



Australian Government

National Capital Authority


NATIONAL CAPITAL AUTHORITY

Authority Meeting A2022/4

9 August 2022

Public Record

*I endorse this Public Record of the
Authority meeting held on 9 August 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 9 August 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 fourth regular meeting for 2022.

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

The Chair noted a new Chair and Members had been appointed to the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories and that the NCA would be offering them (and potentially new Members of Parliament) a briefing on the NCA's role and relevant issues.

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.

The Authority discussed aspects of the NCA Strategic Risk Register and Treatment Plan. The Authority noted planned enhanced reporting on the NCA's major service providers, and current and planned procurement activity.

The Authority discussed the draft NCA Corporate Plan for the period 2022-23 to 2025-26 and made several suggestions including on the importance of national consultation, looking to achieve quality planning outcomes and aims to activate areas in and around Lake Burley Griffin.

Finance Report

The Authority received and discussed the presented finance report, which provided a summary of key financial events and information on the financial performance of the NCA's Departmental and Administered programs for 2021-22. The report included the NCA's draft financial statements for 2021-22. NCA officers noted the 2021-22 financial statements were almost complete and have been thoroughly reviewed by the ANAO.

The Authority discussed the underlying reasons and implications of the NCA's departmental net operating surplus for 2021-22, planned movement of funds between financial years, and progress in resolving outstanding insurance claims.

Works Approval Report

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

The Authority discussed the proposed residential development at 70 Allara Street, City, and the key themes that had been raised in the public consultation process. The Authority asked that the NCA ensure feedback was taken into account and to work to ensure a quality outcome for the development.

NCA officers went over the processing performance outcomes for the last quarter of 2021-22 and the financial year as a whole with performance improving but short of the targeted level. The Authority offered that the performance outcomes were commendable in the circumstances of staffing challenges and dealing with some large, complex applications, and the NCA's performance compared well with other jurisdictions.

Strategic Planning Report

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

The Authority discussed an issue arising from the NCA's consideration of a draft Estate Development Plan for the Dairy Road Precinct that had been circulated by the ACT Government's Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) showing a proposed road on the southern boundary of the site. NCA officers had assessed the road as inconsistent with the soft landscaping specified for the setback area in the Development Control Plan. The Authority agreed with the NCA's assessment.

The Authority discussed a proposed amendment to the National Capital Plan for Block 348, Gungahlin, to alter the land use to allow for retirement living and ancillary uses on the site. The Authority noted a demand for aged care and community facilities across Canberra and in the Gungahlin but that the relevant site is relatively isolated. The Authority noted further advice would be sought from the ACT Government and the project's proponent on how the development would integrate with the community.

The Authority discussed a proposal to expand the range of permitted uses for Block 3, Section 97, Symonston (on the south-west corner of the intersection of Hindmarsh Drive and Jerrabomberra Avenue), specifically to allow a supermarket on the site, which is not currently provided for under the National Capital Plan for that site. The Authority discussed aspects of the proposal and agreed that decisions on specific land uses for this site would be pre-emptive and should be considered as part of broader development plans for the area.

The Authority received an update on the potential further development of Lawson North. The update included that a draft master plan for the area had been prepared for Defence Housing Australia and released for public consultation in December 2021, and that a referral under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) had recently been lodged with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW). NCA officers noted they had not received a request to amend the area's Development Control Plan which would be required to implement the master plan.

The Authority also received an update on the proposed development at Forestry Place, Yarralumla. The update included that a revised development proposal had been prepared which broadly aligned with NCA advice in relation to building heights, although the overall scale of the proposed development had reduced only marginally. NCA officers noted the proponent had lodged their revised proposal with DCCEEW under the EPBC Act. NCA officers flagged that further information on the external impacts of the proposal, such as on road traffic, would be sought before a recommendation is put to the Authority for the Authority's October meeting.

The Authority discussed a development application referral for Block 8, Section 73, Fyshwick (part of the Canturf site) and agreed that a Development Control Plan be prepared which provides for the applicant's planned works, without the need for broad public consultation, given the scale and

nature of proposed works.

Ngurra Project

NCA officers presented a paper updating the Authority on the Ngurra Project: the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Precinct.

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 progress in securing design consultant services for the Commonwealth Avenue Bridge Renewal Project stressing the need for skilled and experienced contractors for the work. NCA officers updated the Authority on the Regatta Point Redevelopment project where there have been some delays in final works, including from inclement weather for some of the key works involved.

NCA officers updated the Authority on progress in resolving issues that have been identified in renewing and upgrading the National Carillon. The Authority discussed issues around the project including the required expertise for the remediation work.

NCA officers updated the Authority on the National Memorial for Victims and Survivors of Institutional Sexual Abuse, where the buildability of the selected design is being assessed, and the National Site of Recognition for Thalidomide Survivors and their Families, where options are being explored following initial costing of the project being higher than the current project budget.

NCA officers noted the sculpture of Dame Enid Lyons and Dame Dorothy Tangney is on track to be unveiled in 2023.

The Authority noted work is nearing completion on upgrading the flagpoles and installation of associated lighting on Federation Mall and discussed the use of flagpoles on NCA-managed lands.

NCA officers provided the Authority with an update on procurement work in train in relation to the Scrivener Dam Dissipator Strengthening Works with an industry briefing on design work taking place that day.

NCA officers provided the Authority with an update on the Curtin Diplomatic Estate. The Authority discussed aspects of the update including the interest in the new sites.

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 – Light Rail Stage 2A Update

The Authority received a presentation from officials from the ACT Government on the Light Rail Stage 2A project.

The presentation provided a recap on the project's status and NCA advice relating to the project; sought in-principle endorsement for the Commonwealth Avenue Landscape proposition and

Northbourne Place; and provided the current status and indicative forward timeframes for the project. The presentation foreshadowed the elements of the project that would be provided to the Authority at their October 2022 meeting and that a works approval application for Light Rail Stage 2A may be lodged with the NCA before the end of 2022.

The recap confirmed the key elements of the project including median and wire free running, three stops (based on the Stage 1 design) and a grass track on Commonwealth Avenue.

The landscape proposition covered the Commonwealth Avenue legacy and the proposed planting layout and tree species. The Authority discussed the tree species proposed in detail and asked that the largest size available be planted. The Authority endorsed the landscape proposition, noting its endorsement was not formal approval.

The presentation continued with the proposed design for Northbourne Place – the area between the Sydney and Melbourne Buildings. The Authority discussed the key factors of the design and noted the proposal. The presentation finished with key milestones and indicative timeframes over the next year.

The Authority discussed aspects of the project including safety, landscape elements and ongoing maintenance for the area.

Chief Executive Report

The Authority received a report from the Chief Executive including Parliamentary and Ministerial matters, key procurement activities and human resource matters.

The Authority discussed aspects of the report including the NCA's APS Census results.

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

Commercial Opportunities Update

NCA officers presented a paper with information on third parties who operate under a licence agreement on NCA-managed lands as well as future opportunities for consideration.

The Authority welcomed the update and discussed a range of issues around the agreements and opportunities, including drivers and outcomes sought, appropriate financial arrangements and returns, and the future opportunities outlined.

The Authority supported the continuing exploration and development of commercial opportunities that align with the NCA's activation and other organisational objectives.

Draft Commitment to Community Engagement Policy

NCA officers presented the Authority with a paper on the draft revised Commitment to Community Engagement. The officers outlined the process for the development of the revised policy involving a health check with broad internal and external consultations and guidance through an internal advisory committee and input from a consulting firm. They noted the draft policy was an overarching document with specific engagement tools to be developed by individual areas in the NCA.

The Authority noted the NCA is already doing extensive consultation through a range of mechanisms and noted the opportunity of increased digital engagement with older methods, such as written submissions, becoming increasingly ineffective.

The Authority discussed a range of possible new or revised consultation mechanisms and made a number of suggestions on the draft policy. The Authority asked for a revised Commitment to Community Engagement Policy for consideration at Authority's October meeting.

Heritage Update

NCA officers presented a paper focusing on the NCA Heritage Strategy. Officers outlined the background and status of the NCA Heritage Strategy, and the steps taken in preparing the draft.

The Authority discussed aspects of the Strategy and its practical operation and provided some feedback and comments on the draft document. The Authority endorsed the Strategy.

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 matters.

Media Report

The Authority received and noted the Media Report, 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 an update on NCA events and operations at the National Capital Exhibition, as well as on NCA marketing work, including an update on the Cultural Icons campaign.

Other Business

The Authority returned to the ACT Government's landscape masterplan for Commonwealth Avenue confirming its position including the requirement for mature tree plantings.

The Authority also discussed Floriade and Commonwealth Park, confirming the NCA's support for and involvement in Floriade and looking to ensure the NCA's role is recognised.

The Authority noted its next regular meeting is scheduled for 12 October 2022.