

1854

New South Wales

Nobbys Island

Laid upon the Journal Table by the Colonial Secretary
and Ordered by the Council to be Printed 18 July 1854

Return to an Address from the Legislative
Council of New South Wales, dated 14th
June 1854, praying that His Excellency
the Governor General would be pleased
to cause to be laid upon the Table:—

"
A Copy of any Petition presented
to the Colonial Government, against the
destruction of Nobbys Island at
the entrance to the Harbor of Newcastle
preparatory to erecting a Light House
upon it; and of all Correspondence
which may have taken place
between the Government and the
Petitioners or any other parties upon
the subject!"

Tobby's Island.

Schedule

1. 31st January, 1853 - Colonial Secretary to Superintendent of the Breakwater, requiring report on the proposal to cut down the Tobby. -
2. 3rd February, 1853 - Superintendent in reply. -
3. 28th February, 1853 - Colonial Secretary to Lieutenant Colonel Barney to report on the proposal to cut down the Tobby. -
4. 28th February 1853. ditto to Chief Engineer - ditto -
5. 14th March, 1853 - Lieutenant Colonel Barney and Mr Macm in reply. -
6. 16th March, 1853 - Colonial Secretary in reply -
7. 18th April, 1853 - Lieutenant Colonel Barney and Mr Macm, reporting
having

W.S.

having made preliminary survey. -

8. - 23rd April, 1853 - Colonial Secretary
in reply. -

9. - 14th May, 1853. - Lieutenant Colonel
Barney and Mr. Mann, forwarding
an Estimate of the probable expense
of the mining operations. -

10. - 5th October, 1853. - Colonial Secretary
in reply. -

11. - 17th December 1853. - Colonial Secretary
to Lieutenant Colonel Barney and
Mr Mann, asking for report of progress.

12. - 30th December, 1853. - Lieutenant
Colonel Barney and Mr. Mann
in reply. -

13. - 10th January, 1854. - Colonial Secretary
to Superintendent of Breakwater.

14. - 10th January, 1854. - Colonial Secretary
to Lieutenant Colonel Barney
and Mr. Mann. -

15. - 22nd November, 1853. - Inhabitants
of Newcastle, urging the preservation
of the Stobby. -

16. 16th December, 1853 - Colonial Secretary
referring Memorial of the Inhabitants
for the report of Lieutenant Colonel
Barney. -
17. 19th December, 1853 - Lieutenant Colonel
Barney in reply. -
18. 31st December, 1853 - Colonial Secretary
in reply to Inhabitants' representation.
-

No 1

Copy of letter from Colonial Secretary
to Superintendent Breakwater Newcastle

No 53/20.

Colonial Secretary's Office
Sydney, 31st January 1853.

Sir,

It being proposed in the Report
of the select Committee of the Legislative
Council on the Newcastle Light House of which
I enclose a Copy that Hobbs's Island be cut
down to the level of sixty feet above the
high tide mark leaving or erecting, as may
be found desirable a parapet of six feet
high round the edge of the rock to protect
the dwelling and the base of the Light House
from the effects of the wind I am directed
by His Excellency the Governor General to
request that you will have the goodness to
pass me with your report on this proposal
stating particularly how far a compliance with
it would interfere with the work at present
in hand. —

I have &c

Signed W. E. G. for
the Secy.

The
Superintendent
of the Breakwater
Newcastle.

No. 2.

Copy of letter from Superintendent of the
Breakwater, Newcastle, to the Colonial
Secretary.

Breakwater, Newcastle,

3rd February, 1853.

Sir,

92-1
I have had the honor to receive
your letter No. 83/20, dated the 31st Ultimo,
accompanying a Report of the Select Committee
of the Legislative Council, proposing that
Stobby's Island be cut down to the level of
15 feet above the high tide mark, leaving
or erecting, as may be found desirable, a
parapet of 6 feet high to protect the Boelling
and the base of the Light House from the
effects of the wind; and requiring by direction
of His Excellency the Governor General my
report, particularly as to how far in-
compliance with it would interfere with
the work at present in hand. —

I beg in reply to state, that on

The Honorable

The Colonial Secretary,

the

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W. J.

The arrival here of the 60 additional prisoners daily expected from Lockator Island about 30 men could be spared for the purpose of cutting down Kobby's Island without materially interfering with the work at present in hand, but in this case an additional free overseer would be absolutely necessary to superintend the detached party, and their dinners must either be sent ready cooked from the Gaol, or a cooking place be established on Kobby's, the distance from thence to the Gaol being too great for the men to return to their dinners without much loss of time. —

3. I have this day visited Kobby's, and to the best of my belief it would occupy 30 prisoners for nearly 3 years to cut it down to the height proposed; and therefore I would beg to suggest (as the erection of the Light House as speedily as possible is considered of great importance), that the whole strength of this Establishment should be employed on this work, with the exception of a few men to be continued in facing the Wharf, and removing ballast, the party at Kobby's being

being at all times available to fill up any
material breached which might from time
to time be caused in the Breakwater. -

Indeed much of the Stone on Robby's
might be removed with great facility and
advantage to the Breakwater, there being
a Tramroad already and the distance
short. -

4. There is a building on Robby's
which would answer the purpose of a cook-
house, and there is also a Prep-shed - all
therefore that would be required, would be
a couple of Boilers, those at the Coal being
required for cooking the breakfast -

I have, &c.

signed)

E. McPherson

Visiting Magistrate and
Superintendent.

(No 3)

Copy of letter from Colonial Secretary
to ^{Lieut. Colonel} Colonel Barney

No 53/179.

Colonial Secretary's Office
Sydney, 28th February, 1853.

Sir,

I have the honor by direction of
His Excellency the Governor General to transmit
to you the accompanying copy of a letter from
the visiting Magistrate and ~~the~~ Superintendent
of the Breakwater at Newcastle, reporting upon the
amount of labor required in performing the
proposed work of cutting down Hobbs's Island,
to the level of sixty five feet above the high-
water mark, with a view to the erection thereon
of a light house, and dwelling, in accordance with
the recommendations of a select Committee of
the Legislative Council, and to request that
conjointly with Mr Mann (the Civil Engineer),
you will be good enough to take an early
opportunity of proceeding to Newcastle, to
examine the work proposed to be done,
and to report whether it might not be

considerably

Lieut. Colonel Barney

to cc to

to

MS

3. February, 1853
No 2

considerably expedited by blasting
the rock in order to reduce it to the
proper level. —

I have to

signed,

W. C. Lyard

for the Colonial Secretary

N^o 4.

Similar letter addressed to Mr.
S. K. Mann, Civil Engineer —

Admiral
Hewitt

No 5.

Copy of letter from Lieutenant Colonel
Barney and Gother K. Mann Esq^r to the
Colonial Secretary.

Sydney, 4th March, 1855.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the
28th ultimo, with copy of letter from the
Residing Magistrate and Superintendent
of the Breakwater at Newcastle reporting
upon the amount of labor required in
performing the proposed work of cutting
down Kobby's Island to the level of 65 feet
above high water mark, with a view to
the erection thereon of a Light House, in
accordance with the recommendation of
a select Committee of the Legislative Council,
and requesting us to take an early opportunity
of proceeding to Newcastle to examine
the work proposed to be done, and to report
whether it might not be considerably
expedited by blasting the rock in order

The Honorable
The Colonial Secretary

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to reduce it to the proper level. We have
the honor to state that with the knowledge
we possess of what is required to be done
at Hobbs's Island, we have no hesitation
in expressing our opinion that the work
may be most materially expedited by the
application of Gunpowder, and should
it meet the approval of His Excellency
the Governor General, we are prepared to
proceed to Newcastle to make the necessary
survey and sections of Hobbs's as well
enable us to report fully on the proposed
work of cutting it down to the level
required for the Lighthouse. —

We have &c

Signed,

Geo: Barney

H. K. Mann.

No. 6.

Copy of letter from Colonial Secretary
to ^{Colonel} Colonel Barney & S. K. Mann, Esq.

No. 53/211. Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 10th March, 1853.

Gentlemen,

In reply to your letter of the 14th
Instant on the subject of the proposed reduction
of Kobboy's Island I am directed by the Governor
General to express to you His thanks for the
readiness with which you have undertaken
to make the necessary enquiries, and report;
and to inform you that His Excellency is
of opinion that it is desirable, you should
proceed to Newcastle for the purpose of making
the required examinations at as early an
opportunity as can be arranged without
interfering with your other duties. —

I have &c

signed/

Colonel Barney,

S. K. Mann, Esq.

H. Elyard for
the Col Secy

MS

No 7.

Copy of letter from Lieutenant Colonel
Parney, and Götter K. Mann, Esq to
the Colonial Secretary.

Sydney, 18th April, 1853.

Sir,

We have the honor to report for
the information of His Excellency the
Governor General that we have proceeded
to Newcastle and made the necessary or
preliminary survey and measurement
of Hobbs's Island for the purpose of carrying
out the instructions contained in your
letter of 10th March No 53/211. —

2. The plans and calculations are
in a forward state and will be submitted
for His Excellency's information when
completed. —

3. Parties of prisoners are now
engaged driving the galleries, and as an
accuracy in this portion of the work is
indispensable, we will be careful to

The Honorable

The Colonial Secretary

devoate

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W.S.

devote to it the necessary supervision.

4. We have to request that the sum of Fifty pounds, to be accounted £50. for, may be placed to our credit, for the purpose of procuring, Wires, and such apparatus as may be ~~necessary~~ requisite, and which the Civil Engineer proposed preparing, as far as practicable, on Lockatoo Island. -

We have to
signed)

Geo. Barney

Yother N. Mann

No 8.

Copy of letter from Colonial Secretary
to Lieutenant Colonel Barney & Gother
K. Mann, Esq.

No 53/404. Colonial Secretary's Office
April 25th April, 1853.

Gentlemen,

I have the honor to inform you
that, in compliance with ^{the} ~~your~~ request contained
in your letter of the 18th instant, the
Honorable the Auditor General has been
instructed to prepare a Warrant for the
advance to you of Fifty pounds, to
enable you to procure such apparatus
as may be requisite in preparing bottles
belonging to the site of a Light House

£50.

I have &c

signed,

Lieut. Colonel Barney
Gother K. Mann, Esq.

M. Chyard, Esq.
for the Colonial Secretary

No 9.

Copy of letter from Lieutenant Colonel
Barney, and Götter, K. Mann, Esq to the
Colonial Secretary.

Sydney, 14th May, 1853.

Sir,

Referring to your letter of the 11th
April, last, we do ourselves the honor
to transmit for the information of His
Excellency the Governor General an
Estimate of the amount requisite to
cover the mining operations in progress
for the demolition of Robby Island,
Newcastle, ^{Harbour} a sketch of which is enclosed.

2. Anticipating no unforeseen
difficulties or delays in driving the
Galleries, we calculate the period at
four months in which this important
work may be completed. -

3. The item £11. 10. 0, is inserted
for the purpose of procuring the services

The Honourable

The Colonial Secretary

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£1,002. 11. 6.

of some steady men whom it will be
advisable to employ whilst charging
the Mines and in the Laboratory.

We have, &c,

Signed)

Geo. Barney

Yother. K. Mann & Co.

Enclosure in No 9.

Estimate of the probable cost for material &c
required in the mining operations for the
demolition of Kobby Island.

	£.	s.	d.
17 Tons of Blasting Powder @ \$45 per Ton —	765	0	0
10 lbs of Fine — " — " — @ 2/- per lb —	1	0	0
150 Yards of Ricksford's Fuse — @ 3 per yard —	1	17	6
50 lbs Sulphuric Acid — @ 4/- per lb —	2	10	0
2 Cwt Sulphate of Copper — @ 8 per cwt —	5	12	0
10 lb Quicksilver — @ 2/- per lb —	1	5	0
2 Gallons Spirits of Wine — @ 10/- per gallon —	1	0	0
500 lbs Copper Wire No 12 — @ 4/- per lb —	25	0	0
25 lbs Resin Wax — @ 2 1/2/- per lb —	3	2	6
10 lbs Common Sealing Wax — @ 5/- —	5	0	0
50 lbs best Tallow — @ 4/- —	16	8	0
2 Cwt Vegetable Muck — @ 8/- per cwt —	4	16	0
50 lbs Resin — @ 28/- —	14	0	0
20 lbs Common Tape — @ 1/- per lb —	1	0	0
700 yds Common Canvas or Calico @ 3 per yd —	8	15	0
25 lbs Twine — @ 8/- per lb —	12	6	0
25 " Stout Thread — @ 6/- —	12	6	0
14 oz Platinum Wire —	1	0	0
To provide additional Galvanic Battery —	25	0	0
Conveyance of Powder Stores, Supplies, &c —	50	0	0
Wages for assistant labor —			
2 Non Commissioned Officers 10 days @ 2/- per diem £2.0.0			
4 Privates " 4/ " " 2.0.0			
Incidental expenses for same " 2/6 " 7.10.0			
	11	10	0
Civil Engineers Office Sydney, 14 th May, 1853. } 12 Contingencies to —	£	911	8 8
		91	2 10
	£	1002	11 6

N^o 10.

Copy of letter from Colonial Secretary to
Lieutenant Colonel Parney, and Father
K. Mann, Esq.

3/493.

Colonial Secretary's Office
Sydney, 5th October, 1883

Gentlemen,

With reference to your letter
of the 14th May last, I am directed by His
Excellency the Governor General to inform you
that a sum of one thousand pounds
has been voted on the Supplementary Estimate,
to meet the expense of the mining operations
in progress at Kobby's Island, preparatory
to the erection of a Light House in that
locality. -

I have to

signed,

H. Elyard

for the Colonial Secretary

Lieut. Colonel Parney

Father. K. Mann, Esq.

£1000.

William
McKernan

N^o 11.

Copy of letter from Colonial Secretary
to Lieut. Colonel Barney and Gother
K Mann, Esq.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
N^o 83/1267 Sydney, 17th December, 1853

Gentlemen,
I have the honor by the direction
of His Excellency the Governor General to
request that you will have the goodness to
favor me, at your early convenience, with your
report as to the progress of the work on the
Lobby Rock at Newcastle, in preparation
for the Light House

I have &c

Signed/ M. Elford

for the Colonial Secretary

Lieutenant Colonel Barney

Gother K. Mann, Esq

[Handwritten mark]

14

No 12.

Copy of letter from Lieutenant Colonel
Barney, and Father K. Mann, Esq to the
Colonial Secretary.

Sir,
Sydney, 30th December, 1853.

No 11.
In attention to your letter ^{No 33/} ₁₂₅₇
We do ourselves the honor to report for the
information of His Excellency the Governor
General the progress that has been made
in the operations at the Stobby Rock at
Newcastle. -

2. It being necessary to dig
charges at the points A, B, C, and
subsequently probably at D, as indicated
on the accompanying tracing, galleries
have been driven in from the face of the
rock at No 1, to a distance of 77 feet,
and at No 2 to a distance of 79 feet. -

3. The rock as the drift or gallery
proceeded inwards from the face has a
proportionally increased in density and

The Honourable
The Colonial Secretary
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hardness

hardness, which circumstance combined with the inexperience of the prisoners employed as miners has retarded this part of the operations.

4. The portions colored red in the plan indicate the extent to which the galleries have been completed, that colored yellow what remains to be done. -

5. Some difficulty at first was experienced in obtaining the requisite length of wire and some small but necessary material for the battery arrangements, but these have all been procured, and the Battery and its appurtenances can now be at once completed. -

6. - We are informed that there is a ^{sufficient} supply of Blasting powder in charge of the Colonial Storekeeper to supply the demand for the operations in question. -

7. - We therefore recommend that Major Macpherson should be instructed
to

to expedite the work at the Galleries
by every available means in his power
and that additional labor if requisite
should be supplied to him expressly for
this purpose. —

We have, &c,

signed,

Geo. Parney

Y^{rs} Geo. W. Maus

N^o 13.

Copy of letter from Colonial Secretary
to Superintendent of Breakwater Dockade,
Newcastle.

Colonial Secretary's Office
Sydney, 10th January, 1854

N^o 54/g.
Sir,
I am directed to inform you
that His Excellency the Governor General
considers it desirable that the operations
in progress at theobby Dock should be
completed with as little delay as possible,
I have therefore the honor to request that you
will cause the works at the Galleries to be
expedited by every means in your power.

I have, &c.

Signed,

M. Elyard
for the Colonial Secretary.

The Superintendent of the
Breakwater Dockade
Newcastle

M.E.

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~~de Kerm
J. J. J.~~

No 14

Copy of letter from Colonial Secretary
to Lieut. Colonel Barney and G. H. K.
Mann. Esq.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
No 54/34 Sydney, 10th January, 1864

Gentlemen,

I am directed by the Governor
General to acknowledge the receipt of
your letter of the 30th ultimo, reporting the
progress that had been made in the operations
at the Hobby Rock at Newcastle, and to
inform you with reference to the 6th paragraph
that you will be supplied with a sufficient
quantity of blasting powder, on your making
requisition for it in the usual manner to the
Colonial Storekeeper.

2. With respect to the recommendation
contained in the concluding paragraph
of your communication I am directed by

Lieut. Colonel Barney

His

G. H. K. Mann, Esq.

His Excellency to acquaint you that
the Superintendent of the Breakwater in
Stockade, has been instructed to expedite
the work at the Galleries by every
available means. —

I have the
honor to be,
signed,

H. Elyard
for the Colonial Secretary.

No 15.

Copy of Memorial from the Inhabitants
of Newcastle, and others, to His Excellency
Sir Charles, A. Fitz Roy.

To His Excellency Sir Charles
A. Fitz Roy, Governor General
of the Australian Colonies
r — r — r —

The Memorial of the undersigned Inhabitants
of Newcastle, and others concerned in the
preservation of the Port of Newcastle. —

Acqually sheweth,

That the Port and Harbour
of Newcastle is indicated to shipmasters
arriving at it, by a remarkable promontory
(formerly an Island) called Nobby's, which
is of the most important service in
sheltering vessels entering with southerly
gales: and further is a most eligible
position for a Light House. —

That your Memorialists have
been informed that it is intended to

destroy

MS

destroy the said Promontory by means
of Gunpowder, and two chambers are
already excavated in it for that purpose.

That your Memorialists believe
that there is danger of obstructing the
entrance to the Port (the channel being
already exceedingly narrow) by the
destruction of said Promontory.

Your Memorialists therefore
humbly request, Your Excellency will
cause enquiry to be made in the premises,
in order that the Promontory may be
preserved for the purposes of shelter, and
of erecting a Light House thereon.

And your Memorialists as in
duty bound will ever pray.

Newcastle

22nd November, 1758.

Here follow

49 Signatures

No 16.

Copy of letter from Colonial Secretary
to Lieutenant Colonel Barney

Colonial Secretary's Office,
No 53/1256. Sydney, 16th December 1853

Sir,

I have the honor to forward to
you the accompanying Memorial from
certain Inhabitants of Newcastle, and
others concerned in the preservation of that
Port, praying that Cobb's Promontory may
be preserved for the purposes of shelter, and
erecting a light house thereon, and to
request the favor of your report for the
information of His Excellency the Governor
General.

I have &c.

(Signed)

H. Elyard
for the Colonial Secretary

Lieutenant Colonel Barney
H.E.

22nd November 1853

No 15

MS

20

No 17.

Copy of letter from Lieutenant Colonel
Barney, to the Colonial Secretary.

Sydney, 19th December, 1853.

Sir,

No 15
No 16
In returning the Memorial of
certain Inhabitants of Newcastle, praying
that Kobbys may be preserved for the
purpose of shelter and of erecting a
Light House thereon, and in reference to
your letter of the 16th Instant, I have the
honour to state, it seems to me, that the
Memorialists apprehend the entire removal
of Kobbys, whereas it is only proposed to
cut it down to 60 feet above high water
mark. -

It is evident that the Memorialists
are under a misconception as to the nature
and result of the work in progress, which
will neither have the effect of destroying
the shelter now afforded to vessels entering
the Port during southerly gales, nor of
obstructing

The Honourable

The Colonial Secretary

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W.S.

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obstructing the entrance as feared by
the Memorialists.

With reference to the erection of
a Light-House on Hobbs's, sixty feet above
high water mark is considered the most
advantageous height for the base of the
Light-House, the erection of which had
already been authorised. —

I have, &c,

Signed,

Geo. Barney

N^o 18.

Copy of letter from Colonial Secretary
to John Ringle, Esq, & other Inhabitants
Newcastle. —

Colonial Secretary's Office
N^o 53/1338. Sydney, 31st/₃ December, 1863

Gentlemen,

With reference to my letter of the
16th Instant, I am now directed by the Governor
General to inform you that under a report —
obtained from Colonel Barney on the subject,
it appears to His Excellency that you are under
a misconception as to the nature or results
of the work in progress for reducing the
height of Kobby's promontory, and which will
neither have the effect of destroying the shelter
now afforded to vessels entering the port
during southerly gales, nor of abstracting
the entrance as is feared by you. —

2. The entire removal of Kobby's

John Ringle, Esq
& the Inhabitants
signing the Memorial
Newcastle.

LL

is not intended by the Government, as seems
to be apprehended by you, it is only proposed
to cut it down to sixty feet above high
water mark, a height which is considered
most advantageous for the base of a Light
House, proposed to be erected thereon. —

I have @
signed,

W. Elyard
for the Colonial Secretary

1857

Nobby's Island

Return to Address, -

Mr Cooper. Ordered
to be printed 18 July
1857

