



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

# **NATIONAL CAPITAL AUTHORITY**

**Authority Meeting A2023/1**

**8 February 2023**

**Public Record**

*I endorse this Public Record of the  
Authority meeting held on 8 February 2023*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Terry Weber', written over a dotted line.

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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 February 2023. 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 first regular meeting for 2023.

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

The Chair thanked the NCA team for the successful 'Lights on the Lake' event, discussed the poor condition of western-facing signs in some areas of the estate and noted the status of Authority appointments.

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 agreed to re-visit possible further activation and development on and around Lake Burley Griffin at the Authority Planning Day. NCA officers noted the NCA was engaging a lawyer with skills in commercial arrangements to assist the NCA to prepare commercial agreements and leases.

## **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.

Under risk management, the Authority noted the current NCA Strategic Risk Register and Treatment Plan and the NCA's participation in the biennial Comcover risk management survey.

The Authority noted the update provided on planning and performance matters, including the outcomes of the four key performance indicators included in the NCA's Portfolio Budget Statement for the first half of 2022-23.

Under governance and compliance, the Authority received and discussed a paper in the implications and proposed actions arising from the establishment of the National Anti-Corruption Commission. Authority members completed and lodged their annual conflict of interest declarations.

## **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 December 2022.

The Authority discussed progress in spending on the NCA's capital works and projects, tender outcomes and some savings measures. The Authority discussed the impact of inflation on project



costs and associated supply issues in some areas. NCA officers noted costs are being reasonably managed with appropriate contingencies in place.

## **Works Approval Report**

NCA officers presented the Works Approval Report, which provided a summary of current and upcoming works approval applications, team performance for the first half of 2022-23, and key meetings and development proposals.

The Authority discussed several of the current proposals:

- 70 Allara Street, City – NCA officers noted continuing discussions with the developer, currently focusing on the quality of materials; traffic, parking and access issues; and landscape matters.
- Section 38, Campbell (Foothills Development Precinct 5) – NCA officers noted issues arising from the consultation process are being addressed by the developer with approval of the proposed works assessed as close. The Authority discussed aspects of ensuring developments are built as specified and approved.
- Anzac Park East – NCA officers updated the Authority on progress of this proposal, including approvals being reviewed by the Department of the Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, while approved preparatory work is now underway.
- London Quarter – NCA officers provided an update of the proposed development, including discussions at the Development Review Panel. The Authority discussed aspects of the proposal, including the buildings' footprint, its presentation and activation prospects, comparisons with nearby developments, and traffic, parking and access issues.
- Eco Suites – the Authority noted the proposal would be subject to public consultation.
- Water Hoverboards – NCA officers noted they were discussing a proposal to allow a commercial operator to hire hoverboards for operation on East Basin. The Authority discussed safety and licensing aspects.

The Authority noted the recent good performance in the timely assessment of works approval applications and the other information contained in the report.

## **Strategic Planning Report**

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

The Authority discussed progress in the Lake Burley Griffin and Foreshore Land Use Review including the considerations, characteristics, advantages and disadvantages of further activation in the various areas.

NCA officers provided an update on the proposed development at Forestry Place, Yarralumla. The update noted the NCA is waiting for a final determination from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water under the EPBC Act before future community consultation on any possible amendment.

NCA officers updated the Authority on the Commonwealth Park revitalisation project noting a strong response to the request for tender process. The Authority discussed possible opportunities for improved facilities.

NCA officers noted they were meeting with the ACT Government regarding possible sites for an industrial facility.

The Authority discussed the proposal for development of an aged care complex at the site of the Gungahlin homestead and nearby undeveloped land. The Authority requested additional information on the significance of the National Capital Open Space System before considering any change to current land use provisions.

The Authority noted the other information contained in the report.

## **Ngurra Project**

NCA officers provided the Authority with a verbal update 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 several of the projects in the report including repairs at the National Carillon, the National Memorial for Victims and Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse, the National Site of Recognition for Thalidomide Survivors and their Families, the Dame Enid Lyons and Dame Dorothy Tangney Commemorative Sculpture, and the National Library of Australia (NLA) Forecourt Tree Replacement.

The Authority asked the NCA to write to the Director-General of the ACT Government's Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate seeking a permit to allow planting of replacement Lombardy Poplars in the NLA Forecourt.

## **Forward Agenda**

The Authority noted the current forward agenda for its scheduled 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 – Acton Park**

The Authority received a presentation from representatives of the ACT Government on updated plans to establish the Acton Waterfront Park.

The presentation set out the proposed staging and timeline for the Park over the next several years, including three works approval packages for stormwater construction, fill construction and Stage 1 of the Park itself.

The Authority discussed a range of issues associated with the planned works and designs including access to the site and traffic implications, co-ordination with nearby works, and the layout and contouring proposed for the area. The Authority looked forward to the forthcoming works approval applications.

## **Presentation – Commonwealth Avenue Bridge Design Discussions**

The Authority received a detailed presentation from NCA officers on the Commonwealth Avenue Bridge Renewal project.

The presentation updated the Authority on the project status and provided key design element options and recommendations, covering structural design (strengthening and widening),



architectural form (vehicle barriers, pedestrian balustrades and lighting) and urban design (bridge abutments and approaches) components.

The Authority discussed the various options presented on the different elements and components of the Bridge renewal and for its four approach zones. The Authority provided their perspectives and input on the components and agreed with the recommended options presented. The Authority also discussed consultation arrangements and liaison with the ACT Government on various aspects of the project and the need to minimise disruption to commuters during construction.

## **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, providing verbal updates on some issues.

The Authority discussed the status of diplomatic sites and visits, the possible operation of seaplanes on Lake Burley Griffin, and remediation of asbestos contamination at Acton Peninsula.

The Authority also discussed the update on NCA procurement activity and the outcome of a cyber security review. The Authority asked about the status of the Commitment to Community Engagement. Ms Barnes noted next steps had been assigned to the NCA's media and communications manager.

The Authority noted the other information in the report.

## **Reconciliation Action Plan Update**

NCA officers and a Supply Nation registered Indigenous consultant presented a paper which included a draft of the NCA's first Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

The Authority welcomed the draft RAP and discussed aspects of the document. The Authority noted a range of opportunities to increase the NCA's engagement and substance on Indigenous issues such as providing more information on the Aboriginal Tent Embassy, further promoting Reconciliation Place and more generally lifting the profile of Indigenous issues across the NCA's work.

The Authority endorsed the draft RAP to progress to Reconciliation Australia for consideration and looked forward to implementing its elements in the work of the NCA.

## **Draft Amendment: Approach Route Road Upgrades**

NCA officers presented a paper concerning potential amendment to the National Capital Plan (the Plan) to vary the extent of Approach Routes in response to major road upgrades being undertaken in the ACT.

NCA officers noted planned and future work by the ACT Government on intersections on Canberra's approach routes would be simplified by an amendment to the Plan to increase the coverage of Plan to include intersection boundaries – an amendment would ensure the NCA would retain planning jurisdiction for the entirety of works, be consistent with Plan coverage and treatment in other areas, and simplify planning approval processes.

The Authority noted the information provided and agreed to consider a request for an amendment to the Plan pending receipt of further information and plans.

## **Seaplanes on Lake Burley Griffin**

NCA officers presented a paper updating the Authority on seaplane operations on Lake Burley Griffin, including the issues that have been under recent consideration, focusing on the outcomes of stakeholder consultations and heritage requirements.

The Authority discussed several aspects of the proposed operations including activation aims, heritage and environmental matters, security and infrastructure requirements, potential timing, and licences and financial details.

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

## **Estate Report**

The Authority received and discussed 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.

## **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.

The Authority welcomed that independent traveller and school group visitor numbers has increased markedly in recent months.

## **Other Business**

Under other business, Authority members reviewed and discussed the Lights on the Lake event.

The Authority noted its next regular meeting is scheduled for 4 April 2023.