

CONFIDENTIAL

FILE

AO 180  
Introduced Feb 81

Department of Defence

Reference FASPB 39/84/2

FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE MINISTER/MINISTER ASSISTING (Through DEP SEC B)

Subject	<b>DEFENCE SIGNALS DIRECTORATE (DSD) - NEW COMPUTING SYSTEM</b>
Purpose	To seek agreement of the Ministers for Housing and Construction and Finance to design work proceeding in advance of approval for the above project.
Considerations	<p>DSD relies heavily on computers to effectively carry out its tasks and, to enable DSD to meet workload projections, it is proposed that approval be sought in the context of the 1984-85 Budget for a new analysis computer, at a total project cost of \$15.4m in April 1983 prices. This amount includes \$1.8m for new works and \$13.6m for the equipment (\$3m of which will be required for enhancement of the computer beyond the present FYDP period).</p> <p>The requirement for the computer was <sup>supported</sup> <del>endorsed</del> by the Permanent Heads Committee on Security and Intelligence in December 1983.</p> <p>The equipment will need to be installed in mid 1986 if DSD's performance is not to be degraded. To allow sufficient time for the works to be completed, the Department of Housing and Construction should proceed as soon as possible with design and documentation for the project. Tenders would then be called when approval to proceed is given* (mid 1984).</p> <p>Accordingly, it is recommended that you seek the agreement of the Minister for Housing and Construction and the Minister for Finance to the works aspects being accorded Design List status in advance of formal approval of the associated equipment acquisition. Suitable letters are attached for your signature if you agree.</p> <p>This action will in no way commit the Government to the project.</p>
Resource Aspects	Provision has been made for the project in FYDP 1984-89.
Consultation	Department of Housing and Construction and Finance who agree that this approach is necessary to enable the design documentation to proceed.
Recommendation	<p>It is recommended that you sign the attached letter to the Minister for Housing &amp; Construction and the Minister for Finance.</p> <p>* Approval to be sought in the Budget lineframe</p>

DISTRIBUTION	
Secretary	
CDFS	
DEP SEC B	
DIR DSD	

*[Signature]*  
(Signature)  
D.M. McALISTER  
(Name)

FASPB  
(Designation)  
9.3.84  
(Date)

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED
EXAMINED

CONFIDENTIAL





59(a)  
Declassified by ASD - 21/2/2022

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

MINISTER FOR DEFENCE  
PARLIAMENT HOUSE  
CANBERRA A.C.T. 2600

My dear Minister,

I am writing to you concerning a capital works project required by the Defence Signals Directorate (DSD) of my Department.

DSD activities are an important element of the Government's intelligence and security organisation. The Directorate's ability to effectively carry out its tasks is directly dependent on the power and capability of its computer systems, at Victoria Barracks, Melbourne.

The present computer system is working to capacity and to enable DSD to maintain its activities at the necessary level it is necessary to instal a more powerful system. Provision for this project has been made in our Five Year Defence Program and the requirement has been supported by the Permanent Heads Committee on Security and Intelligence. I give this proposal substantial priority and would provide for it from any Defence budget at, or reasonably near the financial guidance provided by Cabinet. I will be seeking the appropriate formal approvals for the project in the Budget timeframe. Capital works required to support the system are currently estimated to cost \$1.850m.

If the works are to be completed in time for the computer installation to proceed as planned in early 1986, the Department of Housing and Construction must proceed now with its design and documentation and be ready to call tenders for the work around mid 1984. I therefore seek your agreement to the works elements being accorded Design List status in advance of formal approval of the associated equipment acquisition. This action will in no way commit the Government to the project.

Although not in line with normal practice, I believe that this course of action is warranted in view of the importance of the work which DSD carries out in support of the Government and the Defence Force.

I have sent a copy of this letter to the Minister for Finance seeking his agreement also to this action.

Yours sincerely,

(GORDON SCHOLES)

Hon C.J. Hurford, M.P.,  
Minister for Housing and Construction,  
House of Representatives  
CANBERRA A.C.T. 2600



59(b)  
Declassified by ASD - 21/2/2022

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

MINISTER FOR DEFENCE  
PARLIAMENT HOUSE  
CANBERRA A.C.T. 2600

March, 1984

My dear Minister,

I am attaching a copy of a letter I have forwarded to our colleague the Minister for Housing and Construction, seeking his agreement to works elements of a new computer project for the Defence Signals Directorate of my Department being accorded Design List status in advance of formal project approval.

I would appreciate your agreement also to this proposal.

Yours sincerely,

(GORDON SCHOLES)

Hon J.S. Dawkins, M.P.,  
Minister for Finance,  
House of Representatives,  
CANBERRA A.C.T. 2600