



Australian Government
National Capital Authority

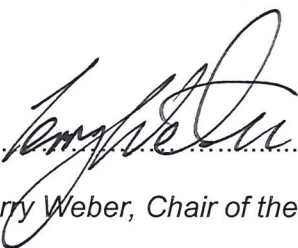
NATIONAL CAPITAL AUTHORITY

Authority Meeting A2022/2

31 March 2022

Public Record

*I endorse this Public Record of the
Authority meeting held on 31 March 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 31 March 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 second regular meeting for 2022.

Before the meeting, Authority members toured Commonwealth Place to have a clearer understanding of the location and its characteristics in the context of the forthcoming Ngurra project.

Also before the formal meeting, the Authority met with the Canadian High Commissioner and Deputy Head of Mission. The Authority discussed several matters of mutual interest and presented the High Commissioner with three preserved segments of the Canadian Flagpole, which had been prepared by the NCA following the removal of the flagpole in late 2020.

The Chair opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed members and attendees.

The Chair foreshadowed the range of important issues on the Authority's agenda for the day and noted the NCA had been successful in a new policy proposal and has received funding for strengthening Scrivener Dam, which, along with Commonwealth Avenue Bridge, was a large and important infrastructure project for the NCA to manage over the next few years.

The Authority discussed the governance arrangements and approval processes around the Ngurra project and noted it would be one of the most important developments in Canberra for many decades.

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 and NCA officers discussed the status of the discussions with the owners of The Lobby restaurant site regarding its continuing closure and progress in insurance claims for hail damage at NCA-managed buildings.

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 noted the NCA's working arrangements for managing COVID-19 in the office environment.

NCA officers updated the Authority on the recent discovery of asbestos at Acton peninsula and subsequent actions to address the issue. A report by a specialist firm was expected shortly which would include possible options in response. In the meantime, Comcare and nearby entities have been informed and fences erected to ensure members of the public are not exposed.

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

The Authority noted other elements of the report including the summary of the most recent NCA Audit Committee meeting.

Finance Report

The Authority received and discussed the presented finance report, covering the NCA's financial position for the financial year to 28 February 2022 and key financial events and information.

The Authority noted the 2022-23 Budget had provided the NCA with \$38.5m over four years from 2022-23 to strengthen Scrivener Dam and discussed the need for a skilled project team, including to appropriately manage risks associated with the project.

NCA officers outlined managing the NCA's finances for the balance of 2021-22 and funding priorities for 2022-23. The Authority also discussed funding for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee events as well as current insurance claims and the cost of flood operations at Scrivener Dam in 2021-22.

Works Approval Report

NCA officers presented the Works Approval Report, which provided an update on current and upcoming works approval assessments and related work.

NCA officers noted two of the three works approval applications relating to Raising London Circuit had been approved on 30 March. The remaining application, relating to proposed works on Vernon Circle, was awaiting confirmation that the proposed changes would be temporary.

The Authority discussed the status of the re-development of West Block which had recently changed ownership and is now proposed to revert to use as office accommodation rather than as a hotel, but with similar proposed external works, compared with the earlier proposal.

The Authority discussed a proposed development at 40 Brisbane Avenue, Barton, especially focussing on the proposed re-development of a public parking area next to the site including a reduction of public car parking spaces, offset by an equivalent number of public parking spaces under the new building. The Authority noted that public carparking in the area was important, as was possible improvements to the public area (including trees etc), and sought some further details on how parking would be offset as part of the NCA's consideration.

NCA officers provided an update on the Anzac Park East development proposal noting the proponents had made some progress in working up the proposed development, but further work was needed to achieve a development that is consistent with the importance of location and its implications for nearby sites. The Authority agreed that no approvals for early work, such as a sales suite, was appropriate at this point.

The Authority also received an update on a proposed residential development at 70 Allara Street, City.

Strategic Planning Report

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

NCA officers outlined the status of the current review of the ACT Government's planning system which will include the development of a new Territory Plan and District Plans. The Authority noted the NCA's involvement and looked forward to receiving a presentation on the review at the Authority's June meeting.

The Authority noted other elements of the report, including a proposal to develop Block 348, Gungahlin for retirement living and ancillary uses.

The Authority discussed a proposal to change the land use from 'River Corridors' to 'Urban areas' for Block 6, Section 59 Fyshwick (adjacent to the Dairy Flat Road development) and confirmed that a land use change is not indicated at this time.

The Authority discussed the status of the proposed redevelopment of Forestry Place in Yarralumla and confirmed its support for the previous NCA advice to the development's proponents noting its support for adaptive re-use of the heritage assets at the site.

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 detail including Commonwealth Avenue Bridge, Regatta Point, the Memorial for Victims and Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse, and Kings Park, as well as the broader issue of appropriate funding for ongoing maintenance for completed projects.

The Authority discussed aspects of the development of the North Curtin Diplomatic Estate, including potential demand and how best to stage the development of the Estate, including the required infrastructure.

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).

Presentation – Ngurra: The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Precinct

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

The presentation covered the project's key purposes and details of the concept design prepared for consideration of the business case, as well as the next steps in the development of the project and consultation arrangements. The presenters noted there had been a good level of interest in the architectural design competition and outlined key project milestone and timelines.

The Authority discussed the characteristics of the site and implications for nearby features and similar precincts in other countries. The Authority reiterated the support for this important national project and the NCA's central role and involvement during its development.

Chief Executive Report

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

The Authority discussed elements of the report including the recent announcement of a museum for the Australian Federal Police at H Block on Acton Peninsula.

NCA officers provided the Authority with an update on the University of New South Wales' Reid Campus project noting the development is progressing and will require an amendment to the National Capital Plan, including the development's Master Plan, in due course.

During this agenda item, the Authority received a phone call from the NCA's responsible Minister, the Hon Nola Marino MP. Ms Marino thanked the Authority for their work over the past three years in advancing the National Capital, noting key achievements and the challenging issues it has managed well.

Timber Structure Building (7 National Circuit) Development Proposal

NCA officers presented a paper on a proposed development at 7 National Circuit, Barton, using a Cross Laminated Timber (CLT) construction method.

The Authority discussed the proposal including the technical details of the building method and its environmental implications. The Authority noted the proposal's height limit is not materially beyond the current guidelines for the area and would not be distinguishable from nearby buildings or interrupt any vistas. The Authority supported the proposal as a one off proposition.

Australian National Zoo and Aquarium Master Plan Amendment

NCA officers presented a paper on proposed changes to the Master Plan for the National Zoo and Aquarium. The changes would principally provide for an increase in the area able to be used for accommodation at the site.

The Authority discussed aspects of the proposal and endorsed the proposed amendment.

Campbell Park Development Proposal

NCA officers presented a paper on a new office development planned for Campbell Park which would exceed the RL 617 building height that would generally apply to buildings in that area, as part of a Designated Area as well as the National Central Area.

The officers noted that the National Capital Plan has some flexibility on the application of building height limits and that the existing Campbell Park Offices and nearby ADFA buildings currently exceed RL 617.

The Authority discussed the merits and impact of the proposed development and agreed to support it based on its merits and impact.

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 Report

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

The Authority discussed aspects of the paper, including the importance of maintaining a national focus and opportunities to further promote the work of the NCA.

Marketing and Visitor Destination Planning Report

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

Other Business

The Authority noted its next regular meeting is scheduled for 8 June 2022.