of temporary buildings.

As the result of an examination of the adjacent areas, the Department of Works and Housing considered that a suitable site would be the northern end of the ridge situated immediately east of the Westlake cottages. The site was well timbered and reasonable effective screening from the Hotel Canberra area existed. The provision of sewerage facilities would not be a major problem and the site could be connected by road with the existing access road to the Westlake cottages.

The Committee subsequently inspected the suggested site and, subject to the retention of as much of the existing timber on and adjacent to the site as possible, approved of its allocation for a Workmen's Temporary Hostel in lieu of the site inspected and agreed to at its 73rd meeting.