



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

# **NATIONAL CAPITAL AUTHORITY**

**Authority Meeting A2022/3**

**8 June 2022**

**Public Record**

*I endorse this Public Record of the  
Authority meeting held on 8 June 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 8 June 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 third regular meeting for 2022.

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

The Chair noted the change of government and that the NCA has a new Minister who will meet with him and the Chief Executive later that day. The Chair noted the NCA has organised a successful event – the renaming of Aspen Island to Queen Elizabeth II Island – with the Prime Minister in attendance on 4 June 2022, and thanked NCA staff for organising the event.

The Authority discussed building security and moves to open The Lobby.

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 (WHS), risk management, planning and performance, and governance and compliance.

NCA officers updated the Authority on actions in train following the discovery of asbestos at Acton Peninsula, including liaison with the National Museum and AIATSIS. The officers noted safety measures and monitoring is in place while the NCA is organising expert advice on longer-term remediation.

The Authority discussed the NCA Strategic Risk Register and Treatment Plan asking for the implementation of the works approval audit recommendations to be included as a control measure on the relevant strategic risk.

The Authority noted the other matters covered in the report and endorsed the updated NCA Audit and Risk Committee Charter for the Chair's signature.

## **Finance Report**

The Authority received and discussed the presented finance report, which provided a summary of key financial events and information for the period ending 30 April 2022. NCA officers provided some updated information to 31 May 2022 and presented the proposed NCA's operating and capital budgets for 2022-23 for the Authority's consideration.

The Authority discussed the likely 2021-22 outcome for both the NCA's departmental operating budget and the administered capital budget as well as possible responses and implications.

NCA officers noted that recent re-valuation work had resulted in an increase in value of Commonwealth assets being managed by the NCA to now around \$1.2 billion, and that the NCA's insurance claim looks to be close to resolution.

The Authority discussed the proposed 2022-23 Budget, including planned departmental capital projects, the proposed administered operating budget with a focus on safety and other priority work in 2022-23, and key projects and other aspects of the proposed administered capital budget.

Following discussion, including of the processes followed and broader context, the Authority approved the proposed 2022-23 budgets, as presented.

## 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 the proponent of a development at 40 Brisbane Avenue, Barton, is no longer pursuing changes to an adjacent car park which had been discussed at the Authority's previous meeting. They also noted the NCA had received minor amendments to the Raising London Circuit project and are expecting to approve the amended proposal shortly.

The Authority discussed aspects of the proposal for a residential development at 70 Allara Street, City, including proposed building heights and the quality of building materials.

The Authority discussed the proposed works at West Block and supported conducting public consultation on the proposal as soon as possible noting the change of proposed purpose to the building from previous consultations conducted as part of an *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* process.

The Authority discussed the reasoning for a proposed second access road to the National Arboretum Canberra, and updates on works approvals applications for an aged care facility at Weston Creek and a new office building at 40 Brisbane Avenue.

The Authority noted the performance of works approval processing in the period to 31 March 2022, commenting that the team had performed well in the face of a range of challenges including a number of large and complex works approval applications. The Authority welcomed the improvement in recent processing rates and that the number of applications on hand had decreased markedly over the past few months.

The Authority noted the status of current and upcoming works approval applications, and discussed possible mechanisms to disseminate the status of works approval applications to provide information to prospective buyers.

## Strategic Planning Report

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

The Authority discussed a range of issues set out in the report. The Authority:

- sought more comprehensive information regarding the traffic impact of the proposed development at Forestry Place in Yarralumla, given the minor reduction in the overall density of the development compared with an earlier proposal
- noted concerns around the possible development of Block 348, Gungahlin (on the corner of Gungahlin Drive and the Barton Highway) relating to the strength of the case for a change to land use, demand for the proposed use as aged care in the area, the remoteness of the



site and heritage aspects, and agreed the NCA should seek advice from the ACT Government on the need for such a facility

- welcomed the information sheet template on Constitution Avenue and made suggestions to enhance the final product.

## **Ngurra Project: The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Precinct**

This is a standing item on the Authority agenda due to the importance of the establishment of an Indigenous Cultural Precinct, the need for a high-quality design in the Parliamentary Zone and the recognition of First Nation's people and their contribution to modern Australia.

NCA officers updated the Authority on the Ngurra Project covering the design selection process and progress to date. They noted four firms had been selected to enter Stage 2 of the design competition, which would result in detailed design and cost estimates. The firms had participated in a site walk and briefing on 12 May with the competition formally closing on 6 July and judging scheduled for 27-29 July.

The Authority asked to continue to be closely involved in the design and related processes, and to receive details of the selected design when available.

## **Major Projects Report**

NCA officers presented 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, the Regatta Point Redevelopment and Kings Park Renewal. On Kings Park, NCA officers noted the NCA was working with a social services provider to re-locate a person who has been camped in the area.

## **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 – Canberra Civic & Cultural District Concept**

The Authority received a presentation from officials from the ACT Government's City Renewal Authority and Cultural Facilities Corporation, on the ACT Government's proposed renewal of the City Hill Cultural Precinct.

The presentation covered the background, objectives, strengths, challenges and opportunities for the Canberra Civic and Culture District, and set out the ACT Government's vision and plans for the area, including potential new facilities and developments. Presenters also talked to the indicative implementation timeframe and financial aspects.

The Authority discussed a range of issues related to the planned development including access and activation, links with the National Cultural Institutions and possible partnerships and development models. The Authority also discussed the precinct's planning framework, design aspects and the NCA's role.

## **Presentation – Anzac Park East**

The Authority received a presentation from representatives of the Amalgamated Property Group and their advisers on the Anzac Park East development.

The presentation covered the background and chronology of the planned development, including input from the National Capital Design Review Panel and the NCA; the importance of the site; and comparisons between the earlier and current designs, featuring a reduced footprint on the block, increased visual permeability and refined design elements.

The Authority discussed the marked improvements made to the development's design. The Authority looked forward to the finalisation of the design before the development's next steps.

## **Chief Executive Report**

The Authority received a report from the Chief Executive covering a range of strategic and human resource matters, including the process to date on refreshing the NCA's Commitment to Community Engagement policy.

NCA officers gave the Authority a summary of information coming from a recent survey on the NCA's community engagement work, showing a preference for on-line information and contact channels.

The Authority noted the other information set out in the report.

## **Heritage Update**

NCA officers presented a paper updating the Authority on the status of work on the NCA Heritage Strategy and several Heritage Management Plans as well as the recent inclusion of Lake Burley Griffin and Adjacent Lands on the Commonwealth Heritage List.

NCA officers noted the draft NCA Heritage Management Strategy should be presented to the Authority at its August meeting.

The Authority discussed the draft York Park Heritage Management Plan and agreed for it to be released for public consultation.

The Authority discussed the recent listing of Lake Burley Griffin and Adjacent Lands on the Commonwealth Heritage List.

## **Serbian Orthodox Youth Association Memorial Proposal**

NCA officers presented a paper on a proposal prepared by the Serbian Orthodox Youth Association (SOYA) for a new national memorial to recognise the service and sacrifice of Australian women in civilian voluntary organisations during World Wars I and II.

The Authority discussed the proposal and applicable guidelines and concluded that it did not support the memorial.

## **Asbestos at Acton Peninsula**

NCA officers presented a paper which provided the Authority with an update on asbestos recently uncovered at Acton Peninsula.

The Authority discussed sampling and safety arrangements at the site, including signage, and planning for remediation work, including possible Indigenous aspects. The Authority asked NCA officers to continue to engage the National Museum of Australia, AIATSIS and the public in actions being taken to remediate the sites.

### **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, which provided a summary of recent key stories, events and statistics relating to the NCA's work and profile.

### **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 9 August 2022.