



Australian Government

National Capital Authority

NATIONAL CAPITAL AUTHORITY

Authority Meeting A2020/6

15 December 2020

Public Record

*I endorse this Public Record of the
Authority meeting held on 15 December 2020*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Terry Weber', written over a horizontal 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 15 December 2020. 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), Mr Dennis Richardson, Ms Jenny Smithson, Mr James Willson and Ms Sally Barnes (Chief Executive).

This meeting was the Authority's sixth and final meeting for 2020.

The Authority attended to the standard administrative and governance processes for the meeting including disclosing and managing conflicts of interest, finalising the minutes of the previous meeting, and reviewing the status of action items from earlier meetings.

The Authority raised concerns with the presentation of Northbourne Avenue, especially the current state of the landscape in the median strip, and agreed to contact the ACT Government with a view to seeking immediate and sustained improvements.

Work Health and Safety Report

The Authority received and considered an update on Work Health and Safety (WHS) that included the results of a Comcare audit of the NCA's COVID-19 arrangements, WHS spot checks of NCA contractors, hazard identification on the NCA estate, mental health training and use of the NCA's WHS Monitor system by NCA contractors.

The Authority welcomed the take-up of mental health training by NCA staff.

Risk Management

The Authority discussed the NCA's current and potential strategic risks and controls and suggested changes to the order, structure and relative ratings, focusing on risks with very serious consequences such as the failure of significant assets.

Planning and Performance

The Authority received and discussed an update on planning and performance which included updates on the NCA's Portfolio Budget Statement (PBS), Corporate Plan and Annual Report, as well as current performance information.

The Authority noted the 2019-20 Annual Report provided excellent information on the NCA and its work.

Governance and Compliance

The Authority received and discussed the presented report on current governance and compliance matters which included the NCA's Collections Management Policy, an update on the sunseting legislation work, and work in progress in reviewing other parts of the NCA's legislative framework.

The Authority welcomed the new Collections Management Policy and noted the NCA is custodian of a range of items with important heritage value.

Human Resources (HR) Report

The Authority received and discussed the presented report on human resource matters.

The Authority discussed the application of the new Public Sector Workplace Bargaining Policy and NCA's enterprise agreement arrangements.

Finance Report

The Authority received and discussed the presented finance report, which included results for the financial year to October 2020 and current procurement work.

The Authority went over the key elements underlying the NCA's current financial position including reduced revenue because of COVID-19. NCA officers noted the situation is being managed through prioritising spending on the most important areas, especially for public safety, and that the profile of capital spending was more in line with pro-rata, compared with previous years.

The Authority also discussed financial aspects of current NCA projects and future spending priorities.

Forward Agenda

The Authority noted the forward agenda for the Authority's 2021 meetings. No potential conflicts of interest for agenda items for these meetings were identified.

Demonstration – Sydney Seaplanes

Authority Members attended a demonstration of a seaplane landing on and taking off from Lake Burley Griffin. Members viewed the landing from the lake's edge near the Canberra Yacht Club, moving to a wharf at Yarralumla Bay where the seaplane docked.

On reconvening, the Authority discussed aspects of the demonstration and possible operations including consultation arrangements, the profile of the demonstration, and potential licensing arrangements.

Chief Executive Report

The Authority received a detailed report from the Chief Executive covering a range of strategic matters that have commenced or progressed since the previous Authority meeting.

The Authority discussed the quality of planning and works approved by the NCA and subsequently administered by the ACT Government. The Authority asked the NCA to work with the ACT Government to ensure appropriate design, building and landscape standards are upheld.

Works Approvals – Compliance

NCA officers presented a paper outlining concerns with current compliance and enforcement powers for works approvals and proposing to further explore legislative change to improve these arrangements.

The Authority discussed the relevant issues in addressing non-compliance and concluded there was a case for looking to improve compliance and enforcement arrangements for works approvals and other NCA-regulated activities as appropriate.

Kings Park Improvement Strategy

NCA officers presented a paper on current and planned improvements in Kings Park including the results of public consultation, proposed next steps and an update on current works.

The Authority noted the outcomes of public consultation and that these would be incorporated in developing and refining the designs. The Authority welcomed current works in enlarging the carpark near the Boundless playground and discussed aspects of the development including safety and amenity, including from a national perspective.

Review of Deakin/Forrest Residential Precinct Landscape and Sustainability Guidelines

NCA officers provided an update to the Authority on progress in the review of the Deakin/Forrest Residential Precinct Landscape and Sustainability Guidelines (the Guidelines), including initial recommendations arising from the review.

The Authority asked the NCA for additional background information on planning arrangements in the area covered by the Guidelines and adjacent precincts, and to finalise the review, addressing aspects raised by the Authority including aligning the guidelines objectives with achievable outcomes, especially in relation to ensuring high quality built form and landscape outcomes.

Media and Communications Report

The Authority received and noted the Media and Communications Report, which included current and upcoming media and communication activities.

Events and Place Activation Report

NCA officers presented the Events and Place Activation report highlighting key upcoming events, especially current plans for the NCA's involvement in Australia Day, including for activities in the National Triangle.

Works Approval Report

The Authority received and noted the Works Approval Report, which included an update on key current and upcoming developments.

The Authority discussed the status of the Light Rail Stage 2A project, noting a works approval application had not yet been lodged by the ACT Government.

Estate Management Report

The Authority received and noted the Estate Management Report, which provided an update on key estate management projects and operational issues.

Strategic Planning Report

NCA officers presented the Strategic Planning Report, which provided an overview of current key strategic planning matters including current development proposals and related work. The officers

outlined the status of planning for the new diplomatic estate with several elements of site investigation in train or planned over the next few months.

The Authority discussed an update on the operation of e-scooters. The update noted that while their introduction has been popular, a number of issues and complaints have arisen, centred around safety.

The Authority asked the NCA to write to ACT Policing asking for enhanced enforcement action to ensure safety requirements are being adhered to.

Major Projects Committee Report

The Authority received and discussed a report on the work of the Major Projects Committee, which included details of key current projects being undertaken by the NCA.

The Authority discussed several of the projects, including memorial proposals being considered or developed.

Heritage Report

The Authority noted and discussed the Heritage Report which provided an update on heritage management plans and key heritage-related matters, including with respect to the former CSIRO Headquarters site in Campbell.

NCA Audit Committee Report

The Authority received and noted the NCA Audit Committee Report which included the minutes from the Committee's meeting held on 27 November 2020.

Other Business

The Authority confirmed the date and looked forward to their Planning Day in March 2021.

The Authority noted its next regular meeting is scheduled for 16 February 2021.

