



MR PETER HALL

Opera House panel announced

A 34-year-old Sydney architect, Mr Peter Hall, will complete the Opera House design.

He is one of a panel of four, announced yesterday by the Minister for Public Works, Mr D. Hughes, which will complete the Opera House.

Mr Hughes said the cost of the Opera House would not be known until the panel produced plans and specifications and received tenders.

Mr Hall, who was a leading design architect in the Government Architect's Branch of the Department of Public Works, recently resigned to enter private practice.

He will be the panel member in charge of design.

The other members of the panel are:—

The Government Architect, Mr E. H. Farmer, 56.

Mr D. S. Littlemore, 55, representing Rudder Littlemore and Rudder, who will be in charge of supervision.

Mr Lionel Todd, 36, representing Hanson Todd and Partners, who will be in charge of contract documents.

Mr Hughes said yesterday that in all matters of design, supervision and administration Mr Farmer would be the senior partner.

He would be represented on the site by the Assistant Government Architect, Mr C. Weatherburn.

Mr Hughes said the panel would try to arrive at a firm estimate for the final cost of the Opera House.

He had never accepted the latest estimate of \$50m because this was made "without the benefit of plans, specifications and tenders."

PAGE 9: DATA on the new men at the Opera House.

PAGE 13: Consultants for Sydney; call for Government explanation.

"I have always said this was a figure I could not accept until we had evidence," Mr Hughes said.

"The job of the panel will be to produce the evidence and to specify the materials on which we can get a firm estimate."

The panel would start work immediately.

It would familiarise itself with the project and then prepare documents to permit a smooth transition between Stages II and III.

The transitional stage would include water-proofing of the podium, erection of paving and cladding and completion of the glass walls to the shell openings.

When this was done, it would be possible to start construction of Stage III, the main auditoria, including the acoustical treatment.

Mr Hughes was asked whether the panel would effectively translate Mr Utzon's ideas.

He replied: "I don't think it would necessarily be right to say they will actually translate the ideas into practice."

"But it does not mean it will be any less perfect . . ."

"No man would produce exactly the same building . . ."

"The team are all imbued with the spirit of the Opera House as designed by Mr Utzon and it will be up to them as to how they interpret this in actual practice."