



**Australian Government**  
**National Capital Authority**

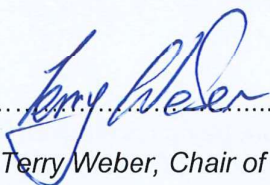
# **NATIONAL CAPITAL AUTHORITY**

**Authority Meeting A2025/2**

**8 April 2025**

**Public Record**

*I endorse this Public Record of the  
Authority meeting held on 8 April 2025*

  
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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 8 April 2025. 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 Karen Doran (Chief Executive), Ms Jenny Smithson, Mr James Willson and Professor Helen Lochhead.

This meeting was the Authority's second regular meeting for 2025.

The Chair opened the meeting 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.

## **Chief Executive Report**

The Chief Executive provided an update on key matters including;

- Planning for North Curtin proposed diplomatic estate
- Northern Access Road and issues around conservation considerations
- Progress on the amended proposal for Federation Fountains, to be presented at the next meeting
- Commencement of maintenance to storm water facilities at National Rose Gardens
- Planning for Christmas in July markets

The Authority noted that the NCA and ACT Government were working together on updated flood risk modelling associated with Scrivener Dam, to ensure that any future developments appropriately considered these risks.

The Authority noted the tree inspection process and the additional visual inspections undertaken following weather events.

## **Statement of Intent Implementation**

The Authority considered the amendments to the Authority Charter following the February meeting including maximum tenure, and determined a maximum 10-year tenure would represent best practice.

The Authority reviewed the Authority Performance Assessment, the Authority Performance Assessment for external stakeholders, and the proposed list of external stakeholders to be provided with the survey. The Authority requested minor amendments to consider the removal of bias, the assessment of outliers, and the opportunity for general feedback within the surveys.

The Authority noted the importance of the self-assessment as part of regularly assessing its performance and agreed to review amendment to the self-assessment survey for approval out of session

## **Works Approval Report**

The Authority noted key matters in the Works Approval report including work being undertaken with Datacom to improve efficiencies within the Works Approval Electronic Lodgement (WAeL) system.



The Authority noted the Works Approval application for the first stage of the UNSW Campus was received post the February Board meeting and that there had been an extended pre-application phase due to complexities with the precinct deed, and traffic and parking issue management with TCCS.

The Authority noted the public consultation to be undertaken on the Works approval application and requested a further presentation from University of NSW.

### **Strategic Planning**

The Authority considered key matters in the Strategic Planning report including the ACT Government request to consider removal of Monash Drive from the National Capital Plan. The Authority agreed that any future consideration needed to be informed by analysis of traffic and transport modelling reflecting up to date population and employment expectations in the area.

The Authority noted the establishment of the Acton Peninsular Steering Committee, with the Steering Committee being led by the NCA, and including stakeholders from the various institutions in the area.

The Authority noted the Commonwealth Park Concept Vision was proposed for release on the 10 April for public engagement in accordance with the engagement strategy presented at the February meeting. The Authority considered the circumstances of caretaker period, and determined that the Concept Vision was a long-standing project and should be progressed as business as usual for the NCA. The Authority agreed that it was appropriate for the public engagement to commence in order to progress the work.

The Authority discussed options for work at Regatta Point including pathways and stairs to improve accessibility.

The Authority noted work being progress by ACT Government on the Northern Gateway, and the possibility for amendments to the National Capital Plan to be sought by the ACT Government's Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD). The Authority **NOTED** that any formal request to amend the plan would be brought back to the Board, with a paper to be providing full details and analysis of the proposed changes.

### **Hume Circle**

The Authority considered the early draft of the Urban Design Framework (UDF) proposed by Jega Consortium and noting that the documentation had been received with limited time for review prior to the meeting. The Authority also noted that NCA officers were researching the development of a potential "Apartment Design General Code" for inclusion in the National Capital Plan.

The Authority discussed key matters in relation to the UDF, including but not limited to;

- Current NCA responsibilities for Canberra Avenue and any land fronting the road
- Design quality and guidance befitting Canberra as the National Capital
- importance of a true mixed use development and public access
- The planning and development potential for the entirety of Hume Circle
- Solar access considerations
- Deep soil planting and landscape character

### **Scrivener Dam**

The Authority considered the verbal presentation to the Authority in respect of Scrivener Dam, noting positive progress on early project works. The Authority noted consultation undertaken with lake

users and other stakeholders to ensure clear communication of work progress, and potential impact on the lake and its surrounds.

The Authority noted no permanent road closures would be required and water levels in the dam had been reduced in preparation. The Authority noted the two main risks to the project program being ground drilling and extreme weather events.

### **Commonwealth Avenue Bridge**

The Authority noted early works on planning for and managing the impacts of the project on traffic and cyclist and pedestrian movement. The Authority noted multiple construction works in the city precinct already impacting on traffic conditions, the potential reputational risk for the NCA in adding to traffic disruption, and the importance of communication and co-ordination early in the project establishment. The Authority noted regular meetings were being held with Canberra Metro and ACT Government.

The Authority noted key risks including completion timeframes and budget, as well as the overall complexity of the project.

### **ANZAC Parade Hebe Planting**

The Authority noted the existing Hebe species were no longer commercially available (propagation having been relied on to replace failed plants) and the difficulty of obtaining other viable New Zealand species that were compatible with the ACT environment. The Authority is currently trialling a number of alternatives. The Authority also noted the symbolism of the New Zealand plant selection intended in the Heritage Management Plan which was a legislated instrument.

The Authority noted communication with relevant stakeholders including the New Zealand High Commission, Australian War Memorial and Veterans Groups with respect to the difficulties of maintaining the current plants to an appropriate standard, and that feedback from stakeholders has been understanding.

### **Governance Report**

The Authority noted the Governance Report and the attachments to the report. The Authority noted the proposed Register of Relevant Interests template and conflict of interest assessment proposed to be provided as a standing item at future meetings.

### **Finance Report**

The Authority considered the forecast Departmental operating loss, noting that revenue was dependent on works approval applications and any timing delay on projects (e.g. Canberra Theatre Development) impact on estimated revenue.

The Authority noted NCA Officers would work with the Department of Finance to apply for an operating loss for 2024/2025.

### **Major Projects Report**

The Authority noted key matters in the Major Projects report including the Neville Bonner sculpture is on track for completion with discussions with family in respect to unveiling are in train, and early planning work has started on potential changes to the International Flag Display to accommodate additional flags.



## Lake Precinct Analysis- Black Mountain Peninsula

The Authority discussed proposed uses for both Black Mountain Peninsula and Yarramundi Peninsula as recreational areas noting additional considerations with regard to the heritage listing for Yarrumudi Peninsula.

## Forward Agenda

The Authority discussed the forward agenda and potential presenters going forward. It was agreed that site visits should be incorporated into future meetings as appropriate.

The next meeting of the Authority will be held on 17 June 2025.

## Summary Of Decisions

1	The Authority <b>AGREED</b> that items marked completed on the Action Items report can be closed out and removed from the report
2	The Authority <b>AGREED</b> to review amendments to the self-assessment survey for approval out of session

