



Australian Government

National Capital Authority


NATIONAL CAPITAL AUTHORITY

Authority Meeting A2018/6

17 December 2018

Public Record

*I endorse this Public Record of the
Authority meeting held on 17 December 2018*


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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 17 December 2018. 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), Mr Glenn Keys, Mr Dennis Richardson and Ms Sally Barnes (Chief Executive).

Authority member Ms Chris Faulks gave her apologies for the meeting.

This was the Authority's sixth and final meeting for 2018.

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.

Work Health and Safety Report

The Authority received and considered an update on Work Health and Safety which included follow up information on Scrivener Dam, the forthcoming appointment of new NCA Health and Safety Representatives, managing the risk of potential single points of failure in relation to key staff, and proposed work on promoting mental health in the agency.

Decision

The Authority asked that future incident reporting include reporting on identified hazards to the extent possible.

Risk Management

The Authority received and considered an update on the risk management matters in the NCA, including the NCA's insurance arrangements and claims.

Human Resources (HR) Report

The Authority received and discussed an update on human resource matters in the NCA including staff turnover, the industrial relations environment and the current APS review.

Finance Report

The Authority received and noted a financial report which included the NCA's financial position at end-October 2018, the status of the NCA budget proposals, and current strategic procurement work.

The Authority considered a proposed allocation of administered operating funds transferred from 2017-18 to 2018-19 through a movement of funds process. The Authority also considered budget changes proposed as a result of a review of the administered capital budget.

Decision

The Authority approved the proposed allocation of administered operating funds transferred from 2017-18 to 2018-19. The Authority also approved budget changes proposed as a result of the administered capital budget review.

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.

Presentation – Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS)

The Authority received a presentation from AIATSIS on a proposal (the Ngurra Project) to consider a National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures and Knowledge Centre in the Parliamentary Triangle.

The presenters noted several contextual elements and drivers for the proposal including opportunities to enhance relationships with first Australians, upcoming anniversaries, and unresolved matters from previous reviews and budget processes.

The Authority queried the proposal as presented in regard to the balance of elements in the proposed Centre, potential sites, and the related development objectives and requirements.

The Authority thanked the presenters for engaging with the NCA at an early stage on the proposed development and its potential siting, and wished them well in developing their proposal.

Decision

The Authority asked the NCA to prepare a letter to AIATSIS thanking them for the briefing and confirming the NCA's position.

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

The Authority received a presentation by ACT Government representatives on progress of 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 presenters covered aspects of the current proposal outlining the strong economic and other benefits expected from the development. The joint campus is expected to have some 6000 university students and offer a range of courses (including joint courses with the CIT), focusing on science and technology, and leading to the development of a research and innovation corridor in the area. The proposal includes on-site student accommodation and a hotel which will provide the opportunity for practical training in hospitality, accommodation for visiting family and friends, and to hold conferences.

The Authority discussed aspects of the proposal including the percentage of overseas students and their potential impact, the commitment of UNSW and design aspects of the proposal. The presenters noted a previously raised proposal to 'round off' adjacent land close to Parkes Way was not currently on the table.

The Authority noted the re-establishment of the Parkes Way Group involving a range of stakeholders, which would be interested in the UNSW proposal.

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

Decision

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

Presentation – West Block

The Authority received a presentation by representatives of Geocon and their architects on the current development of West Block into a hotel.

Following an introduction covering the background to the development and the extensive heritage values of the site and its surroundings, the presenters stepped through a comprehensive presentation setting out their design aims and drivers, and details of the current proposal.

The Authority discussed aspects of the proposal including the form and presentation of the proposed structures, the 'head-of-state' area, and site access. NCA officers provided the Authority with an update on a recent meeting on the current proposal including issues that were identified during the Design Review Panel process for further consideration.

The Authority thanked the presenters and wished them well in advancing the development.

Decision

The Authority asked the NCA to prepare a letter to the presenters summarising the discussion and confirming the next steps in the process.

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 a proposal for a water park on Lake Burley Griffin, pay parking at Anzac Park East, and an update on events fees and charges. Discussion on the water park focussed on safety aspects of the proposal. The Chief Executive noted the commencement of a shuttle bus between a range of Canberra cultural institutions, including the National Capital Exhibition.

City and Gateway – National Capital Plan Draft Amendment

NCA officers provided an overview of work and the status of Draft Amendment 91 – City and Gateway Urban Design Provisions Draft Amendment (DA91).

The Authority discussed key planning and design principles, and consultation aspects, of the Draft Amendment. The discussion covered proposed potential building heights and setbacks at key locations, and design quality requirements. On building heights, discussion covered the RL617 principle, where buildings are required to be no higher than the base of the flagpole at Parliament House.

Decision

The Authority agreed to the Draft Amendment being released for public consultation in mid-January 2019 for a period of six weeks. Before the public consultation process commences, the Authority asked that the NCA provide them any proposed changes to the Draft Amendment made in response to the public release of the City and Gateway Strategy.

The Deck Business Case

The Authority received and considered a Business Case Options Assessment and supporting material for redeveloping The Deck Restaurant.

The Authority discussed aspects of the business case, including timing, probity and financial aspects of the proposed approach.

Decision

The Authority agreed to the approach proposed and asked the NCA to provide the Authority with the Expression of Interest documentation when available, for their information, noting it may be publicly released before the next Authority meeting.

Monash Drive Corridor

The Authority considered a request by the ACT Government for the NCA to make an amendment to the National Capital Plan to restrict the ability for a road to be constructed in the Monash Drive Corridor, currently identified in the Plan.

The Authority discussed the request and determined that the basis for any change was not strong at this time, including in the context of the current and future changes to transport arrangements which are relevant to the request (especially the operation of Light Rail Stage 1 and Northbourne Avenue).

Decision

The Authority asked the NCA to prepare a letter to the ACT Government setting out the Authority's position that it does not support an amendment to the National Capital Plan in relation to the Monash Drive Corridor at this time.

Parking Update

The Authority received and considered an update on the current operational status of pay parking on NCA-managed land, sources of complaints and planned improvements.

The Authority discussed aspects of the paper focusing on possible responses to improve service outcomes in this area.

Decision

The Authority asked the NCA to aim to manage NCA pay parking operations with common sense, flexibility and sensitivity; look to make technical and system improvements, and examine the option of improving contractual arrangements; and provide the Authority with a further update on pay parking at the end of the financial year.

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.

The Authority discussed a current development application for Section 133, Campbell. NCA officers noted they had met with the developers and will receive community feedback as part of the current consultation process.

Strategic Planning Report

The Authority received and considered the report, which sets out longer-term development proposals which will involve the NCA.

Major Projects Committee Report

The Authority received and noted the report, which sets out the status of key projects in progress.

Audit Committee Report

The Authority received and noted the report of the NCA Audit Committee which provided a summary of the outcomes of the Committee's 23 November 2018 meeting.

Other business

The Authority noted its next meeting is scheduled for 25 February 2019.