



Australian Government
National Capital Authority

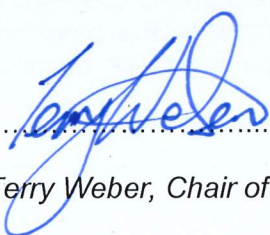
NATIONAL CAPITAL AUTHORITY

Authority Meeting A2023/5

19 October 2023

Public Record

*I endorse this Public Record of the
Authority meeting held on 19 October 2023*


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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 19 October 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 fifth regular meeting for 2023.

Before the meeting, Authority members received presentations on Work Health and Safety (WHS) – Due Diligence, and Public Interest Disclosures (PID).

The WHS presentation covered work health and safety obligations and duties, officer liability and accountability, risk management, assurance and practical compliance. The PID presentation covered the objectives of and recent changes to the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2013*, what are public interest disclosures, obligations of agencies and employees, and the interaction with the National Anti-Corruption Commission.

The Chair opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed members and attendees. The Chair noted Ms Barnes announcement that she would be resigning from the position of Chief Executive of the National Capital Authority, effective 29 February 2024, with two more Authority meetings to be held before then.

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 discussed arrangements for the operation of flagpoles, as well as lighting of buildings and monuments, in the NCA's control. NCA officers noted that flags and lighting arrangements are now working well with appropriate liaison and consultation with the ACT Government, and the Departments of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Key Governance Matters

The Authority received and discussed 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, NCA officers noted recent amendments to the *Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011* on identifying and managing psychosocial risks and hazards, and actions the NCA is implementing in response. NCA officers also updated the Authority on a recent Comcare inspection, and work in train on updating the NCA's risk registers.

On risk management, the Authority made several suggestions and comments on the Strategic Risk Register and Treatment Plan, including on possible terrorism threats, having attractive employment conditions to attract and retain staff, and challenges in engaging the broader Australian community on NCA work.

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 financial year to 30 September 2023.

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 developments:

- 70 Allara Street, City – NCA officers noted the works approval application was close to being approved with the developer and their design team receiving input from the NCA and consultation processes. They noted a follow-up meeting was scheduled for residents from the nearby Forum building who would be informed of the outcome. The Authority noted it has been a long process but resulted in a better outcome for the important location.
- Anzac Park East – NCA officers advised the various works approval applications for the development had now been approved. The approvals included a range of conditions to ensure the quality of the development.
- London Quarter (Block 40 Section 100 City) – NCA officers noted the applicant had withdrawn their applications for this development on 1 September 2023. Officers noted that on-going discussions with the developer on aspects of their proposal, including building heights and footprint, and having office space above Knowles Place, the road through the development had seemed very close to resolution before the withdrawal.
- John Gorton Campus Car Park Building – NCA officers noted the works application for the carpark itself had now been approved with a further application for landscaping, lighting, signage and civil works associated with the Kings Avenue road reserve to come, once design details are finalised.
- Acton Waterfront – NCA officers updated the Authority on four works approval applications relating to civil and landscape works at the Acton Waterfront Park. The two more minor applications (for stormwater and temporary access) had been approved while two applications for the more substantive works had been the subject of public consultation. The Authority discussed the comments coming from the consultation processes, which had generally been supportive of the proposed development. They noted approval for the outstanding applications is expected to be provided in early November 2023.
- West Block – NCA officers updated the Authority on proposed changes to current development of West Block notably to change the purpose of the pavilion structure to now be a childcare centre. The Authority discussed the implications of the changes and the approval processes to be followed.

The Authority also discussed details and issues of some of the proposals currently at the pre-application stage.

The Authority welcomed the presented works approval workflow diagram and made some further suggestions to include possible review processes. The Authority also discussed reporting arrangements and the need to provide background information and context in relevant circumstances.

The Authority noted the other information in the report, including increased application numbers and good performance in the timeliness of processing Works Approval applications for the first quarter of 2023-24.

Strategic Planning Report

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

NCA officers talked to a National Cabinet decision aimed at increasing affordable housing supply and the role of the NCA, where relevant, in assisting in meeting this broader government agenda. They noted several redevelopment sites covered in the Authority's meeting papers were relevant to this objective, including in the Belconnen, Yarralumla and Fyshwick.

NCA officers also talked to the ACT Government's planning reforms and major projects relevant to the work of the NCA, including a review of the City Plan and the City Centre Urban Design Guide. The Authority discussed aspects of the ACT Government's work and asked the NCA to work collegiately with the ACT Government on areas of mutual interest. The Authority asked for further information on the ACT Government's City Plan and City Centre Urban Design Guide including its coverage and any implications for the work of the NCA.

NCA officers introduced a report on current permitted land use on and around Lake Burley Griffin and opportunities for future use and activities. They discussed potential development nodes around the Lake based on current planning arrangements or incremental changes. The Authority discussed the issue in detail suggesting a more 'blue sky' and pro-active approach to the analysis to identify opportunities and constraints for expanded uses. The Authority noted a lot of activation work had occurred over the past several years with more in train, such as the City to Lake work and planned path extensions. The Authority discussed the way forward and possible inputs coming from the current inquiry into fostering and promoting the significance of Australia's National Capital by the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories.

The Authority also discussed:

- a presented working draft of a new Development Control Plan for Section 43 Belconnen;
- a proposed declaration of National Land related to the land recently acquired by the Australian War Memorial in Mitchell;
- resolving issues related to the use of 'Datum Ground Level' and 'Natural Ground Level' in key planning documents and processes;
- the NCA's involvement in the ACT Government's transport work on Parkes Way and the South West Corridor – the Authority noted the importance of this work in improving City to Lake access and connections; and
- a potential proposal to improve urban design outcomes around Hume Circle and Canberra Avenue.

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

Major Projects Report

NCA officers introduced the Major Projects Report, which provides an overview of the NCA's key design, construction and maintenance projects.

The Authority welcomed progress in the work in preparing the Senator Neville Bonner AO commemoration, including the design brief and request for proposal material. The Authority discussed the involvement of Senator Bonner's family and the background for the proposed design.

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

Estate Report

NCA officers introduced the Estate Management Report, which provided an update on key estate management current and planned projects and operational matters.

The Authority discussed elements of the report including an update of procurement and contract management work.

The Authority noted the other items and information in the Estate Report.

Forward Agenda

The Authority noted the forward agenda for its scheduled meetings in December 2023 and in 2024.

The Authority considered the proposed dates for its 2024 meetings and agreed they be finalised out of session.

No additional conflicts of interest for agenda items for these meetings were identified at this time (aside from those already identified and being managed).

Chief Executive Report

The Authority received a report from the Chief Executive including updates on a range of strategic issues, Parliamentary and Ministerial events, procurement activities and human resource matters.

NCA officers updated the Authority on the annual multi-agency dam safety exercise for Scrivener Dam and current work at the National Carillon.

The Authority discussed a possible future layout of Commonwealth Park to guide discussions with the ACT Government (including for a more sustainable site for Floriade) and broader consultation with other stakeholders in due course.

The Authority looked forward to the commencement of seaplane operations and noted the other information in the report.

Environmental Management Plan

NCA officers introduced a paper updating the Authority on progress of the NCA's Sustainability and Environmental Management Plan.

The Authority welcomed the update and agreed to the continued development of the Plan with third party review by the Australian National University's Manager, Environmental Management Plan.

The Authority noted the other information in the paper including reportable emissions data for the NCA for 2022-23, and the NCA's major sources of energy emissions and projects underway to address greenhouse gas emissions.

Draft Amendment 97 – Block 7 Section 4 Yarralumla (former Australian Forestry School)

NCA officers introduced a paper seeking the Authority's agreement to proceed and commence public consultation on National Capital Plan Amendment 97.

The Authority discussed aspects of the proposed Amendment, including potential uses for the site under the Amendment and heritage aspects.

The Authority agreed that the Amendment could proceed, including a six-week consultation period.

Update on NCA's Management of Asbestos

NCA officers introduced a paper on the NCA's management of hazardous materials risk, including asbestos, and NCA actions to mitigate the risk.

The Authority noted the information provided on the NCA's management of hazardous materials and mitigations to address the relevant risks.

Media Report

The Authority received and discussed the Media Report, which provided a summary of recent main stories, events and coverage relating to the NCA's work, focusing on the first quarter of 2023-24.

The Authority discussed some of the main stories covered and likely to come up in the next few months.

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

Under other business, the Authority discussed key upcoming events and possible presentations and items for future meetings. The Authority asked the NCA to provide an update on seaplane operations at the Authority's December meeting.

The Authority noted its next regular meeting is scheduled for 12 December 2023.