



Australian Government
National Capital Authority

NATIONAL CAPITAL AUTHORITY

Authority Meeting A2022/1

15 February 2022

Public Record

*I endorse this Public Record of the
Authority meeting held on 15 February 2022*


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Mr Terry Weber, Chair of the National Capital Authority

This document is a public record of the National Capital Authority meeting held on 15 February 2022. 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 first regular meeting for 2022.

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.

The Authority discussed the continuing closure and poor presentation of The Lobby restaurant on King George Terrace since its sale to a private sector operator in 2019. The Authority asked officers to consider options available to the NCA to seek improvement to the overall appearance and use of the site, noting the NCA does not own or manage it.

Key Governance Matters

The Authority received and considered a report on the NCA's key governance matters covering work health and safety (WHS), risk management, planning and performance, and governance and compliance.

The Authority noted and discussed the work health and safety update, which included recent incidents and WHS initiatives and developments. The Authority asked for special attention to be paid to improving the long grass on Dunrossil Drive and near Commonwealth Avenue, although some areas discussed were recognised as the responsibility of the ACT Government.

The Authority discussed the NCA Strategic Risk Register and Treatment Plan.

On planning and performance, the Authority noted the mid-year performance report, including some of the challenges in achieving outcomes in the context of Covid-19 restrictions.

The Authority considered the membership of the NCA Audit Committee and Members completed their annual conflict of interest declarations.

Finance Report

The Authority received and discussed the presented finance report, covering the NCA's financial position for the financial year to 31 December 2021, key financial and insurance issues, and strategic procurement work. The report was supplemented by a verbal update on the financial position to end-January 2022.

NCA officers noted the NCA is currently conducting its annual mid-year budget review and provided an update on the progress of outstanding insurance claims for roofing on two key buildings. The status of the Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements, New Policy Proposals and 2022-23 Budget preparations were also covered.

NCA officers noted they would be undertaking a financial health check, which would update the NCA's Strategic Financial Plan, over the coming months.

Works Approval Report

NCA officers presented the Works Approval Report, which provided an update on current and upcoming works approval assessments, and processing performance for the first half of 2021-22.

The Authority discussed the details and consultation feedback of several proposals and developments, including a proposed aged care facility in Weston Creek, Anzac Park East, West Block, and correspondence received from nearby residents regarding 70 Allara Street in Canberra City. The Authority noted the significance of the Anzac Park East site and its implications for Anzac Park West.

The Authority asked for an update on the Ngurra project at its next meeting and noted the update on processing works approvals rates.

Strategic Planning Report

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

The Authority discussed the proposal that a northern access road be established between the Fairbairn precinct and Majura Road, adjacent to Canberra Airport, including the background, reasons for the proposal and mechanisms required.

The Authority discussed other elements of the report including the Government's announcement to rename Aspen Island to Queen Elizabeth II Island as part of the Commonwealth's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, progress in preparing for seaplane operations on Lake Burley Griffin, and work on developing the new diplomatic estate at North Curtin. The Authority noted a recent request to expand accommodation at the Jamala Wildlife Lodge. The Authority asked that safety risks be included in the assessment of the proposal.

Major Projects Report

NCA officers introduced the Major Projects Report, which sets out status and details of current major projects being undertaken by the NCA.

The Authority discussed several projects in the report including Commonwealth Avenue Bridge, Regatta Point, the Carillon and Kings Park.

NCA officers showed the Authority images of the selected designs for the National Memorial for Victims and Survivors of Institutional Sexual Abuse and the National Site of Recognition for Thalidomide and their Families.

Forward Agenda

The Authority noted the current forward agenda for its 2022 meetings. No additional conflicts of interest for agenda items for these meetings were identified at this time (aside from those already identified and being managed).

Chief Executive Report

The Authority received a report from the Chief Executive covering a range of strategic and human resource matters.

The Authority discussed aspects of the report including next steps in relation to the Ngurra project, on-going work on renovating plaques on the Estate, a forthcoming meeting between the NCA Chair

and the Chair of the National Museum of Australia Council, and possible impacts of further protests in the National Central Area.

Raising London Circuit Consultation

NCA officers presented a paper providing a summary of issues raised to date by the community and groups as part of the public consultation process for the Works Approval applications related to Raising London Circuit and related issues.

The Authority discussed the key issues arising from the consultation process, including traffic implications, access from the city to the lake and safety aspects. In particular, the Authority discussed the longer-term and wider traffic implications of the proposed new intersection on Commonwealth Avenue.

The Authority asked for the NCA to prepare the Raising London Circuit consultation report along the lines discussed.

The Authority also discussed current negotiations for a licence agreement regarding the NCA taking on the assets to be built by the ACT Government as part raising London Circuit. The Authority asked the NCA to progress the relevant licence agreement negotiations aiming to ensure the assets transferred to the NCA following construction will be of an acceptable standard.

Commonwealth Avenue Bridge Renewal Project

NCA officers presented a paper providing the Authority with an update of progress on the Commonwealth Avenue Bridge Renewal project. Officers noted legal and probity advisers had been appointed and the procurement plan is nearing completion. The officers noted a key milestone will be preparing and presenting the details of the project to the Parliamentary Works Committee for approval in the final quarter of 2022. The Authority discussed relevant issues for the project.

National Capital Plan (City Hill and West Basin Precincts)

NCA officers presented a paper which provided background to the current policies of the National Capital Plan concerning the City Hill and West Basin Precincts, including their relationship with proposed road network changes and the current works approval application to raise London Circuit.

The presentation covered the underlying Griffin Legacy work which included the development of the relevant precinct codes and the potential removal of the 'clover leaves' and development of these areas. The Authority discussed aspects of the paper.

Estate Report

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

Media and Communications Report

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

The Authority discussed media engagement initiatives and looked for continuing pro-active work and taking opportunities to promote the National Capital and ensure the appropriate understanding of the NCA's role and work.

Marketing and Visitor Destination Planning Report

The Authority received and discussed the Marketing and Visitor Destination Planning Report which included information on upcoming events, activities at the National Capital Exhibition and marketing work.

The Authority discussed the upcoming key events and related support and issues. The Authority endorsed the designs for murals for tunnels under Commonwealth Avenue and Parkes Way as part of the Surface Arts festival.

Other Business

The Authority noted its next regular meeting is scheduled for 5 April 2022.