



Sir Noel Stanley Bayliss 1973

Report of the Murdoch University Planning Board July 1970 – July 1973

PREFACE

This is an account of the main aspects of the work of the Murdoch University Planning Board during the period between its appointment in July 1970 and its dissolution in favour of the Murdoch University Senate at the end of July 1973.

The Board would not have been able successfully to carry out its assigned task, namely “to formulate plans for the first phase of a second university in Western Australia”, without the help of all those who have given so freely of their time by serving on the Board's committees, and also in consultations both formal and informal.

It is therefore appropriate to place on record the Board's thanks to all these helpers, with particular mention of members of the academic, administrative and technical staffs of both the University of Western Australia and the Western Australian Institute of Technology, of officers of the Treasury department, the Education department, the Main Roads department and the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority, of the Tertiary Education Commission, and members of the veterinary profession in Western Australia.

A special debt is owed to the Senate of the University of Western Australia, both for its far-sighted policy in recommending to government that the new university should be autonomous from the beginning, and also for its generous action in enabling Murdoch University to be provided with a fine campus in the Somerville pine plantation.

N. S. Bayliss
Chairman

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1. The origins of Murdoch University

Over a long period during the late nineteen fifties and the sixties there were discussions in the University of Western Australia and elsewhere concerning a second university institution in Western Australia. The Committee appointed by the Government to report on Tertiary Education in Western Australia (the Jackson Committee) recommended in September 1967 that the University of Western Australia be encouraged to commence planning during the 1970-72 triennium for a university college to open as soon as possible during the following triennium, the college in the first instance to relieve the pressure of numbers at the first and second year levels in the University of Western Australia. Thus the submission by the University of Western Australia to the Australian Universities Commission for the 1970-72 triennium (November 1967) included a request for \$200,000 for planning a new university institution. The AUC accordingly recommended (Fourth Report, May, 1969) and the Commonwealth government approved, a recurrent grant of \$150,000 and a capital grant of \$50,000 to the University of Western Australia for planning to enable the new institution to receive students in 1975.

Although the early discussions in the University of Western Australia were in terms of the establishment of a university college as recommended by the Jackson report, a series of meetings and seminars during 1968 and 1969 resulted in a change of attitude, and in September 1969 the Senate of the University of Western Australia advised the Government of its opinion that the new institution should be autonomous from the beginning, and should not be a college of the University of Western Australia as recommended by the Jackson Committee.

2. The origins of the Veterinary School

The immediate events leading to the establishment of Murdoch University were closely linked with the decision to establish a fourth veterinary school in Western Australia. Although for some time there had been political and professional pressure for a veterinary school in Western Australia, the fact that the University of Queensland was forced to impose quotas on out-of-state veterinary students, and in particular students from Western Australia, from the beginning of 1968 led the University of Western Australia to raise with the AUC the question either of expanding the existing veterinary schools in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne or else of establishing a fourth school in Australia.

The AUC invited Dr. R.N. Farquhar of CSIRO to investigate veterinary education in Australia and to report by the end of 1968. His main recommendations, which were adopted by the AUC (Fourth Report) were that

it was not practicable to expand the existing veterinary schools in Sydney, Queensland and Melbourne, that a fourth veterinary school in Australia was needed, and that the most economical and quickest way of developing the new School would be to build on to the facilities in rural science already available in the University of New England in Armidale, New South Wales.

However in speaking to the AUC Report in parliament (August 1969) the Minister (the Hon. Malcolm Fraser) stated that while the government accepted these recommendations in principle, no decision would be made about the location of the fourth veterinary school until there had been discussions with the interested States.

Discussions involving the State and Commonwealth governments and the AUC continued during the ensuing months. The final result was that the W.A. Government announced in the press on 30 March 1970 that the Fourth Veterinary School would be established in Western Australia and attached to the new university.

3. Appointment of Murdoch University Planning Board

The decision of the State Government to establish the new university as an autonomous institution was announced in the Press on 2 July 1970. Professor N.S. Bayliss, shortly after his return from overseas study leave in May 1970, accepted the invitation of the Premier to become Chairman of the Board which would plan the University, and it was arranged with the University of Western Australia that he should be seconded for this purpose in a part-time capacity from 1 July and full-time from 1 October 1970. At this time the earliest possible establishment of both the University and its veterinary school was regarded as urgent, and in discussion with government the opening date was tentatively fixed for 1974. The then Chairman of the Australian Universities Commission, Sir Henry Basten, actually asked the Chairman informally to consider the possibility of an even earlier opening of the veterinary school - the year 1972 was mentioned but this was found to be quite impracticable. Subsequently the financial recession that developed during 1971 had the consequence that the opening of the University was set back to 1975, the year originally approved by the AUC in its Fourth Report.

The members of the Murdoch University Planning Board appointed by the State Government to take office on 1 July 1970 were:

Professor N.S. Bayliss, C.B.E., F.A.A.	Chairman
Mr P.R. Adams, QC	Barrister
Mr A.W. Anderson	Director of the research unit in

	university education, University of WA
Professor G.C. Bolton	Professor of modern history, University of W.A.
Mr. S.B. Cann	Principal Architect, Public Works Department
Dr. E.J. Edwards	Reader in the faculty of law, University of W.A.
Dr. M.R. Gardiner	Chief Veterinary Surgeon, Department of Agriculture.
Mr. R.M. Hillman	Chief Engineer, Metropolitan Water Board
Professor R.J. Moir	Professor of Physiology, University of W.A.
Dr. K.G. Tregonning	Headmaster of Hale School, and a member of the Tertiary Education Commission.

Since then there have been several changes in membership as follows:

Dr. K.G. Tregonning	resigned on 19 February 1971
Mr. A.W. Anderson	resigned on 31 December 1972
Sir Stanley Prescott, O.B.E.	formerly Vice-Chancellor of the University of W.A., appointed on 4 May 1971
Mr. K.C. Beazley	formerly President of the Guild of Undergraduates, University of W.A., appointed 1 April 1972
Mr. K.N. Birks	Assistant Under-Treasurer, appointed 1 April 1972
Mr. H.W. Dettman	formerly Director-General of Education, Western Australia, appointed on 31 December 1972

The first meeting of the Planning Board was held on 9 July 1970 in the Prescott Room of the University of Western Australia. It was at this meeting that the Government's decision was announced to name the university after Sir Walter Murdoch. The Premier's message to the Board, read at the meeting and incorporated in the minutes, was the following:

“Dear Professor Bayliss,

The first meeting today of the Planning Board for a university south of the Swan River is the beginning of a new chapter in the story of tertiary education in Western Australia.

I would like to thank you and your colleagues for agreeing to undertake an important task which I am sure you will find both challenging and rewarding.

You are being asked to lay the foundations of an institution which in years to come will play an important part in the lives of many thousands of students who in their turn, will contribute to the development of this state and the welfare of its people.

A university should be given a name in keeping with the high standards expected of it as a place of scholarship and learning and of service to the community. I can think of a no more appropriate name than Murdoch University and the Government has decided that it shall be so named.

Sir Walter Murdoch is a man who has been prominent in the life and learning of Western Australia for more than half a century. He was a foundation professor of the University of Western Australia and is a former Vice Chancellor, Pro chancellor and Chancellor and man of letters. His name gives dignity to our new university and I trust that the quality of its graduates will add further lustre to this name.

I wish your Board every success in the task which lies ahead of planning and bringing into being Murdoch University.

Yours sincerely,
David Brand, Premier.”

The terms of reference of the Board, also incorporated in the minutes as resolution 1/70 were as follows:

- (a) To formulate plans for the first phase of a second university *in* Western Australia including provision for a School of Veterinary Science, having regard to the future needs of the community and the requirements of long term

planning and the academic interrelations of the new university with the University of Western Australia.

- (b) To prepare estimates of student numbers, accommodation and equipment requirements and recurrent and capital costs embracing the first phase of development, for submission to the State Government and the Australian Universities Commission.
- (c) To maintain close liaison with the Tertiary Education Commission and the University of western Australia in respect of the academic and physical planning of the second university.
- (d) To make such appointments and to take such action as may be deemed necessary to proceed with the first phase of development.
- (e) To execute plans approved by the State Government and the Australian Universities commission for the first phase of development, within the limits of finance allocated for this purpose.
- (f) To make recommendations to the State Government on the form of legislation required to establish the second university.

4. The first steps

During the months July to September 1970 the Board met fortnightly; thereafter, as much of the detailed work was being taken over by committees of the Board, the Board itself met monthly except on those occasions when a special meeting was needed. Matters considered at these early meetings ranged over what appeared to be the immediate problems, namely:

- (i) The early need to consider the academic plan, since so many other developments depended on it;
- (ii) The appointment of an academic committee and academic consultants;
- (iii) Legislation;
- (iv) The need for early administrative appointments such as those of Vice-Chancellor and Registrar;
- (v) The preparation of a supplementary budget and submission to governments for additional finance during 1970-72 in view of the then proposed start in 1974 as well of the commitment to the Veterinary School;
- (vi) The university site and its development.

The establishment of a new university is a complex and daunting enterprise that involves amongst other things decisions on academic policy, site and building planning, finance, personnel selection in a number of specialist and

general fields, and a host of other matters with objectives which initially can be stated only in broad terms. The Board sought advice, both formally and informally, from a number of sources, and set up several committees to assist it, with membership drawn from both outside and inside the Board. Staff members from both the University of Western Australia and the W.A. Institute of Technology have been generous in their assistance on these committees.

The Deans of the three veterinary schools in the eastern states, namely Dr. W.J. Pryor of the University of Queensland, Professor K.V.F. Jubb of the University of Melbourne and Professor R.M. Butterfield of the University of Sydney visited Perth in September 1970 at the invitation of the Board to advise on the preliminary steps in the establishment of the veterinary school. The Secretary (Mr. Dunn) and Dr. M. Nairn, Senior Veterinary pathologist of the State Department of Agriculture and a member of the advisory committee on the veterinary school subsequently visited Melbourne in May 1971 to investigate in detail the facilities of the Melbourne veterinary school.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor A.G. Mitchell, of Macquarie University and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor A.M. Clark, of Flinders University visited Perth during December 1970 to discuss with the Board the problems of a new university and similar discussions were held during January 1971 with Professor P.H. Partridge of the Australian National University.

The Chairman took advantage of visits to the eastern states of Australia, to the United Kingdom and also to the United States of America to discuss problems with the Vice-Chancellors and senior administrative officers of Sydney, Monash, La Trobe, and Melbourne in Australia; of Sussex, Essex, East Anglia, Lancaster, York and Stirling in the United Kingdom, and the University of California, Santa Cruz in the United States.

Opportunities, too many to mention individually, were taken to discuss academic policy with visitors to Perth.

5. Secretary

At the Board's first meeting it was agreed that the appointment of a Registrar-elect should be made as soon as possible. Consequent on the discussion an approach was made to Mr. D.O. Dunn, an experienced university administrator who was then the Deputy Registrar of the University of Western Australia. At the second meeting of the Board it was resolved to invite Mr. Dunn to accept the position of Registrar from 1 January 1971, and to approach the University of Western Australia with the request that in the intervening period until the end of 1970 his services be made available to Murdoch on a half time basis. The

University of Western Australia agreed. After discussion with Mr. Dunn the title of the position was changed to Secretary.

6. Vice-Chancellor

The preliminary steps toward the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor were taken at the third meeting of the Board on 3 August 1970, when it was agreed that the Chairman should discuss the desirable procedure with the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Western Australia (then Sir Stanley Prescott). At the fourth meeting, 17 August 1970, the Board appointed P.R. Adams, Professor W. Simmonds and the Chairman as a committee to meet with Sir Stanley Prescott and report. Following this, it was resolved at the fifth meeting, 7 September, 1970, to approve the advertisement for the position of Vice-Chancellor on terms and conditions that were substantially those that applied to the position of Vice-Chancellor in the University of Western Australia.

The position was widely advertised throughout English-speaking countries, and in addition the Chairman on the Board's behalf directed correspondence to Heads of university institutions throughout Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Canada.

A delicate situation arose in that the University of Western Australia was at the same time seeking a successor to Vice-Chancellor Sir Stanley Prescott, and several candidates indicated that they wished to be considered for both positions. The Board received the utmost co-operation from the Chancellor of the University of Western Australia, Sir Lawrence Jackson, and with the concurrence of the referees in each case there was a substantial exchange of information with the University of Western Australia.

Interviews were conducted in Perth, in London in the office of the Association of Commonwealth Universities, and by the Chairman in the United States. The result was that at a Special Meeting of the Board held on 31 May 1971 it was resolved unanimously to invite Professor Stephen Griew, Professor of Psychology in the University of Dundee, to accept the position of Vice-Chancellor of Murdoch University. Professor *Griew* accepted, and after brief familiarizing visits in August 1971, February and June 1972 he assumed the appointment on 1 October 1972. This marked the end of the first phase, and the beginning of the second phase, of the establishment of the University.

7. The academic plan

From the outset it was recognized by the Board that at least the outline of an academic policy must be formulated before it could proceed with the practical steps of preparing the submission to the Australian Universities Commission

for the triennium 1973-1975, appointing the foundation staff, and developing plans for the site and the first buildings. At the same time it was accepted that the Vice-Chancellor and the foundation professors, when appointed, must be given a major responsibility for the development of the academic structure.

This was a sensitive stage of academic feedback in the founding of the new university. The initial appointments had to be made in terms of a broadly stated academic policy, and yet the eventual detailed policy would depend largely on the appointments so made.

The Board appointed an Academic Committee at its first meeting, consisting of the Chairman, Mr. Anderson, Professor Bolton, Dr. Edwards, Dr. Gardiner, Professor Moir and Professor Simmonds. This committee met at frequent intervals from 15 July 1970 until 29 June 1972, when its discussions were suspended in the prospect of the transfer of responsibility to the foundation staff of the university. The broad policy recommended by the committee was adopted by the Board as the basis for the advertisements for all the early academic positions.

Universities are traditionally based on the core studies of the humanities, mathematics and the natural sciences. From the outset Murdoch was committed to the veterinary school. Furthermore on 5 April 1971 it accepted the recommendation from the Western Australian Tertiary Education Commission that it should include teacher education in its programme. It is also important to record that on 15 September 1970 the Western Mining Corporation Limited announced the first benefaction to Murdoch University in the form of a guaranteed annual endowment to establish a Chair of Environmental Studies and Conservation.

Within these guidelines, and with knowledge of the academic developments in the newer universities in the English-speaking world, the Academic Committee recommended an academic structure which is summarized in the following, and which was used as the basis for advertising the early staff positions and for the submission to the Australian Universities Commission.

The academic structure would be based on multi-disciplinary Schools of study rather than on the traditional faculties and departments. Each School would have a Head (or Chairman, or Dean). The degree of academic and financial responsibility of each school was left to be determined. The Schools nominated tentatively in the submission to the Australian Universities Commission were:

- Humanities
- Social Studies

- Education
- Physical Science
- Biological Science
- Veterinary Science
- Environmental Studies

The annual programme would be based on an academic year of two semesters rather than on the conventional three terms. Undergraduate studies would be divided into a Part I, occupying (say) three semesters, followed by a Part II until the end of the course. The essential feature was that during Part I the student's course would be under the supervision of a general, university-wide Board of Studies, while in Part II he would be supervised and advised by the Board of studies of his chosen School. It was recommended by the Academic Committee that the School (Part II) should not pre-empt in the form of pre-requisites more than an agreed fraction (say one-half) of the student's programme in Part I.

The intention was to provide flexibility in the student's choice of studies and to give him at least two options after completing Part I. However it was envisaged that if after advice a student opted for complete specialization he could do so.

Following the arrival of the Vice-Chancellor in October 1972, further discussion of the academic plan by the Board's academic committee was suspended pending the arrival of the foundation professors, who at the time of writing these notes {July 1973} are actively engaged in its further development.

8. Early academic appointments

The timing of the first academic appointments had both financial and academic implications. It was accepted by the Board that the brunt of the detailed planning would have to be borne by the foundation professors, and yet from the practical viewpoint it was not possible to contemplate a long period of residence in Perth of professors with no Murdoch University buildings, no supporting staff, and no students. It should be recorded however that the University of Western Australia generously offered to provide temporary accommodation in its appropriate departments for Murdoch University staff during the interim period.

At its meeting on 7 December 1970 the Board resolved to advertise the first academic positions, namely the Librarian and the Head of the Veterinary School. The need for a very early library appointment was obvious if Murdoch University was to open within a few years with even the nucleus of a workable library. It was also appreciated that the complexity of the operations of a Veterinary School meant that the appointment of a Head should be made as

soon as possible. At that time it was still the policy that the University should open in 1974.

On 16 December 1971 Mr. W.G. Buick accepted the invitation of the Board to the position of Librarian. Mr. Buick was formerly the first occupant of the position of University Librarian at the University of Papua-New Guinea, prior to which he had been Deputy Librarian at the Australian National University. He took up office on 1 January 1973.

It was some time before the position of Head of the Veterinary School was filled. Applications were received from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, United Kingdom and the United States of America. After a series of interviews in London, Edinburgh, California and Perth, and after some protracted negotiations, Professor R.H. Dunlop, Cert.Agr. (Cirencester), D.V.M. (Toronto), Ph.D. (Minnesota); M.R.C.V.S. accepted the position on 24 February 1973 and took up office on 28 June 1973. Professor Dunlop who was at the time Head of the Department of Physiological Sciences at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan, Canada, had been seconded from July 1971 as Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Science and Professor of Pharmacology at Makerere University in Uganda, where he was responsible for establishing a new veterinary school.

In addition to these first two key appointments, the Board issued in February 1972 an advertisement for six to eight foundation chairs broadly described as in the fields of Humanities (Literature, History, Philosophy), Social Sciences, Education, Biological Sciences, Mathematics, Physical Sciences (Chemistry, Physics). The endowed chair in Environmental Studies was advertised simultaneously. Approximately 200 applications were received in all. After local committees of the Board had reduced these to "short lists" preliminary interviews were conducted in London with the assistance of the Association of Commonwealth Universities, and also in the United States by either the Chairman or the Vice-Chancellor-elect. Independent assessors were consulted in all cases. All candidates in the final short lists were interviewed in Perth by selection committees of the Board.

To the present time (28 June 1973) the following appointments have been made:

Biological Sciences	J.F. Loneragan, Associate Professor in Plant Nutrition, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Western Australia.
Education	B.V. Hill, Senior Lecturer in Education at the Wollongong University College, University of

	New South Wales
Environmental Studies	D.C. O'Connor, Chief, Environmental Sciences Division, U.S. Army Research Office.
Literature	J.D. Frodsham, Reader in Chinese at the Australian National University on secondment to the University of Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania as Professor of Literature
Mathematics	A.P. Robertson, Professor and Head of the Department of Mathematics at the University of Keele, United Kingdom
Modern History	G.C. Bolton, Professor of Modern History, University of Western Australia.
Physical Sciences	A.J. Parker, Professorial Fellow in the Research School of Chemistry at the Australian National University
Social Sciences	J.R. Raser, Associate Professor in Political Studies at Otago University, Dunedin, New Zealand
Veterinary Studies	R.H. Dunlop, Head of Physiological Sciences at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan, Canada.
Physical Sciences	B. Mainsbridge, Professor of Physics at the University of Papua-New Guinea.

9. Other senior appointments:

Senior appointments to the administrative and library staff of the Planning Board and Murdoch University over this period include:

E.S. Ballinger	to head the Buildings and property Office. Formerly a Lecturer in Architecture at the University of W.A. Mr. Ballinger has had experience in private practice and government service in New Zealand and New South Wales
C.P. Bagley	Projects Officer in the Buildings and Property Office, formerly Design Engineer, State Public Works Department
J.G. Blanksby	Senior Administrative Assistant, Buildings and Property Office, formerly on the administrative staff of the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital

B.J. Cosgrove	Assistant Secretary, formerly Director of Public Examinations at the University of Western Australia
G.E. Field	Chief Clerk and Office Manager, formerly Administrative Officer, Junior Farmers Movement Council of W.A
M.A. Thomas	Management Systems Planning Officer, formerly Systems and Programming Manager with AMCO' Connor, a computer service bureau
V. Nadasabapathy	Senior Librarian, formerly Medical Librarian at Makerere University, Uganda
I.D. Tweedie	Senior Librarian, formerly Divisional Librarian at the University of Western Australia

10. The Site of the University

The story of the site of Murdoch University is a complex one. As long ago as 1962 crown land was set aside in the metropolitan area near Bull Creek for a new university institution; but over the years the Bull Creek site was gradually eroded for other purposes. Thus when, as the result of the Jackson Report, the new institution became the subject of active discussion in 1967 and the years immediately following it was realized in the University of Western Australia that the Bull Creek site was no longer suitable. A Senate Committee set up a working party consisting of Professor Gordon Stephenson and Town Planning Commissioner John Lloyd to study the problem.

Their report was a comprehensive one taking into account not only the new university but also a proposed new major hospital in the Melville district as well as the regional open space in that area planned by the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority. In short it was recommended that steps be taken to consolidate an area of some 1181 acres in Melville-Cockburn to provide for a university (628 acres), a major hospital (239 acres) and public recreation (314 acres). The area in question consisted in part of Endowment Land of the University of Western Australia, in part of land controlled by the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority, two blocks owned by the State Housing Commission, and a number of blocks under private ownership.

In order to assist the consolidation of this area the University of Western Australia acquired the two State Housing Commission blocks by exchange; it also agreed to transfer to the new university that portion of its Somerville pine

plantation endowment land lying south of a realigned South Street. The Lands Department began a complex series of negotiations with the private owners to acquire, mainly by exchange for crown land on the Bull Creek site, the land needed for the hospital and in part for the university. Two privately owned blocks in the south-east portion of the area were purchased for cash by the government on behalf of Murdoch University, with assistance from the Australian Universities Commission.

The present situation is that the University of W.A. endowment land was transferred to Murdoch University under the Reserves (University Lands) Act 1972. Negotiations are virtually complete with the various owners of private land and discussions are still proceeding with the Metropolitan Regional Planning Authority and the Treasury concerning the transfer to Murdoch University of that part of the Metropolitan Regional Planning Authority area lying north of Farrington Street, which will form the southern boundary of the university and the medical centre sites.

11. Architects and Consultants

An early priority of the Board was the appointment of site planners and architects. The Board was conscious of the fact that the then Professor of Architecture at the University of Western Australia, Gordon Stephenson, was a planner of international repute who in addition to his association with the accepted Stephenson master plan for metropolitan Perth had been consultant in the site development of the Crawley campus at the University of western Australia, of Flinders University in South Australia, and of James Cook University of Northern Queensland. In association with Town Planning Commissioner Lloyd he had played a major part in the selection of the location of the Murdoch campus.

Thus on 3 August 1970 (the third meeting) the Site Committee of the Board was authorised to discuss a possible appointment with Professor Stephenson.

During the protracted discussions that followed it became clear that Professor Stephenson could not accept a temporary consultancy to Murdoch University while still retaining his Chair at the University of Western Australia together with his other consulting commitments. Finally the Board agreed on 7 December 1970 to the proposal that Professor Stephenson should resign his Chair and enter into partnership with Perth architect R.J. Ferguson on the condition that the partners should be appointed as architects for all buildings that might be approved for the triennia 1970-72 and 1973-75. The firm of R.J. Ferguson and Gordon Stephenson was also appointed to develop a site plan and to submit a formal report to the Board in June 1972.

These appointments were in accordance with the Board's policy that the outline of the site plan and the designs of the first group of buildings should be entrusted to a single firm in order that the nucleus of the university should have its own particular stamp or character.

12. Other consultants

Other consultants associated with the capital programme were appointed by the Board on 13 December 1971 as follows:

Site and structural engineers	Ove Arup and Partners
Mechanical and Electrical engineers	Lincolne Scott Pty Ltd
Plumbing Consultants	Korwill and Maclean Pty Ltd
Quantity Surveyors	Davson and Ward

Mrs Marion Blackwell was appointed by the Board as Landscape Consultant on 23 February 1973.

13. The site planning report

Active work on the development of the site plan and the preparation of the report began in late 1971. For a variety of reasons it turned out that it was not possible to complete the report in published form by the planned date of June 1972, although the main principles were outlined to and accepted by the Board in ample time to enable the architects' timetable for the planning of the first buildings to be adhered to. The report in its final form is due to be published in September 1973.

A major decision required of the Board in connection with the site plan was that of the location of the first group of buildings, since it was presumed that these would form a nucleus from which the University would grow over a period of years. While from the beginning it had been tacitly accepted by the Board that the animal facilities associated with the Veterinary School would be sited in the south-eastern part of the area, the campus is large and there were three attractive and suitable positions available for the first building groups. After considerable discussion the Board on 3 July 1972 finally accepted the recommendation of the architects to locate this group on the highest ground in the central northern part of the campus. The land here was under pine plantation; but a square of mainly native trees which apparently formed the grounds of a forester's cottage that has long since disappeared was conceived as a possible court, already containing well grown trees, around which the first buildings could be disposed.

14. The supplementary submission for 1970-72

It will be recalled that in its Fourth Report the Australian Universities Commission recommended that the second university in Western Australia should be planned to open in 1975, and accordingly included in the grant to the University of Western Australia for the triennium 1970-72 a recurrent grant of \$150,000 and a capital grant of \$50,000 for planning purposes. However, when the Planning Board was set up in July 1970 the earliest possible establishment of the university, and particularly of the veterinary school, were regarded as urgent by the State Government, whose announcement in the press at the time of the formation of the Planning Board referred to 1974 as the opening date.

It was immediately evident that if this target were to be achieved the planning grant of \$200,000 would be inadequate. A supplementary Submission for 1970-72 was therefore prepared and approved by the Board on 18 January 1971 for presentation to the State Government and to the Australian Universities Commission. Including the grant that was already available, the Submission estimated that in total \$1.161 million recurrent and \$0.702 million capital would be needed for the triennium.

Although by coincidence the Chairman and Members of the Australian Universities Commission were in Perth and visited the Murdoch site on the following day, 19 January, consideration of the supplementary Submission was deferred until it could be studied further.

During the next few months of 1971 there was a cool change in the academic climate. A recession had begun to develop in the financial and rural areas. In March the Chairman of the Australian Universities Commission, then Sir Henry Basten, telephoned to say that it was unlikely that the Commonwealth Government would agree to a supplementary grant to Murdoch University for the 1970-72 triennium. He asked three questions of the Board, namely:

1. If a reduced supplementary grant were approved for 1970-72, at what level would it need to be to enable Murdoch to open in 1975 instead of 1974?
2. If no supplementary grant at all were approved for 1970-72 what would be the effect in relation to an opening in 1975 or even in 1976?
3. In view of the fact that the University of Western Australia has already resolved to release 425 acres of its Somerville pine plantation for Murdoch University purposes, is the purchase of an additional 51 acres at a cost of \$250,000 (by then actually \$263,000) really necessary?

The third question was in reference to the request in the capital section of the Submission for Commonwealth assistance with the purchase of two blocks of land in the south-east portion of the campus as it was then planned.

These questions were discussed with the Hon. John Tonkin (whose government had recently taken office and who at that time still held the portfolio of Education) and also at the Board meeting on 5 April 1971, in the light of a table prepared by the secretariat giving estimates of the recurrent expenditure needed during the 1970-72 and 1973-75 triennia for the following alternative plans for development:

- (a) To open in 1974 with 600 students (as in the January submission)
- (b) To open in 1974 on a minimal basis with 500 students
- (c) To open in 1975 with 600 students
- (d) To open in 1975 with 600 first-year students and 40 second-year veterinary students
- (e) The consequence of a 1975 opening with no additional grant during 1971 and 1972.

During the discussion at the meeting of the Board the point was made that a 1974 start to relieve the pressure of numbers at the University of Western Australia now seemed less urgent in view of the virtual certainty of the imposition of general quotas at the latter University in 1972 or 1973. Furthermore it was stated that owing to the recession in primary industry there seemed to be less pressure for an early opening of the veterinary school. (At the time of writing these notes, just over two years later, the rural industries are again prosperous, wool is at almost record prices, meat exports are booming. This is an indication of the difficulty of correlating university policies whose impact is necessarily not felt for five to ten years - the interval between entry as a first year student and the attainment of professional competence - with economic circumstances as they are at the time when the policies are formulated).

Following this there was a period of uncertainty about the extent of government support for 1970-72, and about the date when it would be possible to open the university. Both 1975 and 1976 were mentioned as alternatives to the originally planned date of 1974. The situation was complicated by the fact that the Submission for the triennium 1973-75 was due with the Australian Universities Commission by 31 June (see para. 15).

At the time of the next Board meeting on 10 May 1971 there had been no further word from the Australian Universities Commission; but by then the Board

without formal resolution had tacitly agreed that the 1974 opening date was not practicable, and in fact accepted a recommendation from its Academic Committee that the Submission for 1973-75 should be prepared on the basis of a 1975 opening.

By this time Professor Karmel had succeeded Sir Henry Basten as Chairman of the Australian Universities Commission, and in a telephone conversation on 20 May 1971 he said that in the reigning financial climate it was most unlikely that the Commonwealth would support a supplementary grant for Murdoch during 1970-72. In any case there would be no decision until the Commonwealth budget was brought down in August.

When the Board met on 8 June 1971 the Chairman was able to report that the Australian Universities Commission had re-affirmed its support for a 1975 opening of Murdoch, and also that it realised that a supplementary grant would be needed for the 1970-72 triennium, but that the amount might be less than sought by Murdoch University.

The subsequent history is that although no additional support was received from the Commonwealth for 1970-72, the State government granted an additional \$90,000 above the sum already approved in the Fourth Report of the Australian Universities Commission. However another financial crisis was due to occur late in 1971.

15. The Submission for 1973-75

The due date for the presentation of submissions by the established universities for the triennium 1973-75 was 31 December 1970; but in the case of the new universities, Murdoch and Griffith, the deadline was extended to 30 June 1971. Even with this extended deadline, the task was far from easy. Estimates had to be prepared of student and staff numbers in the unknown years that lay ahead; data were needed about the buildings that would be needed when the university opened. It has already been indicated that the Board agreed that the submission should be prepared on the assumption of 1975 as the opening year.

A number of policy matters concerning the submission were dealt with by the Board when it met on 10 May 1971, and the draft submission with its capital and recurrent budgets was approved at the Board meeting on 8 June 1971.

The summary of the Murdoch submission in its financial aspects is as follows:

Recurrent 1973-75	\$4,512,000
Capital Buildings and Equipment	\$15,907,000

A preliminary discussion was held with the Australian Universities Commission on 2 September during its triennial visit to Perth. The Commission re-affirmed its support for a 1975 start for Murdoch, and recognized the need for supplementary finance during 1971-72. It was suggested that the proposed initial student intake might be reduced from 600 to 450, and that the number of foundation (planning) professors might also be reduced. The Commission at this meeting appeared to support most of the capital programme, with three exceptions. Thus it was suggested that the Biological Sciences building and the Student Union might have to be postponed until the following triennium, and in addition the Commission expressed no support whatever for an orthodox student hall of residence in view of the strong shift in student demand in the Eastern States away from this type of accommodation.

The triennial submission was further discussed when the Chairman and the Secretary called on the Chairman and the Secretary of the Australian Universities Commission in Melbourne on 14 February 1972. The Chairman reported to the Board on 17 February that the scale of the capital grant to be recommended by the Commission appeared to be reasonable, except possibly in the case of the Physical Sciences building.

16. The second crisis

By the end of 1971 it was clear that the State Treasury was seriously concerned at the magnitude of the total of the submissions from the three tertiary institutions - the University of Western Australia, the W.A. Institute of Technology and Murdoch for the triennium 1973-75. When the Chairman and Mr. Adams called on the Minister (Mr. T.D. Evans) on 17 December 1971 to discuss the 1972 budget the Under-Treasurer, who was present at the meeting, gave as an example the fact that the total of the capital requests for 1973-75 was over three and one-half times the total of the actual capital expenditure for 1970-72.

Both the Minister and the Under Treasurer concurred in the view that Murdoch should open in 1975, and that a supplementary grant would be needed for 1972. However the suggestion was made that it might be necessary to defer the opening of the Veterinary School for a triennium. The Minister asked the Board to consider what would be the financial effect of such a deferment (a) on the 1972 budget, and (b) on the programme for the 1973-75 triennium, in order that the question could be discussed by the government during January 1972.

The Board discussed these proposals at a special meeting on 10 January 1972, when it was decided that while providing the government with the desired financial information, it should be emphasized in the reply that in view of the urgency expressed at the time when the Planning Board was formed, a decision

at this stage to postpone the opening of the Veterinary School would seriously prejudice not only the Veterinary School alone but also the whole university in the mind of the public.

The Chairman wrote to the Minister on 14 January, and after a discussion subsequently he was able to report to the Board at its meeting on 17 February 1972 that the whole question of the triennial grants had been referred to the Western Australian Tertiary Education Commission for advice.

The dark clouds began to disperse. The Board at its meeting on 10 April was informed that the State Government had agreed to an additional grant for 1972 of \$90,000 exclusive of the Veterinary School, whose future at this stage was still unknown.

By the time of the next Board meeting on 8 May the situation had been resolved to the extent that an all clear was given to the 1975 opening of the Veterinary School as well as for the University as a whole. As far as Murdoch was concerned, the Chairman had agreed to a proposal made at a meeting of a special committee of the Tertiary Education Commission that the capital programme for Murdoch for 1973-75 be reduced by \$1.25 million by postponing some clinical and paraclinical facilities for the Veterinary School until the 1976-78 triennium. This would have the effect that in the early stages of the school it might be necessary to postpone clinical teaching until the fourth year of the course. This reduction in the flexibility of the teaching arrangements in the course was noted and accepted by the Board.

The programme as finally recommended in the Fifth Report of the Australian Universities Commission, and accepted by the State and Commonwealth governments, is the following:

Recurrent Grant: 1973	\$570,000
Recurrent Grant: 1974	\$1,060,000
Recurrent Grant: 1975	\$2,470,000
Capital: Veterinary School	\$1,750,000
Physical Sciences	1,990,000
Library/Administration	1,350,000
Humanities and Social Sciences	1,220,000
Lecture Block	520,000
Amenities, Works & General Offices	100,000
General Workshop, Shed & Cottage	64,000

Union	500,000
Sporting Facilities	140,000
Site Works & Services	690,000
Land Acquisition	257,000
Planning	60,000
TOTAL	<u>\$8,641,000</u>
Equipment Grant	700,000

17. The building programme

While the commissioned architects and the quantity surveyor were associated with the preparation of the capital programme in the 1973-75 Submission to the AUC, more detailed discussions about the building programme began towards the end of 1971, after the preliminary September 1971 talks with the AUC in Perth (para.15). These became more detailed after the Chairman of the AUC in February 1972 outlined the programme that he believed governments would support. The architects presented a programme of design and building procedures, finally revised in June 1972, that should be adhered to if the buildings were to be ready to open the university in 1975.

The need for a Buildings section in the Board's administration had become acute, and one would have been established earlier but for the uncertainty at this period concerning the Board's finances. Mr. S. Ballinger was appointed head of buildings and property section on 8 May 1972; but owing to lecturing commitments to the University of Western Australia he was not able to work for the Board in a full-time capacity until August. Since the beginning of 1973 the buildings section has developed rapidly.

The physical sciences building is the most complex of those forming the triennial programme, and in terms of the architects' timetable sketch planning had to begin in April 1972. This was before the buildings office was formed, and the plan was developed by means of a series of conversations between the architect and a working party drawn from the staffs of scientific departments in the University and the WAIT.

Since then the design work has proceeded in quite close conformity with the timetable. The library design required voluminous correspondence during the latter part of 1972 with the Librarian, who was on study leave in Europe before taking up his Murdoch appointment at the beginning of 1973. The brief for the first stage of the veterinary school was drawn up in a concentrated working period of two weeks during a familiarization visit by the head-elect of the

veterinary school working in association with Dr. M. Nairn, a veterinary officer of the Department of Agriculture.

The present position (July 1973) is that a contract has been signed with Consolidated Constructions Limited for the physical sciences building, and construction will begin immediately. Tenders are about to be called for the library and lecture block, which will be constructed as a single building, and for the building for humanities and social sciences. The union, or student and staff amenities building, is at an advanced stage of sketch design, and design work has begun for the veterinary school following the completion of the very detailed brief.

The site works programme, including the provision of internal roads and car parks, earthworks for the first buildings, and electricity and water supply, has been arranged to ensure that access and all necessary services are available for building construction in accordance with the overall timetable. An area of approximately 8 hectares (20 acres) has been cleared for playing fields and the plans for a small change room/pavilion building have been approved.

18. The Association of Commonwealth Universities

As early as September 1970 an approach was made to join the Association of Commonwealth Universities. Membership of this association, whose headquarters are at 36 Gordon Square, London, is most valuable to a university particularly in respect of advertising for staff and conducting interviews in the United Kingdom, and also in arranging for inter-university visits. While at first it seemed that the legal existence of the Murdoch University Planning Board would be sufficient for membership, it was found subsequently that the constitution of the Association required the proclamation of the Murdoch University itself as a necessary preliminary. However, in spite of this setback, the Association, with great goodwill, has from the outset placed all its facilities at the disposal of the Planning Board, which has used them extensively in advertising positions and in interviewing candidates. The Association has also included data relating to Murdoch University in its Yearbook.

A similar situation occurred in connection with the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee, where again it appeared that it was not constitutionally possible for Vice-Chancellor Griew to become a full member until after the proclamation of the Murdoch University Act. However in the meantime since taking up office Professor Griew has been invited to attend all meetings of the Committee.

19. Legislation

At its first meeting the Board asked P.R. Adams and E.J. Edwards to prepare a report on the kind of legislation that would be needed to enable the Board to implement its task. At the second meeting they gave their advice, which was adopted by the Board, that it would be desirable to have two statutes, the first a short one to give the Planning Board its essential powers during the period before the University became legally established, and the second the Act needed formally to establish the University. The first statute could be drafted and presumably passed fairly quickly, while it was realised that considerably more time would be needed for the discussion relative to the main Act.

Following this recommendation the Board on 7 September 1970 approved for submission to the Minister a draft Bill which, with slight changes, was passed by Parliament as the Murdoch University Planning Board Act No. 71 of 1970 and assented to on 17 November 1970.

The initial steps to prepare legislation for Murdoch University itself were taken on 13 December 1971 when the Board appointed a legislative committee consisting of P.R. Adams, E.J. Edwards, Sir Stanley Prescott and the Chairman to advise it. There were many meetings of the committee and discussions by the Board throughout 1972. The committee studied the legislation for the other universities in Australia, particularly the newer ones, and also for some of the new universities in the United Kingdom. In all of this work the committee was greatly helped by the legal knowledge of the Secretary.

A draft for the proposed Bill was approved by the Board on 11 December 1972, and was slightly modified by the Board Executive on 18 January 1973 for submission to the Minister. With slight amendments the Bill was passed by Parliament during the May session of 1973, and the Act was proclaimed as No. 20 of 1973 on 29 June 1973.

The Murdoch University Act provides that the University "shall be lawfully constituted for the purposes of this Act on the appointment of the first members of the Senate by the Governor ". The Murdoch University Planning Board Act states: "When the governing body, by whatever name called, of the University is constituted and has commenced to carry out its functions, the Board, by force of this section, shall be dissolved."

In this way there has been the provision for an orderly transfer of function and authority from the Board to the Senate. Thus while the University is formally constituted when the Governor has appointed the first members of the Senate, the Planning Board continues to exist until the Senate has commenced to carry out its functions, which according to legal advice, is when it holds its first

meeting. Thus at the beginning of the first meeting of the Murdoch University Senate, the Planning Board is dissolved in favour of its successor, the Senate.

