14th November 1961
C. S. I. R. O.
Stowell Avenue
Hobart, Tasmania
Australia

Dr. Alan T. Waterman, Director
National Science Foundation
Washington 25, D.C., U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Waterman:

Recently I have had an opportunity to inspect in detail and observe the operation of the 210 ft. radio telescope at Parkes. The center 54 feet diameter is solid plate. The remainder is 7mm. square mesh. The skin has approximately 900 adjusting points. After initial adjustment the accuracy of these is: 60% within 1mm, 40% 2mm, 6 points 3mm, 1 point 5mm. The short wave limit of this dish is about 3cm and is determined by the size of the mesh and not the error of the surface. The quality of the results testifies to the reality of the above.

In comparison, the Parkes dish has twice the area, three times the accuracy and cost one quarter as much as the 140ft Green Bank dish; if and when it is completed. The above confirms the soundness of my recommendations in the last paragraph of my letter to Geoffrey Keller dated 5th May 1961. I suggest that you examine it.

A Parkes type dish for Green Bank would cost less, be completed sooner and be a much superior device than attempting to complete the Bliss affair. The representative from M.A.N. assured me that anyone buying two or more would be able to secure a substantial discount. Think what an observatory that would make Green Bank!

No further word has been received about your letter of 7th June. I wonder what progress has been made on these studies? I am

Yours faithfully,

Grote Reber

Grote Reber

Copy to:
Dr. Jerome B. Wiesner