



Australian Government
National Capital Authority

NATIONAL CAPITAL AUTHORITY

Authority Meeting A2024/1

14 February 2024

Public Record

*I endorse this Public Record of the
Authority meeting held on 14 February 2024*

A handwritten signature in black 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 14 February 2024. 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 first regular meeting for 2024.

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.

The Authority discussed the appointment of Mr Willson to the board of the ACT Government's City Renewal Authority (CRA) and arrangements to manage any actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest arising from the appointment.

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.

The Authority discussed elements of the Strategic Risk Register and Treatment Plan.

The Authority noted the other information included in the report and related verbal updates.

Finance Report

The Authority received 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 31 December 2023.

The Authority noted the information presented and included in the report.

Works Approval Report

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

On performance measures, NCA officers noted recent good performance in the timely processing of works approval applications, a measure of approved applications being consistent with the National Capital Plan and relevant heritage management plans should always be 100%, and that a measure involving a survey of stakeholders is being explored.

The Authority discussed developments at the pre-application stage as well as applications that are currently under consideration, including ADFA Living-In Accommodation; University of New South Wales (UNSW) Canberra City Campus; and National Gallery of Australia–Oculus Café and National Sculpture Garden Revitalisation.

The Authority noted the other information in the report.

Strategic Planning Report

The Authority received an overview of the NCA's current strategic planning work including Lake Burley Griffin Activation Strategy; Lawson North; City Hill Park Ideas Exhibition; Molonglo Town Centre; Australian Institute of Sport; and Department of Defence land south of Pialligo Avenue. The Authority noted the other information set out in the report.

Major Projects Report

The Authority received an overview of the NCA's key design, construction and maintenance projects including the Commonwealth Avenue Bridge Renewal Project.

The Authority also discussed a range of issues relating to NCA's Sustainability and Environmental Management Plan, including coverage across the NCA's operations and role, opportunities for enhanced environmental performance, and measuring the Plan's impact. The Authority provided some minor corrections to the Plan for its finalisation.

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

Estate Report

The Authority received an overview of estate matters, with a continuing focus on safety, planned versus reactive work, forward planning, including minor works in maintenance schedules.

The Authority discussed recent fish stocking of Lake Burley Griffin and related issues.

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 2024.

Hume Circle Master Planning

The Authority received a presentation on potential master planning options for Hume Circle. The Authority discussed the role of the NCA and the need for co-ordination with the ACT Government.

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.

The Authority noted the other items and information in the Chief Executive Report.

Draft Amendment 96 – Monaro Highway and Hume Industrial Estate

NCA officers presented a paper informing the Authority of the outcomes of public consultations on National Capital Plan Draft Amendment 96 – Monaro Highway and Hume Industrial Estate (DA96) and seeking the Authority's agreement to advance the Amendment.

The Authority noted the submissions received on DA96 and discussed its consultation report, including whether there was scope for it to be presented in less detail.

Following discussion, the Authority agreed that DA96 be forwarded to the Minister for consideration and that the Consultation Report be publicly released if it is approved by the Minister.

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

NCA officers presented a paper informing the Authority of the outcomes of public consultations on National Capital Plan Draft Amendment 97 – Block 7 Section 4 Yarralumla (former Australian Forestry School) (DA97) and seeking the Authority's agreement to forward the draft Amendment to the NCA's Minister for her consideration.

The Authority discussed details of the Draft Amendment including in relation to attic spaces and presentation, and ensuring heritage obligations will be met. The Authority also discussed the overall outcomes and issues raised in the consultation report.

Following discussion, the Authority agreed that DA97 (with some minor adjustments relating to attic spaces) be forwarded to the Minister for consideration and that the Consultation Report be publicly released if it is approved by the Minister. The Authority agreed the two Draft Amendments could proceed at the same time.

Commonwealth Park Concept Vision

NCA officers introduced a paper on Commonwealth Park including a Draft Concept Vision for the Park. The Authority discussed aspects of the Concept Vision including the Park's national and local role, issues such as its accessibility and connections.

The Authority noted the NCA is also consulting with the ACT Government, after which the public consultation process will commence.

Kings Park Improvements – Stage 3 Community Engagement

NCA officers presented a paper updating the Authority on the outcomes of community engagement undertaken on the preliminary sketch design proposal for Kings Park Improvements – Stage 3.

The Authority noted the main outcomes of the community engagement process and agreed for the NCA to progress to the next stage of design development, including feedback received from community engagement. The Authority also agreed to the publication of the Engagement Report.

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, as well as a snapshot of issues that are 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 welcomed the NCA's role and support for the upcoming Enlighten Festival and the Symphony in the Park event.

The Authority noted its next regular meeting is scheduled for 17 April 2024.