



Australian Government
National Capital Authority

NATIONAL CAPITAL AUTHORITY

Authority Meeting A2023/4

8 August 2023

Public Record

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, 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 8 August 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, Professor Helen Lochhead and Ms Sally Barnes (Chief Executive).

This meeting was the Authority's fourth regular meeting for 2023.

Before the meeting, the Authority attended a Welcome to Country, smoking ceremony and sod-turning event as part of the commencement of construction of the John Gorton Campus Carpark Building in Parkes, ACT.

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

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.

On safety, the Authority discussed potential hazards on the National Estate and how best to detect and report issues requiring attention. NCA officers noted the NCA has detailed arrangements to address issues based on priority with various ways hazards are reported. The Authority noted the importance of having issues reported easily and responded to appropriately. The Authority asked officials to investigate ways to enhance hazard reporting, including referral arrangements with the ACT Government.

On risk management, the Authority had a thorough discussion on the risk of poor planning outcomes. NCA officers went over the current planning controls and ways the NCA can influence outcomes, highlighting the regulatory and advisory framework and arrangements in place. The Authority noted the overall objectives of the National Capital Plan, challenges in ensuring good outcomes and comparisons in planning controls in different jurisdictions such as for apartments. The Authority discussed ways the NCA can improve planning outcomes such as through more detailed development control plans and masterplans.

The Authority provided input to the draft NCA Corporate Plan for the period 2023-24 to 2026-27. The Authority encouraged the NCA to be aspirational and strategic, including for the use and activation of Lake Burley Griffin and surrounds.

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 for year ending 30 June 2023, including the draft NCA's 2022-23 Financial Statements and the status of the ANAO's audit of the Statements.

Works Approval Report

NCA officers presented the Works Approval Report, which provided a summary of current and ongoing matters related to works approval applications as well as recent performance in processing works approval applications.

The Authority discussed several of the current proposals:

- 70 Allara Street, City – NCA officers updated the Authority on the status of recent discussions with the applicant, focused on the quality of materials and finishes proposed to be used for the development.
- Anzac Park East – NCA officers noted recent discussions with the developer on finalising the designs of the buildings and heritage assessments with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. The Authority noted the time taken to get to this point in the context of the importance of the location.
- London Quarter (Block 40 Section 100 City) – NCA officers updated the Authority on recent meetings and interactions with the developer and project architects regarding the proposal's alignment with the relevant provisions of the National Capital Plan. The officers noted some issues had been resolved with elements of the proposal amended while others were the subject of further planned discussions. The Authority discussed aspects of the proposed development including its precedents and implications for nearby sites.
- John Gorton Campus Car Park Building – NCA officers noted an early works approval had been given for site establishment and demolition work while awaiting further detail to be provided on proposed landscape and traffic matters.
- Acton Waterfront – NCA officers noted the NCA had received works approval applications for civil and landscaping work associated with the Acton Waterfront Park with the more minor applications being assessed while awaiting further information on the more substantive proposed works to enable public consultation.
- New Stadium Australian Institute of Sport – NCA officers updated the Authority on discussions with ACT Government representatives on three flagship projects, being a new or upgraded stadium, an entertainment pavilion and a convention centre, to assist with the preparation of business cases – NCA officers noted they had provided information on land uses and the relevant provisions of the National Capital Plan.

The Authority discussed a guidance document for the Authority's delegated powers to approve Works Approval applications and made some suggestions to the document.

The Authority noted the other information contained in the report, highlighting good performance in the timeliness of processing Works Approval applications for 2022-23.

Strategic Planning Report

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

The Authority further discussed planning at the Australian Institute of Sport precinct.

The Authority noted the update on the National Housing Accord 2022 and the Australian Government's commitment to identifying whether suitable Commonwealth land can contribute to the supply of land for social and affordable housing. The Authority noted the NCA does not manage land that would be suitable for housing but has planning responsibility for Commonwealth land that could contribute to housing supply, such as at the CSIRO Ginninderra site. The Authority asked the NCA to facilitate and enable the development of relevant sites for housing.

NCA officers updated the Authority on Canberra's diplomatic estate noting demand for diplomatic land, including from pressure to move some diplomatic facilities currently in residential areas.

The Authority noted the other information contained in the report.

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 discussed several of the projects in the Report including the following.

- The Commonwealth Avenue Bridge Renewal Project was scheduled to be discussed by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on 21 August while work continues on preparations for major procurements.
- Progress to date on the National Memorial for Victims and Survivors of Institutional Sexual Abuse.
- The National Site of Recognition for Thalidomide Survivors and their Families is on track to for dedication in late November 2023.
- On the commemoration of Senator Neville Bonner, a successful meeting had been held with two of Senator Bonner's grandchildren, which has enabled planning to progress.
- An editorial board has been appointed to support wayfinding signage work.
- The Authority looked forward to advancing the Lake Burley Griffin Pathway/Lake Activation Strategy.
- A presentation to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on the Scrivener Dam Dissipator Strengthening Project is scheduled for September.
- The Authority discussed APS Net Zero reporting and related trends and issues in property decisions.

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 – Draft Amendment – Block 7 Section 4 Yarralumla

The Authority received a presentation from representatives of Oakstand Pty Ltd on their proposed development at the former CSIRO Forestry Site in Yarralumla.

The presentation covered the current status of the project and commentary on key matters that have been raised by the community: heritage and landscape, density, traffic, parking at Yarralumla shops and the cumulative impact of this and other developments in the suburb.

The Authority discussed aspects of the proposed development including its proposed scale and density, adaptive re-use of the existing heritage buildings, its impact on traffic (including with nearby developments), its quality and assurance in that regard, and parking arrangements.

The Authority noted the presentation and asked the NCA to continue to develop the proposed planning and design provisions for the site.

Presentation – Canberra Theatre Update

The Authority received a presentation from the ACT Government representatives on the planned redevelopment of the Canberra Theatre Centre.

The presentation covered an introduction and background to the project and site, the project vision and objectives, key project elements (notably a new 2,000 seat 'lyric' theatre), process steps undertaken and planned, and key design influences and elements.

The Authority discussed aspects of the presentation including the articulation of the design, activation and access, next steps and timing, and the interaction of the development with adjacent sites.

The Authority noted the presentation and looked forward to the project's further development.

Presentation – Light Rail Stage 2B

The Authority received a presentation from the ACT Government representatives on the Light Rail Stage 2B project which is planned to extend the light rail system from Commonwealth Park to Woden.

The presentation updated the Authority on Light Rail Stage 2A and sought the Authority's guidance on key elements of Light Rail Stage 2B. On Stage 2B, the presentation noted the outcome of investigations on the currently proposed route (around State Circle), the approval pathway, (including key entities and steps), and a potential alternative route through Parkes and Barton.

The Authority discussed the range of implications and issues arising from a potential change of route including the Light Rail's purpose, likely patronage and use; environmental and heritage assessment processes; safety, traffic and access matters; stakeholder consultation; and parliamentary and other statutory approval processes.

The Authority looked forward to further exploration of the alternative route and consideration of the range of issues identified.

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 welcomed the update on the NCA's procurement activities and the outcomes for 2022-23, including a marked increase in the use of open tender processes and ongoing training of NCA staff.

The Authority noted the other information in the report.

Monaro Highway Approach Route

NCA officers presented a paper seeking the Authority's agreement to release National Capital Plan Amendment 96 – Monaro Highway Approach Route and Block 1563 Tuggeranong (DA96) for public consultation.

The Authority noted the two elements of the Draft Amendment being:

- to vary the extent of the Monaro Highway Approach Route and other Approach Routes if necessary following engagement with the ACT Government, aimed at streamlining approval processes; and
- change the land use policy of part Block 1563 Tuggeranong from Broadacre Areas to Urban Areas, to facilitate industrial land uses.

The Authority agreed to release DA96 for public consultation.

Commonwealth Park Project

NCA officers introduced a paper seeking the Authority's agreement to the proposed general organising principles for Commonwealth Park as the basis for continued engagement with the ACT Government on key aspects of the future of Commonwealth Park.

The Authority discussed the paper and its attachments concluding further work is required developing the issues identified before further engagement can take place.

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.

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 discussed ways to measure and assess the success of events and activation initiatives. The Authority noted the positive outcomes set out in the Xmas in July event report.

Other Business

No other business was raised.

The Authority noted its next regular meeting is scheduled for 19 October 2023.