

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL  
TERRITORY

***ORGANISATION OF THE 1996 NATIONAL  
CONFERENCES  
OF  
AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY  
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEES  
AND  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEES***

REPORT NO.16  
OF THE  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

SEPTEMBER 1996



**Resolution of appointment [by the Legislative Assembly] of the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment:**

[that] a Standing Committee on Planning and Environment [be established] to examine matters related to planning, land management, transport, commercial development, industrial and residential development, infrastructure and capital works, science and technology, the environment, conservation, heritage, energy and resources...

[And that the committee] inquire into and report on matters referred to [it] by the Assembly or matters that are considered by the committee to be of concern to the community.

*Minutes of Proceedings* (Third Assembly) No.1 - 9 March 1995, amended 22 June 1995

**Committee Membership**

Mr Michael Moore MLA (Chair)  
Mr Trevor Kaine MLA (Deputy Chair)  
Ms Lucy Horodny MLA  
Ms Roberta McRae OAM, MLA

Secretary: Mr Rod Power  
Assistance: Ms Anne Munns



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### ***Introduction***

1. This is a report by the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment on the organisation of the 1996 National Conferences of Parliamentary Public Works Committees and Parliamentary Environment Committees held in the chamber of the A.C.T. Legislative Assembly on 5-7 August 1996.
2. The report should be read in conjunction with two separate reports devoted to the content of each Conference. These reports are entitled *Issues Raised at the 1996 National Conference of Australian Parliamentary Environment Committees* (Report No.17 of the Planning and Environment Committee) and *Issues Raised at the 1996 National Conference of Australian Parliamentary Public Works Committees* (Report No.18 of the Planning and Environment Committee).
3. The Committee stresses the distinction between the **organisation** of the Conferences and the **content** of the Conferences. Readers interested in the views expressed at the Conferences should consult the companion reports.
4. The proceedings of both Conferences were taped and subsequently edited by the Hansard Office of the Assembly. Delegates to both Conferences endorsed publication of the proceedings. The *Transcript of Proceedings* is available from the Committee Office.

### ***Decision to host the Conferences***

5. Members of the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment [PEC] attended the 1995 Conference of Parliamentary Public Works Committees held in the House of Assembly Chamber, Parliament House, Adelaide, on 6-7 November 1995. Previous meetings of Public Works Committees had taken place in Hobart in 1994, Canberra in 1993 (hosted by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Committee on Public Works), and in Brisbane in 1992.
6. Members of the PEC considered that it was time the A.C.T. Assembly took its turn in hosting the national Conference. Accordingly, this Committee offered to host the 1996 Conference of Public Works Committees. This offer was accepted by other parliamentary committees.
7. Also in 1995, members of the PEC attended the Inaugural Conference of Australian Parliamentary Environment Committees held in the Legislative Council, Parliament House, Melbourne, on 31 July 1995. Delegates at this conference considered it would be useful to meet in the following year. A decision on where to meet was left to negotiation among the committees.

8. The PEC considered there were a number of advantages in hosting both conferences over consecutive days:

- it would acknowledge the fact that some parliamentary committees (of which the PEC is one) were responsible for examining **both** the public works aspects of Government activity and environment activities generally;
- it would recognise that environmental issues are becoming increasingly important when considering public works projects (this is particularly so in the A.C.T. where major capital works have been altered to take account of environmental concerns)
- it would reduce delegates' travel times and costs (attending two conferences in the one venue over a three day period was cheaper than attending two conferences at different times in different venues); and
- it would facilitate planning by the A.C.T.'s Standing Committee on Planning and Environment.

9. The PEC consulted other parliamentary committees before deciding that the most suitable time for the Conferences was 5-7 August 1996. The Committee then formally wrote to the appropriate committees of Commonwealth, State and Territory Parliaments, inviting them to the Conferences and inviting input to the Conference agendas. The Committee also wrote to the new Zealand Parliament and to the Parliament of Papua New Guinea.

10. In order to further reduce the travel costs of delegates, it was decided to start the first day's proceedings at 10.am and to conclude on the final day at 4.15pm. The PEC hoped this would enable delegates, if they wished, to fly into Canberra on the first day of the Conferences and leave on the last day, thus incurring only two nights' accommodation costs (if staying for the two Conferences).

***A first for the A.C.T.***

11. This is the first time that the A.C.T. Legislative Assembly has hosted major parliamentary conferences of this kind. It also was the first time that the Chamber of the Assembly was used for such a purpose. It is a sign of the Assembly's maturity that it is able to host such a gathering of parliamentarians.

***Parliamentary committees in attendance***

12. The following parliamentary committees attended the Public Works Conference:

- Public Works Committee (Commonwealth Parliament);
- Standing Committee on Public Works (NSW);
- Public Works Committee (QLD);
- Public Works Committee (SA);
- Environment, Resources and Development Committee (SA);
- Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (Tas); and the
- Planning and Development Committee (New Zealand House of Representatives).

13. The following parliamentary committees attended the Environment Conference:

- House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment, Recreation and the Arts (Commonwealth Parliament);
- Standing Committee on Public Works (NSW);
- Environment and Natural Resources Committee (Vic);
- Public Works Committee (QLD);
- Public Works Committee (SA);
- Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (Tas);
- Sessional Committee on the Environment (NT); and the
- Planning and Development Committee (New Zealand House of Representatives).

*Organisation of the 1996 National Conferences of Parliamentary Public Works and Environment Committees*

14. The WA Parliament advised the PEC that it did not have committees covering the public works or environment areas, hence it would not be represented at the Conferences. An apology was received from the Senate's Environment, Recreation, Communications and the Arts Committee, which was extremely busy with inquiries into the proposed Telstra legislation and other matters.

15. The PEC was very pleased that the Parliament of New Zealand was represented at the Conferences. Delegates to the Environment Conference appreciated the insights contained in the address by Mrs Helen Hughes, Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment. Delegates to both Conferences appreciated the perceptive comments of the Clerk of the Planning and Development Committee of the New Zealand House of Representatives, Mr David Bagnall.

***Delegates***

16. Delegates attending the Public Works Conference included:

**HOSTS: A.C.T. Legislative Assembly - Standing Committee on Planning and Environment**

Mr Michael Moore MLA (Chair) [Independent - Molonglo]  
Mr Trevor Kaine MLA (Deputy Chair) [Liberal Party - Brindabella]  
Ms Lucy Horodny MLA [Greens - Ginninderra]  
Ms Roberta McRae OAM, MLA [ALP - Ginninderra]  
Mr Rod Power (Secretary)

**Commonwealth Parliament - Public Works Committee**

Mr Neil Andrew MP (Chair) [Liberal Party - Wakefield, SA]  
Mr Michael Hatton MP [ALP - Blaxland, NSW]  
Senator Shayne Murphy [ALP - TAS]  
Mr Peter Roberts (Secretary)  
Mr Mike Fetter (Assistant Secretary)  
Mr Bjarne Nordin (Incoming Secretary)

**New South Wales Parliament - Standing Committee on Public Works**

Mr Paul Crittenden MP [ALP - Wyong]  
Mr John Price MP [ALP - Waratah]  
Mr Gerry Sullivan MP [ALP - Wollongong]  
Ms Diane Beamer MP [ALP - Badgerys Creek]  
Mr Andrew Humpherson MP [Liberal Party - Davidson]  
Mr Bill Rixon MP [National Party - Lismore]  
Mr Tony Stewart MP [ALP - Lakemba]  
Mr Bill Dunbar (Research Director)

Queensland Parliament - Public Works Committee:

Mr Len Stephan MLA (Chairman) [National Party - Gympie]  
Mr Bill D'Arcy MLA (Deputy Chairman) [ALP - Woodridge]  
Mr Les Dunn (Research Director)

South Australian Parliament - Public Works Committee:

Mr John Oswald MP (Presiding Member) [Liberal Party - Morphett]  
Mr Colin Caudell MP [Liberal Party - Mitchell]  
Ms Lea Stevens MP [ALP - Elizabeth]  
Ms Lyn Van Der Ploeg (Secretary)

South Australian Parliament - Environment, Resources & Development  
Committee

Ms Annette Hurley MP [ALP - Napier]  
Mr Ivan Venning MP [Liberal Party - Custance]  
Ms Gabrielle Artini (Secretary)

*Some of the delegates to the 1996 National Conference of Parliamentary Public Works  
Committees - in the Chamber of the A.C.T. Legislative Assembly (Photo: Barry Brown Graphics)*

*Organisation of the 1996 National Conferences of Parliamentary Public Works and Environment Committees*

Tasmanian Parliament - Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works:

Mr Jim Cox, MHA [ALP - Bass]  
Mr Bruce Goodluck, MHA [Independent - Franklin]  
Hon Stephen Wilson, MLC [Independent - Monmouth]  
Hon Don Wing, MLC [Independent - Launceston]  
Mr Peter Alcock (Secretary)

New Zealand Parliament:

Mr David Bagnall (Clerk of the Planning & Development Committee, NZ House of Representatives)

17. Delegates attending the Environment Conference included:

**HOSTS:** A.C.T. Legislative Assembly - Standing Committee on Planning and Environment

Mr Michael Moore MLA (Chair) [Independent, Molonglo]  
Mr Trevor Kaine MLA (Deputy Chair) [Liberal Party, Brindabella]  
Ms Lucy Horodny MLA [Greens, Ginninderra]  
Ms Roberta McRae OAM, MLA [ALP, Ginninderra]  
Mr Rod Power (Secretary)

Commonwealth Parliament - House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment, Recreation & the Arts:

Mr Warren Truss, MP (Chair) [National Party - Wide Bay, QLD]  
Hon. Janice Crosio, MP (Deputy Chair) [ALP - Prospect, NSW]  
Mr Bruce Billson, MP [Liberal Party - Dunkley, VIC]  
Mr Joe Hockey, MP [Liberal Party - North Sydney, NSW]  
Mr Harry Jenkins, MP [ALP - Scullin, VIC]  
Miss Jackie Kelly, MP [Liberal Party - Lindsay, NSW]  
Mr Graeme McDougall, MP [Liberal Party - Griffith, QLD]  
Dr Andrew Southcott, MP [Liberal Party - Boothby, SA]  
Mr Ian Dundas (Secretary)

New South Wales Parliament - Standing Committee on Public Works

Mr Paul Crittenden MP [ALP - Wyong]  
Mr John Price MP [ALP - Waratah]  
Mr Gerry Sullivan MP [ALP - Wollongong]  
Mr Bill Dunbar (Research Director)

Victorian Parliament - Environment & Natural Resources Committee:

Mr David Perrin MP (Chairman) [Bulleen]  
Hon Cameron Boardman MLC [Chelsea Province]  
Hon Tayfun Eren MLC [Doutta Galla Province]  
Mr Hurtle R Lupton MP [Knox]  
Mrs Judy M Maddigan MP [Essendon]

*Standing Committee on Planning and Environment*

Mr John Pandazopoulos MP [Dandenong]

Mr Garry H Spry MP [Bellarine]

Ms Sarah Walters (Executive Officer)

Queensland Parliament - Public Works Committee:

Mr Len Stephan MLA (Chairman) [National Party - Gympie]

Mr Bill D'Arcy MLA (Deputy Chairman) [ALP - Woodridge]

Mr Les Dunn (Research Director)

South Australian Parliament - Public Works Committee:

Mr Colin Caudell MP [Liberal Party - Mitchell]

Ms Lea Stevens MP [ALP - Elizabeth]

South Australian Parliament - Environment, Resources & Development  
Committee

Ms Annette Hurley MP [ALP - Napier]

Mr Ivan Venning MP [Liberal Party - Custance]

Ms Gabrielle Artini (Secretary)

Tasmanian Parliament - Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works:

Mr Jim Cox, MHA [ALP - Bass]

Mr Bruce Goodluck, MHA [Independent - Franklin]

Hon Stephen Wilson, MLC [Independent - Monmouth]

Hon Don Wing, MLC [Independent - Launceston]

Mr Peter Alcock (Secretary)

*Some of the delegates to the 1996 National Conference of Parliamentary Environment  
Committees - in the Chamber of the A.C.T. Legislative Assembly (Photo: Barry Brown Graphics)*

Northern Territory Parliament - Sessional Committee on the Environment:

Dr Richard Lim, MLA [Country Liberal Party - Greatorex]

Mr Phil Mitchell, MLA [Country Liberal Party - Millner]

Mr Graham Gadd (Clerk Assistant)

New Zealand Parliament:

Mr David Bagnall (Clerk of the Planning & Development Committee, NZ House of Representatives)

***Program of the Public Works Conference***

***Monday 5 August 1996***

From 9.00am Registration in the foyer of the A.C.T. Legislative Assembly (Public Entrance) and tours of the A.C.T. Assembly

10.00am ***Formal welcome to the A.C.T. Legislative Assembly***

- Mr Greg Cornwell MLA (Speaker)

***Introduction to Standing Committee on Planning & Environment***

- Mr Moore MLA (Chair)

10.15am ***A.C.T. Public Works - Overview***

- Mr Gary Humphries MLA (Minister for the Environment, Land & Planning)

10.30am ***The Public Works Process***

PANEL (10mins each speaker)

*Role of the Office of Financial Management [OFM] (including the impact of Financial Management Reforms)*

- Mr Geoff Ellis (Director, Financial & Budgetary Management, OFM)

*Role of the Government's Works & Commercial Services Group*

- Mr Bruce Dockrill (Executive Director, Works & Commercial Services, Department of Urban Services (DUS))

*Role of the Government's Capital Works Group*

- Mr Geoff Ellis OFM

*Role of the Standing Committee on Planning & Environment*

- Mr Moore MLA

11.10am Questions/comment

11.25am ***Morning tea in the Reception Hall***

- 11.45am **Public Works: Issues**  
PANEL (10mins each speaker)  
 *Delivery of Projects*  
- Mr Mike Sullivan (Director, Construction & Maintenance Management Services (CAMMS), DUS)  
 *Strategic Asset Management*  
- Ms Helen Marsden (Director, Policy & Programming, DUS)  
 *Construction Industry Policy*  
- Mr Steve Greenhalgh (Manager, Construction Industry Policy, DUS)  
 *Sustainable Resources and their Infrastructure*  
- Mr Paul Perkins (Deputy Chief Executive Officer, A.C.T. Electricity & Water Corporation (ACTEW))
- 12.25pm Questions/comment
- 12.55pm **Lunch in Reception Room**
- 2.00pm **Inspection of A.C.T. Public Works**  
*Bus tour: 2.00pm-2.45pm* inspect the new Magistrates' Court, then visit National Capital Planning Exhibition [to 3.15pm], travel to Tuggeranong Town Centre (showing Town Park, Indoor Pool, Dam and Lake, Bus Interchange, College and Library, etc), then at 4.15pm drive past infrastructure in south Tuggeranong (eg Gordon Child Care, Condor Distributor) to Lanyon High School for afternoon tea. Short briefing School especially the environmental aspects investigated or trialed there. Briefing on Conder Playing Fields, Point Hut Pond (impact on River) and (from 5.00pm) commence drive back to Civic, passing Primary (designed for a post-school phase use), the former Holder School (post school-use as a community facility) and Curtin Service Centre (prior use as a primary school).
- Government  
1  
on the  
Murrumbidgee  
Bonython  
High  
Emergency
- 5.30pm Return to Assembly
- 7.15pm for 8.00pm **Conference dinner at Parliament House**

**Tuesday 6 August 1996**

- 9.00am **The A.C.T. Assembly Building**  
PANEL (10mins each speaker - Chaired by Ms Roberta McRae OAM MLA (Speaker in the last Assembly - which made the decision to construct this building - and currently Deputy Speaker, and member of the Committee on Planning and Environment)
- Standing
- Overview: What the Client Wanted*  
- Ms McRae OAM MLA
- Design, Construction and Management of the Project*  
- Mr David Thomas (Program Manager, CAMMS) with assistance from Mitchell, Giurgola & Thorp (Architects) and John Hindmarsh Pty Ltd (Project Manager)
- Assessment*  
- Ms Roberta McRae OAM MLA

*Organisation of the 1996 National Conferences of Parliamentary Public Works and Environment Committees*

- 9.45am Questions/comment
- 10.00am ***Morning tea in the Reception Hall***
- 10.15am ***Update by Each Committee of its Activities in the Past Year: the A.C.T.'s Standing Committee on Planning and Environment, the Commonwealth's Public Works Committee, the NSW Public Works Committee, the QLD Public Works Committee, the SA Public Works Committee, the TAS Public Works Committee and a brief comment by Mr Bagnall (NZ)***  
One delegate from each committee to report on committee inquiries, the origins of those inquiries, any problems tossed up by those inquiries, adequacy of resources, future directions likely to be taken by the committee, and any other item of possible interest to delegates
- 12.20 ***Closing Session***  
*Consider where to meet for the next conference (note that the conference was held in Brisbane 1992, Canberra (hosted by the Commonwealth) 1993, Hobart 1994, Adelaide 1995)*
- 12.30pm Close of the Public Works Conference
- Lunch in the Reception Hall***

***Program of the Environment Conference***

**Tuesday 6 August 1996**

From 1.00pm Registration in the foyer of the A.C.T. Legislative Assembly (Public Entrance) and tours of the A.C.T. Assembly

1.55pm ***Formal welcome to the A.C.T. Legislative Assembly***  
- Mr Greg Cornwell MLA (Speaker)

***Introduction to Standing Committee on Planning & Environment***  
- Mr Moore MLA (Chair)

***National and International Environmental Issues***  
PANEL (15 mins each)

***□ National & International Issues Perspectives of Nature Conservation***

Migratory ***- Dr Peter Bridgewater (Chief Executive Officer, Australian Nature Conservation Agency; Australian Commissioner to the International Whaling Commission and Chairman, International Whaling Commission; Australian representative on the Bureau and Rapporteur of the Subsidiary Body on Science, Technology and Technological Advice to the Convention of Biodiversity; Chairman, Standing Committee for the Convention on Species; Chairman, Inter-government Coordinating Council for the***

*Standing Committee on Planning and Environment*

UNESCO Commission  
UNESCO;  
IUCN Commission

Man and the Biosphere Programme; Member, Independent World on the Oceans; Member, Australian National Commission for UNESCO; Member, IUCN Species Survival Commission; Member, on National Parks & Protected Areas.

□ *National and International Issues: Perspectives of Environment Protection*

- Mr Barry Carbon (Executive Director of the Commonwealth Environment Protection Agency; Supervising Scientist, Alligator Rivers Region)

□ *State of the Environment Reporting*

- Dr Joe Baker (A.C.T. Commissioner for the Environment; Chairman of the National Landcare Advisory Committee; Chairman of the Management Committee of the Community Rainforest Reforestation Program; Chairman the (National) Advisory Council on Environmental Employment

of  
Opportunities:  
Northern  
National  
Science);  
Technological

Chairman of the North Queensland Economic Development Board; Finfish Management Advisory Committee (QLD); Chairman of the Committee for the Environment (of the Australian Academy of Science); President of the Federation of Australian Scientific and Societies)

□ *Government Accountability for Environmental Management: The New Zealand Experience*

- Mrs Helen Hughes (Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, New Zealand)

3.00pm Questions/comment

3.25pm *Afternoon tea in the Reception Hall*

3.45pm *Environmental Issues in the A.C.T.*

(10mins each speaker, followed by 10mins for questions)

*1. Endangered Species*

- Dr David Shorthouse (Manager, Wildlife Research Unit) and Mr Ian Lawrence (Principal Planner, Environmental Planning, DUS)

*2. The Implications of Changing Stormwater Perspectives for Urban Management:*

- Mr Ian Lawrence (Principal Planner, Environmental Planning, DUS)

*3. Sustainability - How?*

- Mr Cary Reynolds (Chief Engineer, ACTEW)

*4. Contaminated Sites - Arsenic*

- Mr Norm Bateson (Manager, Contaminated Sites Unit, DUS)

*5. The Smoke-Free A.C.T.: The Road to Legislation*

- Ms Margo Goodin (Senior Policy Officer, Department of Health & Community Care)

5.30pm Adjournment

7.15pm for 8.00pm *Conference dinner at the Boathouse Restaurant on Lake Burley Griffin*

*Wednesday 7 August 1996*

*Organisation of the 1996 National Conferences of Parliamentary Public Works and Environment Committees*

- 9.00am        ***Inspection of Environment Sites***  
*Bus tour:* Depart Legislative Assembly, travel to Resource Efficient Houses at Nichols (9.20am-10.15am), then travel to Xeriscape Gardens at Weston (passing Southwell Park 'grey-water' treatment plant) arriving 10.45am.  
Depart Gardens at 11.10am for Fyshwick Treatment Plant. Depart at 12.05pm to arrive at Hotel Kurrajong by 12.15pm
- Fyshwick
- 12.15am        ***Lunch at Hotel Kurrajong***  
(include talk on the Hotel's National Trust Heritage Listing - the Hotel is funded, and has                      been restored by, the A.C.T. Government)
- 1.45pm        Return to Assembly to resume proceedings
- 2.00pm        ***Update by each committee on its activities in the past year: the A.C.T.'s Standing Committee on Planning and Environment, the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment, Recreation and the Arts, the Victorian Environment and Natural Resources Committee, the SA Environment, Resources and Development Committee, the NT Sessional Committee on the Environment and NZ***  
One delegate from each committee to report on committee inquiries, the origins of those inquiries, any problems tossed up by those inquiries, adequacy of resources, future directions likely to be taken by the committee, and any other item of possible interest to delegates
- 3.15pm        ***Afternoon tea in the Reception Hall***
- 3.30pm        ***Closing session***  
consider where to meet for next conference
- 4.15pm        ***Formal close*** of conference

***Inspections***

18. Delegates to the Public Works Conference inspected the new Magistrates' Court in Civic and the new Lanyon High School. They also were taken on a tour of public works in Tuggeranong Town Centre, roadworks in Condor, pondage at Point Hut, and buildings at Bonython Primary School designed to facilitate a post-school phase.

19. Delegates to the Environment Conference inspected resource-efficient houses at Nicholls, the Xeriscape Gardens at Weston and the new CRANOS sewage treatment plant at Fyshwick. These three sites are operated by ACTEW Corp and the Committee expresses its sincere appreciation for the courtesy and professionalism of staff of ACTEW in facilitating the inspections.

***Conference dinners***

20. Each Conference featured an informal evening dinner which provided an opportunity for delegates to mix and discuss issues of mutual interest. The Public Works dinner was at the Members' Dining Room in Parliament House. The PEC thanks the Commonwealth's Public Works Committee, and in particular its Chair, Mr Neil Andrew MP, for facilitating arrangements.

21. The Environment Conference dinner was at the Boathouse on the Lake Restaurant, which provided an attractive setting for inter-State delegates. A luncheon was also a feature of the Environment Conference - it took place in the Dining Room of the Hotel Kurrajong, which is a Heritage-listed building funded by the A.C.T. Government. The Hotel is a fine example of a functioning heritage, educational and tourist facility.

***Conference venue***

22. The Conferences were held in the Chamber of the Assembly building. This involved bringing in some additional tables and re-arranging the seats. Provision was made for slides and an overhead projector. Speakers were able to utilise the table normally occupied by the Clerks during sitting periods. Some portable microphones were installed to facilitate comment by delegates.

*Mr Moore MLA, Mr Kaine MLA, Mrs Crosio MP and other delegates at the 1996 National Conference of Parliamentary Environment Committees - inspecting Energy Efficient Homes at Nicholls A.C.T. (ACTEW photo)*

23. The Chamber permits the entry of extensive natural light, which makes it an attractive venue for lengthy sitting periods.

24. The Reception Room adjacent to the Chamber was used during the Conferences for displays and refreshments (lunches, morning and afternoon teas). Its ease of access facilitated the smooth workings of the Conferences.

#### ***Assistance of the Speaker***

25. The PEC acknowledges the assistance of the Speaker of the A.C.T. Legislative Assembly, Mr Greg Cornwell MLA, who approved the Conference expenditures and use of the Chamber. On behalf of the Assembly, Mr Cornwell formally welcomed delegates to both Conferences.

#### ***Assistance by the A.C.T. Government***

26. The A.C.T. Chief Minister, Mrs Kate Carnell MLA, gave strong support for the Conferences from the time she was first approached on the matter. She undertook to speak at the Conferences and approved the participation of other Ministers and their officials. In the event, the Chief Minister was unfortunately absent when the Conferences took place and so arranged for the Minister for the Environment, Land & Planning (Mr Gary Humphries MLA) to give the keynote address to the Public Works Conference. The Committee thanks both the Chief Minister and Mr Humphries MLA.

27. In organising the Conference programs, the Committee secretary relied heavily on the assistance of officers of the Administration. In particular, Mr Dan O'Connell of the Department of Urban Services smoothly and unobtrusively facilitated planning for the Public Works Conference.

28. Many officials of the A.C.T. Administration addressed the Conferences. They spoke to a tight timeframe and succinctly outlined the key issues. The Committee is grateful for their input.

29. Further, the Committee thanks Mr Graham Aicheson of the Administration's Publications and Public Communications Unit for facilitating arrangements for the Conferences.

#### ***Assistance by ACTEW Corp***

30. The PEC is keenly appreciative of the support of ACTEW Corp for both Conferences. Senior officers of ACTEW addressed both Conferences. As well, ACTEW organised the details of the inspection by delegates to the Environment Conference.

31. Delegates expressed considerable pleasure at the content of this inspection, which displayed how energy efficient homes, gardens and waste systems can be constructed and operated.

32. In particular, the Committee thanks Mr Cary Reynolds (Chief Engineer) and Mr Paul Perkins (Deputy Chief Executive Officer); ACTEW staff at the Energy Efficient Homes at Nicholls and at the Xeriscape Gardens at Weston; and the Specialist Engineer (Waste Water) at Fyshwick Treatment Works, Mr Ken Barnett.

33. Delegates were especially impressed by the CRANOS sewage treatment plant at Fyshwick. This plant has been patented by ACTEW and demonstrates the way that innovative technology is being used to design smaller and smaller systems. The plant is small enough to be transported by truck to, for example, remote mining communities. Also, it could be buried underground in suburbs to treat local sewage.

*Some delegates to the 1996 National Conference of Parliamentary Environment Committees - inspecting Energy Efficient Homes at Nicholls, A.C.T. (ACTEW photo)*

34. The CRANOS facility is linked by ACTEW's megalink integrated voice and data network to the City offices of ACTEW where it is fully controlled by specialist engineers in waste water management. Delegates were advised that ACTEW has put in a bid to use the CRANOS technology at Homebush Bay for the Sydney Olympics.

35. Some delegates approached ACTEW officers about the possibility of ACTEW providing advice on problems in their own State or Territories. The Committee notes that ACTEW is a corporate body required to be very competitive in the Australian water and electricity market. The Committee would be delighted if information obtained by delegates at the Conferences led to improved business opportunities for ACTEW.

***Assistance by Assembly staff***

36. All staff of the Assembly assisted in the planning and/or operation of the conferences. In particular, the Hansard staff and the Attendants ensured that the Chamber and Reception Room were suitably organised to record and handle the delegates and guest speakers. The Assembly's Education Officer, Ms Mardie Troth, facilitated inspections of the building and collation of material in delegates' satchels. Ms Anne Munns of the Committee Office played a pivotal role in organising the Conference Programs and ensuring that the Conferences functioned smoothly.

***Visit by an officer of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association***

37. Delegates to the Environment Conference acknowledged the visit of the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Sir Colin Shepherd MP. He was accompanied by the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Mr Mark McRae, as he briefly attended the Conference.

***Services provided by A.C.T. organisations***

38. The Committee records its appreciation of the following services provided by A.C.T. organisations:

- Auscript (for recording the conference sessions);
- Murrays Australia (for providing coaches to convey delegates on the two inspections);
- Mr Ken Helm, of Helm's Wines at Murrumbateman NSW (for providing the Conference wine);
- Mr Andrew Creasy of the Garden Court Gourmet Restaurant ( for lunches, morning and afternoon teas);
- Mr Peter Martini, General Manager of the Hotel Kurrajong, and his staff (for lunch at the conclusion of the Environment inspection);

*Standing Committee on Planning and Environment*

- Boathouse-by-the-Lake Restaurant (for providing the venue and dinner during the Environment Conference);
- Parliament House Dining Room (for providing the venue and dinner during the Public Works Conference);
- Mr Barry Woolacott, Principal of Lanyon High School (for briefing delegates on the Public Works inspection);
- Lanyon High School Parents and Citizens Association (for providing afternoon tea during the Public Works inspection);
- Mr Hindmarsh (of John Hindmarsh Pty Ltd, Project Manager) and Mr Hal Guida (of Mitchell, Giurgola & Thorp, Architects) - for speaking about the refurbishment and design (respectively) of the Assembly building;
- Mr Barry Brown of Barry Brown Graphics (for the formal Conference photos);
- Canberra Plastic Binder Manufacturers (for providing the Conference satchels); and
- the National Capital Authority (for displays of tourist information and provision of attractive posters to delegates).

*Some delegates to the 1996 National Conference of Parliamentary Environment Committees - inspecting Energy Efficient Homes at Nicholls, A.C.T. (ACTEW photo)*

***Next conference***

39. Delegates agreed to accept the kind offer by the Queensland Public Works Committee to host the 1997 National Conferences of Parliamentary Public Works and Environment Committees.

***Conclusion***

40. In the week following the Conferences, the Chair of the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment wrote to the above organisations, and to speakers who addressed the Conferences, to express the Committee's appreciation.

41. The Planning and Environment Committee was struck by the great degree of common ground in considering matters now before the Public Works and Environment Committees of Australian Parliaments. The Committee considers the extent of common interest vindicates the decision to schedule both Conferences in the one venue and in the same time period.

42. The host committee acknowledges the kind remarks by delegates to both Conferences about the fine venue, hospitality and organisation of the Conferences.

43. All delegates expressed support for continuing the Conferences, noting the importance of parliamentarians sharing information about their activities and acquiring more detailed knowledge about capital works and environment issues. The Planning and Environment Committee echoes these sentiments and looks forward to the next Parliamentary Conferences of Public Works and Environment Conferences in Brisbane in 1997.

Michael Moore MLA  
Chair

20 September 1996