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1972

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

*Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works*

## REPORT

relating to the proposed construction of a

# COMMONWEALTH CENTRE (FIRST STAGE)

at

## Woolloomooloo, New South Wales

(TWENTIETH REPORT OF 1972)

18. Non Official Evidence At the public hearings and in written submissions there was a considerable expression of opposition to the scheme by non official witnesses. A common objection was concern with the suitability of the site from the point of view of its convenience to public transport, existing and planned, and the pressures expected to be placed on the suburban rail system by staff, particularly in the city area at peak periods. There was a questioning on town planning grounds of the suitability of the area for further significant office development and particularly its relationship to the centre of gravity of metropolitan Sydney.

THE COMMITTEE'S DELIBERATIONS

19. The result of our close consideration of the evidence is expressed in the following extract from the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 17 August 1972.

"It was moved by Mr. Johnson, seconded Mr. James -

That whilst

- (a) conceding the need for additional large scale Commonwealth owned office accommodation for use by Commonwealth departments in Sydney; and
- (b) appreciating the quality of the submissions made by representatives of the Department of the Interior and the Department of Works;

the Committee is of the opinion that

- (i) there is evidence that the implementation of the proposal would contribute to a scale of workforce in excess of the desirable level in the Woolloomooloo basin:

- (ii) staff and public utilisation of the complex will strain road, transport and other services beyond capacity and cause serious long term inconvenience to commuters and the public;
- (iii) public interest would be better served if the Commonwealth used its current need for large scale office accommodation as an occasion to take a significant initiative towards the principle of decentralisation;
- (iv) the project should be disapproved and consideration given to decentralising the proposed office complex and future complexes.

Debate ensued.

The Committee divided.

Ayes

Mr. Johnson (Lab. Queensland)

Mr. James (Lab. New South Wales)

Mr. Fulton (Lab. Cairns)

Senator Jessop (Lib. S.A.)

Noes

Mr. Kelly (Lib. Adelaide)

Mr. Corbett (C.P. Denbigh)

Senator Webster (C.P. Vic)

and so it was resolved in the affirmative."

20. Recommendation In accordance with this resolution therefore, it is the recommendation of the Committee that it is not expedient to proceed with the proposed work as submitted by the sponsoring authorities.

(C.R. KELLY)  
Chairman.

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works,  
Parliament House,  
CANBERRA, ACT.

29 August 1972.