



Australian Government
National Capital Authority

NATIONAL CAPITAL AUTHORITY

Authority Meeting A2023/2

4 April 2023

Public Record

*I endorse this Public Record of the
Authority meeting held on 4 April 2023*

A blue ink signature, appearing to read 'Terry Weber', written over a 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 4 April 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 second regular meeting for 2023.

Before the meeting, the Authority made a site visit to the forecourt of the National Library of Australia to receive a briefing on works underway there to replace the forecourt poplar trees. NCA officers provided the Authority with a background and details of the project, as well as current and scheduled work.

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

The Chair noted he and Ms Barnes would attend the funeral of Senior Ngunnawal elder Aunty Agnes Shea at 11am and that the meeting would resume on their return.

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.

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 potential WHS risks on the Estate.

The Authority endorsed the updated delegation instruments for specified NCA officers to exercise Authority powers under the *Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988* for permanent and temporary works approvals, for signature by the Chair. The Chair signed the instruments as prepared. The Authority asked for some further details on the operation of the delegations for the next meeting.

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

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.

NCA officers noted Departmental revenue and spending was tracking well with a small surplus expected for the financial year.

NCA officers updated the Authority on the forthcoming interim audit of the NCA's financial arrangements and accounts, and the comprehensive revaluation process for the NCA's assets.

The Authority reviewed and discussed the NCA's proposed internal operating and capital budgets for 2023-24. The Authority discussed aspects of the budgets including legal costs, depreciation, and revenue variations and opportunities. Following discussion, the Authority approved the proposed budgets.

Works Approval Report

NCA officers presented the Works Approval Report, which provided a summary of current and ongoing matters related to works approval applications.

The Authority discussed several of the current proposals:

- 70 Allara Street, City – NCA officers noted ongoing discussions with the developer on the quality of materials and finishes proposed, and with Transport Canberra and City Services on traffic and safety matters. The Authority supported seeking to ensure quality materials and finishes are used, especially given the site's significance and compared with nearby buildings, and discussed issues that had been raised in consultation processes.
- Anzac Park East – NCA officers updated the Authority on the development proposal, including processes to address requirements of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and discussions with Transport Canberra and City Services on traffic and waste management matters. NCA officers noted the proponent may lodge an early works approval for bulk excavation for the site.
- Light Rail Stage 2A – NCA officers went over the issues arising from the current consultation process including suggested amendments to improve active travel and safety along the route.
- John Gorton Campus Car Park Building – NCA officers noted issues that had been raised to date in the consultation process on alternative parking arrangements during construction and the proposed alignment of the building.
- London Quarter – NCA officers noted the NCA had met with the project architect and were waiting for the next iteration of the proposal. NCA officers noted Transport Canberra and City Services were examining the traffic and access issues relating to the proposal. The Authority noted the development needed to meet the requirements of the National Capital Plan for that area.
- Telecommunication Towers – NCA officers updated the Authority on a proposal to relocate a telecommunications tower from 23 Banks Street, Yarralumla, to a site on the Royal Canberra Golf Club. The Authority discussed submissions that had been received from the public consultation process being held, which was still in progress.

The Authority noted 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 the proposal to develop Block 348 Gungahlin into an aged care facility. The Authority noted the importance of the land in relation to the National Capital Open Space System in providing the landscape setting for Canberra's urban areas, and its broader function with respect to ecological and cultural resources for the city. The Authority also noted there is substantial available land in the nearby areas for aged care and similar development. The

Authority agreed to maintain the current land use policy for the Block within the National Capital Plan, encouraging adaptive reuse of the site and current buildings.

The Authority discussed a proposed amendment to the National Capital Plan to include intersection boundaries for Canberra's approach routes, arising from planned works at the intersection of the Monaro Highway and Isabella Drive. The proposal was noted as ensuring the NCA would retain coverage for all the proposed works, being consistent with Plan coverage and treatment in other areas, and simplifying planning approval processes. The Authority also discussed a proposal to amend the land use policy for Block 1563 Tuggeranong from Broadacre Areas to Urban Areas to facilitate industrial land use. The proposed land use amendment was noted as clarifying the land use in the area and able to be packaged with the nearby intersection Plan changes. The Authority agreed to the preparation of a draft amendment as proposed.

The Authority discussed a draft site masterplan for developing the Australian Institute of Sport complex in Bruce. The Authority noted its national importance.

The Authority noted a proposition being considered by the site owner to update the Development Control Plan (DCP) for Block 2, Section 43 Belconnen to reflect current land use in and around the Belconnen Town Centre.

The Authority discussed a proposed development at Block 13, Section 49 Deakin, noting several significant areas of non-compliance with the site's Development Control Plan.

Later in the meeting, the Authority was updated on the possible development at the CSIRO Forestry site in Yarralumla. They asked staff to invite the Yarralumla Residents Association to the June Board meeting so they could listen to their concerns directly.

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 set out the status and details of current major projects being undertaken by the NCA.

The Authority asked that the NCA add the Lake Activation Strategy and the Neville Bonner artwork to the major projects report with updates provided at each meeting.

The Authority noted the other items and information in the Major Projects Report.

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 – Commonwealth Park

The Authority received a presentation from Turf Design Studio on the Commonwealth Park revitalisation project.

The presentation covered a background of recent work undertaken by the Studio, especially in Sydney's key parklands, including Cockatoo Island. The presentation included a detailed background on the development of Commonwealth Park, an assessment of the Park's current condition and issues being faced, current drivers and factors to consider, and possible directions for the Park's future development.

The Authority discussion focussed on the context of the project including the impact of nearby developments, timing considerations, and possible directions and steps that could be taken. The Authority highlighted the Park's further development should focus on its national role and discussed wayfinding, connections and access, including from the coming Light Rail station. The Authority looked at possible opportunities and drawcards for people to visit the Park, and the need for improvements in infrastructure to facilitate current and new activities, including Floriade.

The Authority looked forward to further output from the project and the outcomes of consultations.

Presentation – Commonwealth Avenue Bridge Design Discussions

The Authority received a presentation from NCA officers on the Commonwealth Avenue Bridge Renewal project, covering the project delivery model, lighting and active travel infrastructure, road closures, and an update on the project budget.

On the project deliver model, NCA officers went over the current tailored managing contractor model versus a design and construct model. The Authority discussed the risk and benefits of the two models and supported moving to a design and construct model.

On lighting, NCA officers outlined the relevant Australian Standards, and aesthetic, heritage and safety considerations. The Authority supported the lighting designs being pursued, using the bridge's balustrades and barriers.

NCA officers outlined the proposed road and active travel barrier designs and heights against standards generally used in other jurisdictions and the relevant factors to consider, including safety risks and mitigating considerations. The Authority supported the barrier heights and designs proposed.

The Authority discussed the options and implications of road closures necessary for the bridge works, including disruption to users, timing, bridge capacities and safety. The Authority noted this issue would be the subject of further consultation and encouraged NCA officers to work closely with ACT Government officials to coordinate timings for works and communication to the community and stakeholders.

The Authority were provided with an update of the project budget.

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 several items in the report including memorial statues, consultations on upcoming developments and work (including Commonwealth Avenue Bridge), improvements to

procurement processes and activities, remediation of asbestos contamination at Acton Peninsula, Lake activation and progress toward publishing the updated Commitment to Community Consultation policy.

The Authority noted the other information in the report.

National Capital Plan – City Hill and West Basin Precincts

Reflecting time constraints, the Authority asked that this item be held over until the June meeting.

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.

Other Business

No other business was raised. The Authority noted its next regular meeting is scheduled for 7 June 2023.