

Consultation Report

Replacement of roses at the National Rose Garden

Works Associated with the (Block 1 Section 59 and Block 6 Section 34)

15 April 2025

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Introduction

The National Rose Gardens (Gardens) is a Commonwealth Heritage Listed (CHL) place managed by the National Capital Authority (NCA). The Gardens are also within the Parliament House Vista CHL boundary. Beneath both the east and west Gardens (and Parkes Place East and West), are ageing and failing stormwater pipes that now require replacement. The NCA has engaged expert advice for managing the Gardens through this process including developing a list of hardy, disease resistant rose cultivars for planting in accordance with the colour coding set out in the National Rose Gardens Heritage Management Plan (HMP).

The Gardens will make way in order for the stormwater works to be undertaken. Following the stormwater works, the Gardens will be reinstated to the 1950's layout and include rejuvenating the grounds, including the 7,500 roses.

The shapes of the existing beds have been distorted over time and the reinstatement will redefine the garden beds with clear paths between them. Individual beds will be redefined with the installation of steel edges. A new stabilised granite path will be introduced within the outer rings of the beds to improve accessibility to the Gardens for visitors.

Most of the roses are nearing end-of-life. A specialist horticulturalist has provided a list of recommended roses—38 cultivars that are more hardy, vigorous and disease resistant stock, as is required by Policy 17 of the HMP—and meet the other requirements of the HMP.

The refurbishment of the Gardens will be completed in time for the 2027 Centenary of Old Parliament House. Stakeholders have been notified of the project and the NCA invited special interest groups, including the state rose societies, to provide comment on rose cultivar selection as well as suggestions for what to do with the old rose stock.

Public Consultation requirements

Commitment to Community Engagement

The NCA's *Commitment to Community Engagement* guides the way in which the agency engages with the community to keep people informed about decisions that have already been made and to offer opportunities for input to decision-making. The NCA considers how best to approach public participation processes having regard to the training curriculum delivered by the International Association for Public Participation.

The Commitment to Community Engagement sets out the following engagement principles:

Intentional

- Be clear about what we are trying to achieve.
- Be clear about the scope for people to influence outcomes and where other processes have made recommendations and decisions.
- Be clear about limitations and constraints for community comment and involvement.

Inclusive

- Use a variety of methods allowing as many Australians as possible to participate if they wish.
- Proactively seek appropriate participants where there are missing voices.

Timely

- Allow sufficient time for the community to participate in consultation processes.
- Begin engagement at the earliest appropriate stage in the life of a project.

Feedback

- Let people know how their input and feedback was used.
- Meet or exceed all statutory engagement requirements.

The NCA determined that the new Rose Planting Proposal, as part of the National Rose Garden Rejuvenation Project, required public consultation due to being located in the National Rose Garden and due to the significance of the site.

Summary of Public Consultation

The public consultation process

Public consultation was undertaken by the NCA between 6 February 2025 and 28 February 2025 in the following manner:

- On 9 January 2025, details of the National Rose Garden Rejuvenation Project was published on the NCA's website.
- On 19 January 2025, Karen Doran, NCA Chief Executive, discussed the proposed works during a radio interview with ABC.
- On 6 February 2025, the NCA notified key stakeholders by written correspondence to adjoining lessees, neighbours and interested stakeholders advising of the consultation process and inviting comments Attachment A.

Submissions received and comments

The NCA received a total of fourteen (14) submissions on the proposal. There were no objections to the proposal and most submissions were in response to the cultivar selection proposed for the replacement roses.

Emails and letters of acknowledgment were sent to all who provided submissions.

Key issues raised in the submissions were:

- Cultivar suggestions
- The lack of Australian bred roses in the proposed selected species
- Queries surrounding ongoing maintenance plans for the area
- Recommendations for irrigation methods
- Suggestions to donate the old roses to charities and offer remaining roses to volunteer groups
- Planting time of late 2025 is not considered best practice

A summary of each submission is provided at Attachment B.

The NCA response to issues raised in submissions is provided at Attachment C.

Conclusion

The NCA's consultation process was carried out in accordance with the NCA's 'Commitment to Community Engagement'.

The NCA assessed issues raised by submitters and these issues have been considered and responded to, as set out in Attachment C.

The new Rose Planting Proposal includes the addition of 10 new cultivars which were suggested in submissions from the consultation process and is set out in Attachment D.

The NCA will assess the old rose stock and determine those that are suitable for donation to a local charity.

The NCA is satisfied that issues raised have been appropriately addressed.

Attachment A



Ref:

Via email: XXXX

Dear XXXXX

I am writing to invite the XXXXXXX to contribute your views on the proposed selection of roses to be included in the rejuvenated National Rose Gardens in the Parliamentary Zone of Canberra. The National Capital Authority (NCA) is also keen to hear your views about potential uses for some of the existing plants, which may not be able to be replanted in the National Rose Gardens, given their age or condition.

The National Rose Gardens were created in the early 1930's as a physical expression of the cooperation between the Commonwealth and the States in establishing the National Capital, and all states contributed roses to the garden. The National Rose Gardens have not undergone any significant restoration maintenance since first established.

As the NCA prepares to rejuvenate the National Rose Gardens in October 2025, we are committed to engage State and Territory Rose and Horticultural Societies to ensure the gardens benefit from these organisations' knowledge and expertise and continue to reflect the spirit of cooperation between the Commonwealth and States.

I have attached a preliminary concept and species selection for the rose gardens, which has been developed in accordance with the National Rose Gardens' Heritage Management Plan.

I welcome your feedback on the selection of roses by 28 February 2025 by return letter or email.

Thank you for your support in the rejuvenation of the National Rose Gardens.

Yours sincerely

Sujie Song Director Estate Management Sujie.Song@nca.gov.au (02) 6272 2917

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Attachment B

Summary of submissions

The Consultation Report includes a summary of each submission, along with the name of each person making the submission. Names of submitters have been omitted where a submitter requested confidentiality.

| Submission | Issue |
|--|--|
| 1. | |
| Lyn Stevens Volunteer Old Parliament House Rose Garden <u>577695</u> | "The proposed design does not include any Australian breeders who have developed stock since the original rose gardens. While we could pay homage to the past plantings of the Nationals, the inclusion of current roses would be more relevant to include in a revamped and redeveloped garden." "The document proposal mentions commencement of the works in October. This is very much the wrong time of year to be planting out roses." "In the early 2000s roses from OPH rose gardens that were removed were then sold by the Hall Rotary Club with profits going to charity." "Who will maintain the proposed gardens? The current staffing levels of gardeners for OPH and the Nationals is extremely low and underfunded with impossible workloads. Extra staff are needed. Volunteers cannot take up the extra load." |
| 2. | |
| Frances Rose Volunteer Old Parliament House Rose Garden <u>577696</u> | "In line with the original 1930s plan and with it being a national garden, I would like to see the selection of roses include Australian breeders." "I would like to see climbing roses included, also in keeping with the original plan. Alastair Clark roses are the obvious choice here, with several of his climbing roses such as Lorraine Lee growing well in OPHG." 'Originally, the roses were donated by the States I suggest donations be used again as far as possible, with all States and Territories being invited to participate and the national character of the garden being emphasised." National Rose Garden needs ongoing maintenance, can this be done with volunteers or more staff needed Icebergs not a good choice as they more used for lining paths and driveways and not a feature rose, plus need a lot of deadheading to bloom well. Good condition rose be relocated to the Bowling Green Clubhouse in OPHG to replace roses that have either died or reached senescence. |
| 3. | |
| Rex Goode Volunteer Old Parliament House Rose Garden <u>577697</u> | "The plan does not give the casual, or regular, visitor any idea that a NATIONAL institution is being visited. Indeed, they might be just visiting a lovely garden." Central beds to be divided up in seven equal sections for the States and Territory with the very central of the bed be planted with The Federation Rose. Each selection has the Rose Societies for each State or Territory are invited to recommend a variety to be planted. |
| 4. | |
| Claire Hirschfeld Volunteer Old Parliament House Rose Garden <u>577698</u> | "Gold Bunny was listed as being an early bloomer. My only question is - would you want a staggered start to blooming or have them all blooming about the same time?" "Re Fragrance. It would be good if people could be able to "stop and smell the roses". Could each garden bed have a half/most roses selected which have a moderate/strong scent mixed in with those with a slight scent?" Suggested rose: The Canberra Federation Rose (might be available at Ross Rosses in SA) |

| Submission | Issue | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| | • Giving away the old rose that is removed to Friends of the Rose Gardens and | | |
| 5. | Volunteers and donate to a charity | | |
| Judith Abercromby Marymead CCGS Gardening Group <u>577699</u> | Revied this through the horticultural and heritage organisations and offering to take the roses that is removed to be resale and money raised will go to Marymead CatholicCare as a charity | | |
| 6. | | | |
| Rosalie Vine National Rose Society of Australia Inc. 577693 | The National Rose Society of Australia recommended for Canberra's climate: (Varieties in italics also strongly meet the criteria and are offered for consideration.) RED Firefighter Black Forest Kardinal Cear Father Austhias Meilland Bordeaux Brindabella Redstor Brindabella Kiss Me YELLOWS The Golden Child Gold Medal Gold Medal Gold Bunny Friesia Golden Beauty WHITES and OFF WHITES Fabulous Sliver Ghost Amazing Grace Iccebery Pope John Paull II Brindabella Pure Delight Sally Holmes PINKS PINKS PINKS PLOE Pink Forest Bonica Loves Gift Brinda Bouyeet Peach Profusion Let's Celebrate Heaven Scent Brindabella Tuscan ORAMGES PUTS PUTS PUTS Austopy Casanova Fearless PUTS PUTS PUTS Bonica Love Soft Brindabella Tuscan ORAMGES PUTS PUTS Austopy Casanova Fearless PUTS Bengali Bee Scene Brindabella Flair Brindabella Flair | | |

| Submission | lssue |
|----------------------|--|
| 545111551011 | Dusky Moon |
| | Ebb Tide |
| | Neptune |
| | Brindabella Pride |
| | Brindabella Goddess |
| | |
| | Dimadocia haptare |
| | 2 methods to rejuvenation of the soil |
| | Remove a wheelbarrow of soil from each rose and replace with cow manure and/or compost and compatible soil. Apply monthly treatments of beneficial be storie and minute best |
| | bacteria and microbes |
| | Leave old soil in place. Mix in organic matter and Seamungus. Plant a cover crop of white mustard in Autumn. Apply monthly treatments of beneficial bacteria |
| | and microbes (trailed in Adelaide Botanic Gardens for the past five years) |
| 7. | |
| Fred and Ann | Suggested rose: |
| Knowler | RED: |
| <i>Volunteer Old</i> | Mr Lincoln |
| Parliament | Gallipoli Centenary |
| House Rose | La Sevilliana |
| Garden | St. John's Rose |
| <u>577692</u> | Fragrant Cloud |
| | Black Forest |
| | • Papa Meilland |
| | Mathius Meilland |
| | Oklahoma |
| | • Kardinal |
| | Dear Father |
| | Father's Love |
| | Firelighter |
| | Australian Centenary of Federation |
| | Camp David |
| | YELLOW: |
| | • Friesia |
| | Gold Bunny |
| | Diamond Jubilee |
| | Gold Medal |
| | Just Joey |
| | Golden Girls |
| | Tequila Sunrise |
| | International Gold |
| | Apricot Nectar |
| | PINK: |

PINK:

- Madam President
- City of Adelaide
- Mother's Love
- Queen Elizabeth
- Childrens' Rose
- Duet
- Manou Meillon
- Bridal Pink
- Blue Moon
- Paradise
- Simplicity

WHITE:

- Iceberg
- French Lace
- Nana Mouskouri

| Submission | Issue | |
|---|---|--|
| | Pascali Karen Blixen Princess of Wales Seduction For disposal of the old roses recommend that they are offered to the Volunteers and Friends of OPHRG. | |
| 8. Meaghan Russell ACT Heritage Council 577690 | "It is noted that the Place is located on National Land and the provisions of the <i>Heritage Act 2004</i> do not apply." As identified on the ACT Heritage Register entry, significant features of the place include: Rose beds laid out in a pattern to symbolise the petals of a fully opened rose. Mature evergreen and deciduous trees; and Lawn areas. The 2013 "Parkes Place & National Rose Gardens Heritage Management Plan" guides the conservation and heritage management of the place, and it is understand that works – including the species and colour pattern proposed – are in line with this document. It is also noted that no changes are proposed to the existing configuration of the rose beds, mature trees and lawns. In this context, and as a Council delegate, I advise that the proposed works are unlikely to impact the heritage significance of the place. | |
| 9. Ros Donohoe Volunteer Old Parliament House Rose Garden 577687 577688 | Maintenance and health of rose are important and volunteer on occasion have offered to help with the maintenance of NRG Recommend signage for the area and an example to create signage for rose names | |
| 10. Sue Parr <i>Volunteer Old</i> <i>Parliament</i> <i>House Rose</i> <i>Garden</i> <u>577686</u> | "I am not clear from the information provided whether the proposal is for both east and west National gardens, and if both whether the layout is the same?" Recommend roses Mother's Love Maintenance issue, around the way it is current managed; "In my ten years of involvement I have seen considerable deterioration in both the health of the roses, and in the care particularly weeding. I am not sure whether this is due to inadequate contractor provisions or inadequate contractor performance, but the condition now is embarrassing for something in the centre of the national triangle and purporting to be national." "One of the problems with the current beds is inadequate edging" Identifying signage like Old Parliament House is recommended and a use of a brick edge over metal to help with grass approaching the garden beds and reduce trip hazards Larger signage at the entries to the garden | |
| 11. | | |

| Submission | lssue | | |
|--|-------|--|--|
| | | "The Commonwealth Heritage List citation 105472 itomicos that the National | |
| Robyn Oates Australian Garden History Society <u>577691</u> | • | "The Commonwealth Heritage List citation 105473 itemises that the National Rose Gardens has historic, rarity and aesthetic heritage values. The description mentions both standard and climbing roses arranged by colour and that the roses have been replaced regularly - so that the current plant content is not original. We note from a site visit that climbing roses are now missing. However, the general design and colour arrangement has been retained" "National Rose Gardens have undergone several changes since the original plantings in the 1930s. Has the original planting list been researched so that the gardens may be restored rather than rejuvenated?" | |
| | • | "The reinstatement of climbing roses could provide currently absent height definition and interest to the site. These could be used in the inner areas for centrepiece effect if a rejuvenation rather than restoration is proposed." – NNA records show some trellis structures placed diagonally across beds. Extending the plant list to include Australian developed and bred roses that is developed for Australia conditions and better suited. Some breeders: Alister Clark, Frank Reithmuller, Bruce Brundrett, Paul Hains, Richard Wash and Graham Sargeant. | |
| | • | Recommend Roses: RED: Gallipoli Centenary, Black Forest, Firefighter, Mr Lincoln, Matthias Meilland, Fragrant Cloud YELLOW: The Golden Child, Gold Medal, Friesia, Gold Bunny, Diamond Jubilee, note – International Gold is a miniature WHITE/OFF WHITE: Silver Ghost, Iceberg, Amazing Grace, Note - Diana, Princess of Wales is white/lemon/rose pink PINKS: Pink Forest, Mango Tango, Simply Magic, Queen Elizabeth, Duet, Julia's Rose, Note - Lions Rose is highly rated but white/apricot in colour ORANGES: Just Joey, Circus, Fearless, Note - A Passionate Gardener is high rating but apricot/pink MAUVES/PURPLES: Ebb Tide, Neptune, Big Purple, Blue Moon, Dusky Moon is high rating but prefers cooler climates | |
| | • | Planting and maintenance. All plants should be replaced one time, rather than selective. Soil enrichment and partial replacement to avoid plant failures. "October will be too late to plant roses in Canberra. It's usual to plant before the spring growth begins in earnest so the bushes have an opportunity for a good, long growing season. July/August would be the best planting time." Mulching with a straw that allow water penetrate. Another option is gravel mulch as it keeps the rose warm in winter and cool in summer, trails have shown roses have healthier growth. Gravel mulch would need metal edging. Weed control is needed to prevent couch grass and other weeds invading rose beds, regular rose pruning is required, require watering need, making sure blooms don't drenched and recommend dripper irrigation systems | |
| | • | Weed control is needed to prevent couch grass and other weeds invading rose beds, regular rose pruning is required, require waterin need, making sure blooms don't drenched and recommend dripper irrigation systems | |

12.

| Submission | Issue |
|--|--|
| Margaret Tuckwell Volunteer Old Parliament House Rose Garden <u>577689</u> | "This list seems rath high on red roses!" "This rose is very similar to Ebb Tide and wonder why we need two so very similar?" (the rose that Ebb Tide is been comparison to Big Purple) Suggested roses: Mother's Love Crown Prince Mary – named after Queen Mary of Denmark Dame Maria Bashiri |
| 13. | |
| Lorraine Gentle Volunteer Old Parliament House Rose Garden <u>577783</u> | List of roses that are a part of the plan and feedback around how they are growing in the Ladies Garden OPH Selection of strong specimens of stock as in past new roses have poorly performing in the Ladies Gardens OPH Protection from plant theft - removing plant labels. Irrigation needs to be a dripper or low sprayer as roses do not like to have wet foliage. "Volunteers happy to assist with any giving away or selling of the old roses – as we did 20 years ago". "The idea of volunteers for the new National Garden- which is probably a great idea" |
| 14. | |
| Ross Dunn Volunteer Old Parliament House Rose Garden 577787 | "A garden of this intended stature requires expert maintenance indefinitely if the roses are to produce the best effect and stay healthy. For example: icebergs need frequent dead heading to keep on producing good blooms" "The selection of cultivars appears not to have anything produced by an Australian breeder. That is a mistake if this is to be a genuine national garden" "The selection is mainly about similar plants of different colours, some taller. I would like to see more shapes and forms, eg., massed shrub roses, e.g. Rugosa, Rubiginosa, Pulvurolenta, and so on. Standards and climbers should be incorporated to add definition, focus or enclosure to the space." Does not recommend late 2025 planting. Recommend that old roses can be donated to organisations and councils around Australia |

Attachment C

Summary of NCA's response

Rose cultivar selection

Rose cultivar selections follow the colour pattern and the recommendations in the HMP and were selected in colour groups with one selection in smaller beds and up to two in the larger beds. Cultivars with two colours in the flowers (eg. orange with red tips) were not selected as they do not meet the requirements of the HMP.

Cultivars had to be suitable for planting in the National Rose Garden, as required by Policy 17 of the HMP – with the following characteristics:

- Hardy and/or
- Vigorous and/or
- Healthy and/or
- Disease resistant

Cultivars that were available from more than one supplier was selected to ensure sustainable supply. Cultivars had to be available in sufficient numbers as potted plants for delivery and planting in October 2025. Cultivars had to have a long track record of being consistently in demand for several years which demonstrates the cultivar is resilient and has undergone rigorous testing for suitability and longevity.

To prevent the perception of favouring one city or place over another, cultivars that included place names were generally avoided. Eg. The Rose, 'City of Ballarat'.

Interstate rose growers were consulted to compare cultivar characteristics such as height, spacing requirements, scent, vigour and disease resistance.

Of the 140 suggested cultivars received from submissions, more than 60% were present on the list recommended by the NCA's contracted horticulturalist. 10 suggested cultivars met the requirements of the HMP and will be considered for future plantings.

Ongoing maintenance

The NCA has a dedicated contractor for the provision of open space management which includes specialised maintenance within the various precincts such as the National Rose Gardens.

Works include new turf and irrigation systems around the Gardens, installation of steel edges to define the garden beds and replacement of all 7,500 roses with new vigorous stock. A maintenance plan will be developed to ensure the Gardens are maintained to a high standard.

Old rose stock

Most stakeholders are in favour of donating roses that are in reasonable health to charity organisations or for the roses to be gifted to the NCA's Rose Garden volunteers. Roses identified in poor health will be destroyed so as not to spread any potential pathogens or disease.

Attachment D

| Cultivar | Colour |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| A Passionate Gardener | Orange |
| Amazing Grace | White |
| Australian Centenary of Federation | Red |
| Bengali | Orange |
| Big Purple | Mauve |
| Black Forest | Red |
| Blue Moon | Mauve |
| Bonica | Pink |
| Bordeaux | Red |
| Bridal Bouquet | Pink |
| Bridal Pink | Pink |
| Circus | Orange |
| Dame Marie Bashir | Pink |
| Diamond Jubilee | Yellow |
| Duet | Pink |
| Dusky Moon | Mauve |
| Ebb Tide | Mauve |
| Edelwiess | White |
| Fragrant Cloud | Red |
| Friesia | Yellow |
| Gallipoli Century | Red |
| Gold Bunny | Yellow |
| Gold Medal | Yellow |
| Golden Beauty | Yellow |

| Cultivar | Colour |
|--------------------|--------|
| Golden Touch | Yellow |
| Heaven Scent | Pink |
| Iceberg | White |
| Josephine Bruce | Red |
| Just Brilliant | Pink |
| Just Joey | Orange |
| Kardinal | Red |
| La Sevillana | Red |
| Lions Rose | Pink |
| Mango Tango | Pink |
| Matthias Meilland | Red |
| Mother's Love | Pink |
| Mr Lincoln | Red |
| Oklahoma | Red |
| Oranges and Lemons | Orange |
| Papa Meilland | Red |
| Pink Forest | Pink |
| Queen Elizabeth | Pink |
| Shady Lady | Pink |
| Silver Ghost | White |
| Simply Magic | Pink |
| St Johns Rose | Red |
| Sugar Moon | White |
| The Childrens Rose | Pink |

Italics denotes new additions