



Australian Government
National Capital Authority

NATIONAL CAPITAL AUTHORITY

Authority Meeting A2019/1

25 February 2019

Public Record

*I endorse this Public Record of the
Authority meeting held on 25 February 2019*

A handwritten signature in blue 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 25 February 2019. As some matters discussed 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), Ms Chris Faulks, Mr Glenn Keys, Mr Dennis Richardson and Ms Sally Barnes (Chief Executive).

This meeting was the Authority's first for 2019.

The Authority undertook a site visit before the Authority meeting to Stirling Ridge where they met with representatives of Friends of the Grasslands. The tour included discussions covering a range of issues including conservation management, cultural heritage and risk mitigation.

Decision

The Authority asked the NCA to prepare a letter to the Friends of the Grasslands to express the Authority's appreciation and support for the group's work. The Authority also asked the NCA to prepare papers on asbestos management on the National Estate and the possible siting of The Lodge on Stirling Ridge.

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

In relation to an open action item, the Authority discussed a range of issues relating to the operation of bicycles and other vehicles on the National Estate and their relationship with other users of National Land.

Decision

The Authority asked the NCA to prepare a paper on the use of bicycles and other vehicles on the National Estate and their relationship with other users of National Land.

Work Health and Safety Report

The Authority received and considered an update on Work Health and Safety which included an update of the work of the NCA's Health and Safety Committee and a recent incident and hazard reporting. The Authority discussed health and safety risks on the National Estate and a societal trend of seeking compensation for mishaps or accidents. The Authority noted that incident reporting should be presented with information on precinct use to provide a 'heat map' that may better depict the scale of risks on the Estate.

Planning and Performance

The Authority received and considered a paper on planning and performance matters, including the status of the NCA's performance indicators for the first half of 2018-19 and the status of recommendations from an earlier review.

Risk Management

The Authority received and considered a report on risk management matters in the NCA, including a current functional audit of the Scrivener Dam Safety Management Plan.

Governance and Compliance

The Authority received and considered a report provided on governance and compliance matters including current and planned work on implementing the Australian Government's Protective Security Policy Framework (PSPF), undertaking a Fraud Risk Assessment and developing a new NCA Fraud Control Plan.

The Authority endorsed the approach for the two projects in train. The Authority noted it had a level of responsibility in relation to security matters beyond the NCA's office premises.

Human Resources (HR) Report

The Authority received and discussed an update on human resource matters in the NCA including staffing numbers and employment arrangements, diversity, use of on-site contract workers, staff turnover, unscheduled absences and enterprise bargaining in the APS.

Finance Report

The Authority received and noted a financial report which included the NCA's financial position at end-January 2019, progress in addressing an outstanding audit finding in relation to accounting for work in progress, and current procurement work.

The Authority discussed the rate of budgeted capital spending, and work in train on an integrated asset register that would align financial and operational asset management.

Forward Agenda

The Authority noted the forward agenda for meetings to be held over the course of 2019. No specific conflicts of interest regarding agenda items for future meetings were identified. The Authority noted the positive outcomes from the morning's site visit to Stirling Ridge and thought similar future visits would assist in the Authority's work.

Presentation – South Coast Seaplanes

The Authority received a presentation from South Coast Seaplanes on a proposal to operate joy flights from Lake Burley Griffin. The presentation included the background to the proposal, which had been first raised in late 2016. A number of agencies were consulted about the proposal at that time but a trial had been postponed.

The Authority and the company representative discussed a range of specific aspects of the proposal including its potential tourism benefits; the possible number of flights per day; proposed landing, take-off and refuelling sites; and the potential impact on boats and other lake users, and nearby residents (such as with respect to noise). The Authority also discussed the proposal against the current position regarding lake use for activities such as for jet skis and motor boats, and whether the proposal is consistent with the role of the National Capital.

The Authority determined an assessment of the proposal against the principles of the National Capital Plan is required. Pending the outcome of that work, consultation with stakeholders would be required before a decision could be made on the Authority's support for a trial.

Decision

The Authority asked, as a first step, that the NCA work with South Coast Seaplanes to determine the best approach for a heritage assessment to be undertaken regarding the proposal.

Presentation – 71 Constitution Avenue, Campbell

The Authority received a presentation by representatives of the Hindmarsh Group, regarding a works approval application for a proposed development at 71 Constitution Avenue, Campbell.

The representatives presented a summary of their development proposal focusing on some of the key issues that had been raised in relation to adherence to the provisions of the National Capital Plan applicable to that area.

The Authority thanked the proponents for their presentation and agreed to let them know about their position in the near future.

The Authority discussed the representations by the Hindmarsh Group and asked the NCA to examine other developments and approvals in the area to ensure there has been a consistent application of the relevant provisions of the National Capital Plan.

Decision

The Authority asked the NCA to examine other developments in the area to ensure the relevant provisions of the National Capital Plan had been consistently applied and encourage the Hindmarsh Group to develop a proposal that is consistent with the Plan.

Presentation – Asset Management System

The Authority received a presentation and demonstration by NCA staff on the NCA's Asset Management System.

The Authority thanked the presenters and expressed their appreciation for the work that had gone into the System and were very impressed with its capabilities and potential.

Presentation – University of New South Wales – Proposed Campus – Update

The Authority received a presentation by ACT Government representatives on continuing progress in the proposed redevelopment of the site of the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT), Reid Campus, and an adjacent carpark, by the University of New South Wales (UNSW).

The representatives updated the Authority with on the progress on the project including the planning and due diligence components of the proposal and current status of the work.

The Authority discussed aspects of the development and noted the attachment to the Authority paper setting out the Draft Detailed Conditions of Planning Design and Development. Aspects discussed included building heights and presentation, integration with the city, and comparisons with other tertiary education campuses. The ACT Government representatives confirmed the proposal is working within the current block specifications.

The Authority thanked the ACT Government representatives for their update and looked forward to continuing to work with the ACT Government in advancing the proposal.

Decision

The Authority asked the NCA to continue to work with the ACT Government to ensure appropriate design principles are incorporated into the proposal.

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 presented report including the current NCA organisational restructure, implications of the use of e-scooters on the Estate, parking performance, the status of repairs of the Captain Cook Memorial Jet, and the potential impact of the recent ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) decision on diplomatic land.

The Authority was joined by the NCA's new Director, Events and Place Activation. The Authority discussed the role and looked forward to working on the continuing activation of the National Estate.

ANU Request for a Draft Amendment to the National Capital Plan

The Authority received and considered material regarding a request by the Australian National University (ANU) to amend the National Capital Plan to provide for new student accommodation which would encroach on land at the edge of the ANU campus, currently controlled by the ACT Government. The relevant land is adjacent to Parkes Way and Sullivan's Creek. The Authority was advised that the ACT Government is currently considering an alternative use of the relevant land.

The Authority discussed aspects of the request and the potential development including its ability to be able to decide on some matters without amendment to the Plan.

The Authority determined to hold over further consideration of this matter until the ACT Government decides on its preferred use of the land.

Decision

The Authority asked the NCA to advise the Authority when the ACT Government had made a decision in relation to land being considered by the ANU for additional student accommodation.

Media and Communications Report

The Authority received and noted the Media and Communications Report, which included material on events held or planned to be held on National Land.

Works Approval Report

The Authority received and noted the Works Approval Report, which included an update on key current developments and year-to-date processing rates.

Strategic Planning Report

The Authority received and noted the information set out in the Strategic Planning Report, which provided an overview of key development proposals and related work, including on Draft Amendment 91 – City and Gateway Urban Design Provisions.

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.

Audit Committee Report

The Authority received and noted the NCA Audit Committee report and was provided with a verbal update on matters discussed at the Committee meeting, which was held on 22 February 2019, after Authority papers were finalised.

Other business

The Authority noted its next meeting is scheduled for 17 April 2019.
