

~~SECRET~~

DSD	FILE	FOL
26	2 54	77

400/1/753

164

NAVAL COMMUNICATION STATION, DARWIN -  
NEW RECEIVING FACILITIES

Declassified by ASD - 02/05/2022  
Information removed for national  
security and/or personal sensitivities

DWED

DCNS

AS(NS)

Reference: NPB 2

1. The estimate of the total capital cost of the Shoal Bay receiving station project which includes additional housing and barracks accommodation at Coonawarra West including rearrangement of the Comcentre there has increased by \$M1.346 from \$M3.803 to \$M5.149.

2. Comparison between the major differences in estimated costs in NPB 2 and updated estimates are:

Item No.	Item	NPB 2 Estimate	Updated Estimate	Differences
1.	Building Complex at Shoal Bay	2.200	2.500	+ .300
2.	Acquisition of Land	.126	.542	+ .416
3.	Prime equipment			
a.	Transfer of existing facilities	.025	.120	} ←
b.	Aerials and aerial distribution	.290	.672	
c.	Radio bearer system	.074	.074	
d.	Control system	.214	.257	
e.	Remote controlled receivers	.182	.208	
f.	Test equipment	-	.020	
g.	Frequency Standard	-	.030	
		<u>.785</u>	<u>1.381</u>	+ .596

~~SECRET~~



~~SECRET~~

- 2 -

Declassified by ASD - 02/05/2022  
Information removed for national  
security and/or personal sensitivities

163

Item No.	Item	NPB2 Estimate	Updated Estimate	Difference
4.	Initial Provisioning of Spares	.075	.111	+ .036
5.	General Contingency	.086	.149	+ .063
6.	Housing requirements	.270	.205	- .065

3. Detailed reasons for the increase in the estimate:

Item 1. COMWORKS Limit of Cost estimate updating COMWORKS preliminary estimate.

Item 2. Rapid escalation of land costs occurring while agreement was being sought from the Minister for the Interior to acquire the land for Defence purposes.

Item 3. a. Installation cost for labour was based on \$150 per man per week. A recent contract in Darwin indicates that labour costs should be based on \$450 per man per week. (\$100 basic wage, \$120 overhead, \$90 capital city allowance, \$140 for overtime and airfare component). NPB 2 did not allow for the cost of installation of CRYPTO and special equipment which was considered to be either Ship's Staff or Dockyard work but will now be done by other than RAN personnel.

b. The aerial estimate has increased from \$M.090 to \$M.330 and other aerals from \$M.050 to \$M.110. In March, 1970, a further review was made of aerial requirements. It was decided that an appropriate engineering design study would be made of the Shoal Bay aerial site. DSD stated the aerial specification and WRE has nearly completed the engineering design study. The study has revealed that the aerial system requires considerable modification and a different configuration of other aerals is required. The new estimate is based on a recent verbal quote by Plessey U.K. somewhat similar Canadian requirement and higher quality amplifiers and low loss air space feeder cables required to take advantage of the low ambient noise at Shoal Bay. Other aerals will provide a significant improvement in short and long range reception.

~~SECRET~~

.../3

~~SECRET~~

Declassified by ASD - 02/05/2022  
Information removed for national  
security and/or personal sensitivities

162

- 3 -

- d. and e. NPB 2 estimates were based on order of costs obtained from discussions with manufacturers and have been updated.
- f. and g. Not allowed in NPB 2 but now considered to be essential to provide for adequate testing and frequency control of remote controlled receivers and other equipment.

Item 4. Required to provide 10% for Stores Provisioning  
and General Contingency.  
Item 5.

Item 6. Housing requirements have reduced because four civilian technical officers have been added to the present COONAWARRA complement. Additional technical officers will not be required when the station is operational.

4. A proposed NPB 2 Issue 2 is attached.

4th December, 1970.

Captain, R.A.N.  
D of C.

~~SECRET~~