



Australian Government
National Capital Authority

NATIONAL CAPITAL AUTHORITY

Authority Meeting A2019/5

15 October 2019

Public Record

*I endorse this Public Record of the
Authority meeting held on 15 October 2019*

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 15 October 2019. 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 were present at the meeting: Mr Terry Weber (Chair), Mr Glenn Keys, Mr Dennis Richardson and Ms Sally Barnes (Chief Executive).

This meeting was the Authority's fifth regular meeting for 2019.

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.

Work Health and Safety Report

The Authority received and considered an update on Work Health and Safety (WHS) involving the NCA which included an update of the work of the NCA's Health and Safety Committee, the NCA's WHS policy suite and supporting systems, hazardous material management plans, and a summary of recent incidents and hazards.

The Authority noted its continuing interest in ensuring work on updating the NCA's hazardous material management plans is completed on schedule.

Risk Management

The Authority received and considered a report on risk management matters in the NCA. The Authority discussed appropriately taking risk into account in business planning and noted key specific risks in workplace health and safety, workload and cyber security.

Planning and Performance

The Authority received and considered a paper on planning and performance matters, noting good outcomes in the NCA's key performance indicators for the first few months of 2019-20.

The Authority agreed to move to more standardised KPI and similar reporting (ie quarterly or six-monthly) to streamline and improve reporting arrangements. In relation to the works approval indicator, the Authority asked the NCA for any relevant comparisons that can be made such as how the NCA compares with processing rates in similar jurisdictions.

Governance and Compliance

The Authority received and considered a report provided on current governance and compliance matters including annual reports on protective security and fraud control. The Authority noted the need to ensure the NCA's cyber-security controls are sound and offered some suggestions in that regard.

Human Resources (HR) Report

The Authority received and discussed an update on human resource matters in the NCA focusing on staffing levels, and current HR indicators and outcomes.

Finance Report

The Authority received and discussed the presented finance report, which included financial results for the first two months of 2019-20, planned budget reviews, progress in integrating the NCA's financial and operational asset databases, and key purchasing activity. The Authority was also briefed on new policy and spending proposals.

The Authority asked for details on the current demand for diplomatic land and discussed possible increases in the overall value of NCA assets. The Committee discussed trends and issues in pay parking and asked for some further detail in future reports in this area.

Forward Agenda

The Authority noted and discussed the indicative agenda for the final meeting of 2019 and looked forward to firming up meeting dates for 2020. No specific conflicts of interest regarding agenda items for future meetings were identified.

Presentation – Light Rail Stage 2

The Authority received a presentation by officers from the ACT Government on their Light Rail Stage 2 proposal.

The presentation provided an update on the project, focusing on Stage 2A – from the current Alinga Street terminus to Commonwealth Park, which is proposed to be co-delivered with the raising of London Circuit, in order to minimise disruption. The presenters explained the rationale underlying splitting the project (into 2A and 2B), the proposed route, and key aspects and focus areas of the proposal, including alignment with the public transport corridor and National Capital Plan, and power systems. The presenters noted the proposal would take part in Design Review Panel process with the first meeting on 30 October 2019 and went over the indicative work program and timelines.

The Authority discussed aspects of the proposal including the planned route, traffic implications and heritage aspects. On power arrangements, the Authority confirmed its position that wire-free running would be required for Light Rail in the areas under the NCA's detailed planning control. The Authority also discussed possible works on Commonwealth Avenue Bridge and the need to co-ordinate relevant works.

The Authority thanked the ACT Government officers for their presentation and noted that the NCA would continue to liaise with Major Projects Canberra (MPC) on the requirements of the National Capital Plan. The Authority agreed that NCA officers provide detailed requirements to MPC to assist in their preparation of the relevant Works Approval application.

Presentation – Tree Management Policy

The Authority received a presentation from NCA officers on the NCA's Draft Tree Management Policy.

The presentation covered key aspects of the work to date including the Policy's scope, focus areas and particular issues such as the age, diversity and requirements of the 18,000 trees under the NCA's care. The presentation also covered policy development and consultation undertaken to date, and proposed next steps.

The Authority discussed aspects of the work including particular sites and relevant aspects such as possible implications for birdlife and other fauna. The Authority noted the draft policy targets of increasing the canopy cover from 33 to 40 per cent, and increasing age and species diversity.

The Authority thanked the officers for their presentation and agreed to consider the Draft Tree Management Policy out of session to allow for timely public consultation.

Presentation – Australian War Memorial Development

The Authority received a presentation from the Australian War Memorial (AWM) on their redevelopment project.

The presentation covered the background and key drivers to the redevelopment of the AWM notably the current limited space at the memorial to present information and artefacts from more recent conflicts and peacekeeping operations. The presentation also covered the project's key stages and scheduled timeframes.

The Authority discussed aspects of the redevelopment including project risks, heritage aspects and specific details of the first works approval process, involving the carpark near Poppy's Café.

The Authority thanked the officers for their presentation and noted continuing liaison between AWM and NCA officers on the relevant National Capital Plan requirements.

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 elements of the report including proposed statues of former Australian Prime Ministers, diplomatic land demand and supply, and sunseting legislation.

Commonwealth Avenue Bridge – Detailed Business Case

NCA officers provided the Authority with a summary of progress in preparing and presenting to Government a detailed business case for strengthening and improving safety on Commonwealth Avenue Bridge.

The Authority discussed a range of aspects of the proposal including indicative costs and timelines, and managing traffic disruption during any works.

The Authority noted the report and supporting information and looked forward to further information on the progress of the proposal in due course.

Draft Amendment 92 (ANU) to the National Capital Plan

NCA officers provided the Authority with a report on the status of a proposed Amendment to the National Capital Plan (DA92) related to land use at the south-western edge of the Australian National University's Acton campus.

The Authority discussed aspects of the report, focussing on the consultation report and concerns raised by the Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG) on building heights and views from the Gardens.

The Authority asked that the NCA consult further with the ANBG and provide the Authority with further information on the visual impact of proposed changes, out of session, before progressing the Draft Amendment to the Minister for her consideration.

Concept Plan Blocks 4 & 5 Section 38 Campbell (former CSIRO headquarters)

NCA officers provided the Authority with a summary of consultation outcomes on the draft Concept Plan and a revised Development Control Plan for the former site of the CSIRO Headquarters in Campbell.

The Authority discussed a range of issues that had been raised through the consultation processes, including building heights and the scale of the proposed development, environmental and heritage issues, and traffic and related issues.

Following the discussion and consideration, the Authority approved the proposal's Development Control Plan and Concept Plan, and to release the proposal's consultation report.

Media and Communications Report

The Authority received and noted the Media and Communications Report, which included key media coverage of NCA-related issues.

Events and Place Activation Report

The Authority received and noted the Events and Place Activation report.

The Authority noted the positive developments in securing and advancing a range of events and activities on National Land.

Works Approval Report

The Authority received and noted the Works Approval Report, which included an update on key current developments, pre-application meetings and recent processing rates.

The Authority noted good recent results in the works approval processing rates.

Strategic Planning Report

The Authority received and discussed the Strategic Planning Report, which provided an overview of current key development proposals and related work, including the National Arboretum's hotel proposal; possible approaches by proponents to change the National Capital Plan (NCP) for former CSIRO sites in Yarralumla and Gungahlin, and a mobile home park in Symonston; and the status of current draft NCP amendments.

Major Projects Committee Report

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

The Authority discussed the status of work on the hebe plantings on Anzac Parade and noted a full report on current problems, remediation plans and budget considerations will be presented at the December meeting.

Other business

Under other business, the Authority discussed possible further development of Federation Mall. Possible changes could involve memorials or statues celebrating aspects of Australian democracy. Such a development would increase the connectivity between Old Parliament House and new Parliament House.

The Authority noted its next regular meeting is scheduled for 9 December 2019.