



New Headquarters for Eastern Region

By Stephen Simpson

Plans are well underway in Sydney for Eastern Region's new headquarters.

A site has been chosen and a building design, submitted by a developer, has been selected. At the moment the fit-out of the building is being decided. When this is done a final brief will be given to the developer who will then prepare tender documents for the building's construction.

Tenders are due to be called in November for construction to commence in December this year. The structure should take about 17 months to build with a further four months for the

fit-out. If all goes according to plan, which it sometimes does, Eastern Region will be resident in its purpose built building by late 1989.

The new headquarters will be located on the corner of Wentworth Avenue and Goulburn Street, in the city's south east. In fact it is the site of the old Vanity Fair Hotel which was a favourite watering hole of Eastern Region members up to 1976 when headquarters were in Brisbane Street, Sydney.

The proposal of the developer, Kinder Investments Pty. Ltd., was chosen ahead of two others on a short list mainly because of the site location. It is close to all major courts, the NSW Police headquarters, and client government departments. It is also well serviced by public transport.

The building will stand alone, being bound by four streets. It will consist of 11 floors plus four underground levels of parking for 150 cars, and it will house all Eastern Region personnel, apart from the Airport Section and some other units requiring separate location.

Each floor will be more than 1300 square meters, which is about three times the size of each floor in the present headquarters in Redfern. The AFP will initially lease a total of 11,500 square meters in the building resulting in the top floor and half the floor below not being used. This space will be available to lease for future growth. The lease will be for 15 years with a five year option.

There are lots of features of the new headquarters worth mentioning. It will contain a pistol range which is likely to be housed in a special structure on the roof of the building. A centralised operations, communications, and computer facility will be established on the one floor. The building will also contain a medical centre for examinations and limited medical care of AFP personnel and eight holding rooms for persons who have been arrested.

Other features are the location on the one floor of a drug vault with its own air conditioning system, a laboratory where Australian Government Analytical Laboratory chemists can conduct drug tests, the Document Examination Bureau, and a facility to examine motor vehicles. This will allow seized drugs to be kept in one area. The building will also contain a workshop and a large meeting room with film screening facilities for briefings, training and media conferences.

Staff amenities have also been given plenty of attention. There will be a well equipped canteen and a large recreation and dining area. An exercise room will be set up with a range of equipment and of course showers and substantial locker rooms will also be included.

The internal layout will emphasise the use of natural lighting with offices being located towards the centre of each floor where possible. All new furniture is envisaged.

The final user requirement brief, which will specify in detail what the building fit-out will be, is being completed by the building and property project officer for Eastern Region, Barry Leyshan. Barry is receiving advice on the fit-out from a liaison committee whose members represent each of the sections in Eastern Region. If anyone has any ideas or comments on the fit-out they are welcome to consult their representative.

Late 1989 is a fair way off, but from what is planned for the new headquarters for Eastern Region, it will be well worth the wait.