



Australian Government

National Capital Authority

NATIONAL CAPITAL AUTHORITY

Authority Meeting A2022/5

12 October 2022

Public Record

*I endorse this Public Record of the
Authority meeting held on 12 October 2022*

A blue ink signature, appearing to read 'Terry Weber', written over a horizontal 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 12 October 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), Ms Jenny Smithson, Mr James Willson and Ms Sally Barnes (Chief Executive).

This meeting was the Authority's fifth regular meeting for 2022.

As part of a strategic planning matter, Authority members made a site visit to Block 348, Gungahlin (currently a CSIRO facility, including Gungahlin Homestead), where they met with proponents of a possible redevelopment of the site as an aged care community.

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

The Chair recognised the significant contribution of Dennis Richardson who had recently completed his term as an Authority member. The Authority noted the NCA had played a central role in recognising the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, including the flag display on Federation Mall. The Authority also noted recent developments and work of the NCA including with the Russian Embassy lease issue and a briefing provided to the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories.

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

The Authority asked the NCA to contact ACT Policing regarding any further measures they are able to take to promote the safe operation of e-scooters.

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.

On WHS matters, the Authority discussed COVID-19-related issues. The Authority also discussed security around the National Estate and possible improvements.

The Authority discussed the revised NCA Commitment to Community Consultation policy and made a few suggestions on the draft. The Authority agreed for it to proceed to community consultation itself and, subject to any changes arising, adoption.

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 the period ending 31 August 2022.

Works Approval Report

NCA officers presented the Works Approval Report, which provided a summary of current and upcoming works approval applications.

The Authority noted external work at West Block was waiting for parliamentary approval but that internal work was underway.

The Authority noted the Australian War Memorial (AWM) had submitted a works approval application for public realm works, the final package of works of the AWM redevelopment project. The Authority noted a full consultation process will be undertaken before Christmas including a video prepared by the AWM on the planned works. The Authority discussed that environmental and heritage requirements would form part of the assessment and that tree plantings would need to be consistent with previously stated requirements.

The Authority discussed the proposed residential development at 70 Allara Street, City, particularly improvements that had been made to the proposal following input from the public consultation and assessment processes. The Authority welcomed the improvements made and asked staff to continue to seek improvements to the quality of materials and minimise shadowing where possible.

The Authority discussed a proposed office development at 15 Sydney Avenue, Barton, reported to be occupied by the Australian Taxation Office when built. The discussion covered pre-application feedback that had been provided to the proponent. The Authority supported the position that the building height will need to be consistent with other buildings in the Barton precinct.

The Authority discussed a works approval application for a permanent dragon boat shed at Grevillea Park which is planned to replace a current temporary structure. The Authority discussed aspects of the proposal including public use and access to the Lake, and facilities at the site. The Authority looked forward to public consultation on the proposal.

The Authority discussed a proposal for a new office development at the corner of London Circuit and Northbourne Avenue. The Authority noted the current proposal is not currently consistent with aspects of the National Capital Plan and that the design may need further work.

Strategic Planning Report

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

The Authority discussed a proposal for a new joint fire and ambulance station at Block 2 Section 58, Duffy, to cater for anticipated demand for these services in the area, especially for the growing Molonglo District. The Authority agreed to the proposed exception to the National Capital Plan for the 1-hectare proposed to be used of the overall 9-hectare site.

The Authority discussed an update on the Dairy Road Precinct Development Plan. The update noted a circulated draft Estate Development Plan (EDP) contained a road in an area that was determined to be for soft landscaping in the agreed Development Control Plan (DCP). The ACT Government's Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) has been advised that the lodged EDP was inconsistent with the DCP.

The Authority was provided with an update on a proposal to construct the Northern Access Road at Canberra Airport. The Authority noted the NCA is awaiting the conclusion of current environmental assessments and processes before further substantive action is taken on this proposal.

The Authority discussed a proposal to amend the National Capital Plan in relation to Block 800, Gungahlin, to change the land use status of part of this block (the part currently designated as part

of the Hills, Ridges and Buffers in the National Capital Plan) to allow for predominately residential development. Following discussion, the Authority agreed to not support the proposal to seek to amend the National Capital Plan for this area.

The Authority discussed a proposal to amend the land use provisions in the National Capital Plan (NCP) for Block 348, Gungahlin, to provide for a retirement living facility at the site. Earlier in the day, the Authority made a visit to the site. The Authority asked the NCA to prepare a supplementary paper on the site with further details on the purpose of open space and possible uses of the site under the current provisions of the National Capital Plan.

Ngurra Project

NCA officers provided the Authority with a verbal update on the Ngurra Project: the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Precinct. The update covered the status of the design competition.

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 of the projects in the report including status of the project to strengthen the dissipator at Scrivener Dam.

The Authority also discussed planned works which would facilitate the operation of seaplanes from Lake Burley Griffin. The Authority's discussion covered details of the potential operations and financial arrangements, including looking to achieve consistency across similar NCA concessions.

Forward Agenda

The Authority noted the current forward agenda for its December 2022 meeting and meetings scheduled for 2023. No additional conflicts of interest for agenda items for these meetings were identified at this time (aside from those already identified and being managed).

The Authority discussed and agreed dates for its 2023 meetings.

Presentation – Acton Park Design

The Authority received a presentation from representatives of the ACT Government on a proposed design for Acton Waterfront Park.

The presentation covered detailed aspects and features of the park design including several proposed pavilions, consultation processes and outcomes (including Indigenous aspects), design principles, landscape plans, interfaces and project staging. The presenters sought feedback on the proposal to inform a works approval application to be submitted in early 2023.

The Authority discussed the proposal including on connectivity with nearby sites, proposed dates and staging, and alternatives in the event of any funding delays. The Authority generally supported the new design but expressed concern about the long timeframe before implementation. The Authority confirmed a preference for maintaining the already approved less elaborate landscape-based design in the interim.

Presentation – Light Rail Stage 2A

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

The presentation provided a recap on the status of the project and several design details and aspects, including protected intersections, the Parkes Way Bridge median, access at the Commonwealth Park stop, trees and traffic implications.

The Authority discussed aspects of the presentation including options for access at the Commonwealth Park stop, the species, sourcing and placement of mature trees, and traffic arrangements and outcomes.

Presentation – Anzac Park East

The Authority received a presentation from representatives of Amalgamated Property Group on a proposed residential and office development at Anzac Park East.

The presentation provided an update of the proposed development highlighting changes and refinements that had been made since the proposal was last presented to the Authority in June 2022.

The Authority discussed the changes to the design and details presented, including in the context of its location on Canberra's central axis and vista and concluded the proposal had progressed and is now close to what is expected for the important site.

Chief Executive Report

The Authority received a report from the Chief Executive including updates on a range of strategic issues, Parliamentary and Ministerial events, and human resource matters. Ms Barnes provided verbal updates on some issues, including on the development of the NCA's Reconciliation Action Plan and a planned briefing to new Members of Parliament and Senators.

Forestry Place

NCA officers presented a paper on a proposed Amendment to the National Capital Plan changing the land use from Community Facility to a mixed-use policy permitting residential, commercial accommodation, community facilities and ancillary uses on the site of the former CSIRO Forestry School at Yarralumla.

The Authority discussed aspects of the proposal including heritage and environmental matters, and traffic concerns. The Authority agreed that NCA officers progress a draft Amendment to the National Capital Plan with detailed controls for building heights, massing and limits on ancillary commercial and accommodation uses for their consideration in December.

Barbara Hepworth Sculpture

NCA officers presented a paper on the proposed relocation of a sculpture – *Two Figures* – by Dame Barbara Hepworth to a more prominent and secure location in Commonwealth Park.

The paper noted the value of the sculpture has risen significantly in recent years and the proposed move would be commensurate with its significance and provide increased security for the sculpture by moving it near the National Capital Exhibition.

The Authority agreed with the assessment and supported the proposed move.

Statue of the Late Senator Susan Ryan

NCA officers presented a paper on a request by ArtsACT for the installation of a figurative sculpture of the late Susan Ryan AO within the Senate Rose Gardens adjacent to Old Parliament House.

The presentation provided the background to the request and the relevant evaluation criteria that apply through the NCA's Guidelines for Commemorative Works.

The Authority supported the installation of a figurative sculpture and asked the NCA to work with the ACT Government to determine an appropriate location to commemorate Ms Ryan.

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 main stories, events and coverage relating to the NCA's work and profile over the period since the previous Authority meeting. The Authority thanked the NCA for its work associated with the Queen's passing.

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, attractions and marketing.

Other Business

No matters were raised under other business.

The Authority noted its next regular meeting is scheduled for 6 December 2022.