



**Australian Government**  
**National Capital Authority**

# **NATIONAL CAPITAL AUTHORITY**

**Authority Meeting A2021/4**

**19 August 2021**

**Public Record**

*I endorse this Public Record of the  
Authority meeting held on 19 August 2021*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Weber', written over a dotted line.

*Mr Terry Weber, Chair of the National Capital Authority*

This document is a public record of the National Capital Authority meeting held on 19 August 2021. As some matters discussed at Authority meetings are personal, privileged and/or confidential, this record follows but does not represent the formal minutes of the meeting.

## **Administration and Governance**

The following Authority Members attended the meeting: Mr Terry Weber (Chair), Mr Dennis Richardson, Ms Jenny Smithson, Mr James Willson and Ms Sally Barnes (Chief Executive).

This meeting was the Authority's fourth regular meeting for 2021.

The ACT Government's 12 August COVID-19 lockdown required the Authority meeting be conducted on-line with some late adjustments to the agenda to ensure priority matters could be addressed as best as possible.

The Authority noted the difficult working conditions and asked NCA managers to be mindful of staff welfare in this context. The Authority discussed some of the ongoing work to maintain public facilities and safety and to ensure good information is available on the NCA website.

The Authority attended to the standard administrative and governance processes for the meeting including disclosing and managing any conflicts of interest, finalising the minutes and public record of the previous meeting, and reviewing the status of action items from earlier meetings.

## **Key Governance Matters**

The Authority received and considered a report on the NCA's key governance matters covering work health and safety, risk management, planning and performance, and governance and compliance, and a summary of the most recent meeting of the NCA Audit Committee.

The Authority noted and discussed aspects of the presented report, including the update on WHS matters, the most recent strategic risk register and treatment plan and an update on the preparation of the NCA Corporate Plan for 2021-22 to 2024-25.

The Authority noted the update on governance and compliance matters, including the positive outcome from the recent Annual Validation Audit of the Scrivener Dam Safety Management Plan. The Authority noted that the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) had recently initiated a performance audit of the NCA's procurement activities.

## **Finance Report**

The Authority received and discussed the presented finance report, which included that the NCA's 2020-21 Financial Statements had received material clearance from the ANAO and are on track to be finalised by end- August 2021.

The Authority discussed current challenges and risks in the timely completion of infrastructure and major works projects including from COVID-19 and accessing the skilled resources required for the work. NCA officers noted some responses being pursued to manage the risk and updated the Authority on new policy proposals being pursued.

## **Works Approval Report**

NCA officers presented the Works Approval Report, which included an update on current and upcoming works approval applications.

The Authority discussed various projects in the report and issues around them, including a new outdoor public sculpture near the National Gallery of Australia, and a revised proposal for a development at Section 100, City, from primarily residential to primarily office accommodation.

### **Strategic Planning Report**

NCA officers presented the Strategic Planning Report, which provided an overview of current key strategic planning work.

The Authority discussed progress in establishing the new diplomatic estate and recent consultation with key stakeholders on the proposed development of the former CSIRO Forestry School in Yarralumla – the key issues arising included heritage aspects, traffic implications and landscaping plans.

The Authority discussed a proposal that had been received requesting a change to the land use provisions for Block 6, Section 69 Fyshwick (near the Dairy Flat Road development). The Authority agreed consideration of a land use change was not appropriate for this parcel of land at this time.

### **Major Projects Report**

The Authority received and noted the Major Projects Report, which included details of key current projects being undertaken by the NCA.

The Authority discussed the Commonwealth Avenue Bridge project including timelines and milestones, governance arrangements, securing appropriately skilled people to manage and undertake the work, and potential safety risks and mitigations if there were to be substantive delays in the project.

The Authority also discussed the status of the Regatta Point redevelopment, the replacement of poplars in the forecourt of the National Library of Australia, work to upgrade facilities at Rond Terrace and continuing works to maintain the Captain Cook Memorial Jet.

### **Forward Agenda**

The Authority noted the forward agenda for the remaining meetings for 2021, including that at the ACT Government's request, there would be an additional meeting in September to consider the ACT Government's project to raise London Circuit prior to the lodgement of a works approval application in October. As noted above, the Authority agreed that Mr Richardson would chair that meeting to avoid any perception of a conflict of interest. No other conflicts of interest for agenda items for these meetings were identified at this time.

### **Presentation – Canberra Avenue Control Plan**

NCA officers presented a paper to the Authority on preparation of a Development Control Plan for Blocks 7-10, Section 35, Griffith, following a request from the landowner.

The Authority asked for further information on the proposed development to get a better understanding of the proposal and its implications, and for possible options for a Development Control Plan for the area.

### **Presentation – Ngurra Cultural Precinct**

The Authority received a presentation from officers from the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) on the proposed Ngurra Cultural Precinct project.



The Authority thanked the presenters and agreed the NCA would continue to assist in the development of the project as appropriate.

### **Presentation – City Plan**

In the circumstance, the Authority was not able to receive a presentation from the ACT Government on the City Plan.

Nonetheless, the Authority received and noted the background paper that had been prepared providing information on the City Plan and the NCA's role in future planning and development in the City area.

### **Presentation – West Block Expansion**

The Authority received a presentation from representatives from development company, Geocon, and their advisers from several architectural and related firms on the adaptive reuse redevelopment of West Block in the Parliamentary Zone..

The Authority discussed several elements of the development including design components, timing aspects, and consultation and approval steps. The Authority stressed the importance of ensuring a high-quality outcome for the development.

### **Presentation – Light Rail Stage 2A – Raising London Circuit**

In the circumstance, the Authority was not able to receive a presentation from the ACT Government on the project to raise London Circuit. In light of a perceived conflict of interest noted above, Mr Weber did not participate in this agenda item.

The Authority received and noted the background paper that had been prepared providing information on the ACT Government's plans to raise London Circuit as a precursor to the Light Rail Stage 2A.

The Authority agreed to a meeting, chaired by Mr Richardson (in lieu of Mr Weber), in September, to consider the details and issues surrounding the works approval application to raise London Circuit.

### **Chief Executive Report**

The Authority received a report from the Chief Executive covering a range of strategic and human resource matters, including a survey of horticultural and landscaping assets on the existing light rail corridor.

The Authority discussed elements of the report including details of the meeting Ms Barnes and Mr Weber had with the ACT Chief Minister, media and outreach activities undertaken by Ms Barnes.

### **Seaplanes on Lake Burley Griffin**

NCA officers presented a paper providing the Authority with a summary of the outcomes of public consultation from a Discussion Paper on possible seaplane operations on Lake Burley Griffin, and a proposed way forward.

The Authority discussed the range of issues and perspectives arising from the public consultation process, including strategic objectives and public safety.

Following the discussion, the Authority agreed to continue to explore how to facilitate seaplane operations on the lake and for the summary of consultations to be publicly released.

### **Estate Report**

The Authority received and noted the Estate Management Report, which provided an update on key estate management projects and operational issues.

### **Media and Communications Report**

The Authority received and noted the Media and Communications Report, which included current and upcoming media and communication activities.

### **Events and Place Activation Report**

The Authority received and noted the Events and Place Activation Report which set out NCA events and activation planning.

### **Other Business**

NCA officers informed the Authority that the NCA had been approached by the ACT Government to approve the Australian Institute of Sport in Bruce as a vaccination hub. The Authority agreed to amending the site's land use provisions under the National Capital Plan to facilitate its use as a vaccination centre and for the NCA to assist in any related works approval applications.

The Authority noted its next regular meeting is scheduled for 19 October 2021.

