



Australian Government
National Capital Authority

NATIONAL CAPITAL AUTHORITY

Authority Meeting A2019/3

18 June 2019

Public Record

*I endorse this Public Record of the
Authority meeting held on 18 June 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 18 June 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.

Earlier in the day of the meeting, the Authority visited the National Arboretum Canberra (NAC) where NAC staff led a presentation and discussion over planned work at the Arboretum over the next few years, including a proposed hotel development.

Just prior to the meeting, the Authority received a presentation by the Director of Physical Planning, National Capital Planning, Washington DC. The presentation and subsequent discussion went over many similar issues being addressed in the two agencies.

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 third for 2019.

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.

The Authority asked the NCA to write to the NAC thanking them for the site visit and discussion, and to continue to work with the Arboretum to assist in developing their plans.

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, recent incident and hazard reporting and hazardous material management plans.

Risk Management

The Authority received and considered a report on risk management matters in the NCA, including results from the most recent Comcover risk management benchmarking survey, a draft summary of the NCA's strategic risks, and how to best manage risks on the National Estate.

Planning and Performance

The Authority received and considered a paper on planning and performance matters, including available measures for performance for the financial year to date.

Governance and Compliance

The Authority received and considered a report provided on a range of governance and compliance matters, including reflecting on the Authority's performance and the way it has been supported over the past year.

The Authority noted work in progress on sunseting legislative instruments, including a deferral currently being sought. The Authority welcomed the further detail provided on this work and that it was being accorded increased priority, visibility and resourcing.

The Authority noted work in progress on a Fraud Risk Assessment and a new NCA Fraud Control Plan. Following consideration, the Authority endorsed a proposed Government Procurement (Judicial Review) Delegation 2019.

Human Resources (HR) Report

The Authority received and discussed an update on human resource matters in the NCA including staff turnover and unscheduled absences. The Authority asked for some further information on the size and quality of candidate fields in NCA recruitment rounds and any relevant insights coming from staff exit surveys.

Finance Report

The Authority received and noted a financial report which included the NCA's financial position at end-May 2019, work in train preparing the 2018-19 financial statements, and current procurement work.

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 – Property Council

The Authority received a verbal presentation from members of the ACT Chapter of the Property Council of Australia. The presentation covered the Council's current national and ACT priorities.

The subsequent discussion covered a range of issues on development in Canberra. In considering development applications, the Council argued for outcomes- and performance-based solutions rather than a too strict application of specific requirements.

The Authority thanked the representatives from the Property Council for their presentation and helpful discussion.

Presentation – National Centre for Australian Children's Literature

The Authority received a presentation from members of the National Centre for Australian Children's Literature regarding a proposal to build a facility adjacent to the National Library of Australia.

The presentation provided the context and history of the Centre as well as detailed information and plans for the proposed development. The presenters noted they had an extensive and growing collection that was getting difficult to store and show at existing facilities (mostly at the University of Canberra).

The Authority discussed various aspects of the proposal, including the status of the Centre and its relationship with the National Library of Australia but noted it would be premature to provide the proponents with any indication as to whether the preferred site could be reserved for the Centre.

The Authority thanked the presenters and wished them well for the future.

The Authority asked the NCA to prepare to the National Centre for Australian Children's Literature confirming the Authority's position on the proposed site.

Meeting with the Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Territories

The Authority met with the newly-appointed Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Territories, the Hon Nola Marino MP.

Mrs Marino noted the importance of the work of the NCA and discussed with the Authority some of the key current issues and challenges in the period ahead. The Authority noted that, as well as the National Capital, Canberra was a major regional centre and important economic base.

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 the appropriate form of a proposed memorial arising from a recommendation of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, the development of an NCA Tree Management Policy, the status of repairs to the Captain Cook Memorial Jet, and refurbishment work planned for the Australians of the Year walk.

City Renewal Authority – Current Relevant Projects

The Authority discussed some of the key projects that the ACT Government's City Renewal Authority (CRA) were working on that are of relevance to the work of the NCA.

The Authority noted the projects and their implications for the NCA's work. The Authority discussed some relevant issues arising, especially concerning implications for traffic flows.

The Authority asked the NCA to seek assurance that the ACT Government have been informed about the NCA's position on traffic arrangements on Northbourne Avenue.

Possible Amendment to the National Capital Plan (National Arboretum)

The Authority noted the information provided in the presented paper and agreed to consider an expected request for an amendment to the National Capital Plan from the ACT Government to facilitate the development of a hotel at the Arboretum.

The Authority noted the amendment would include detailed requirements as to the proposed hotel's architectural and landscape design, siting and orientation.

Amendment to the National Capital Plan (Australian National University)

The Authority noted and discussed the information provided regarding a proposal to amend the National Capital Plan to change the land use of Block 1 Section 86 Acton from Uncommitted Land to Community Facility.

Following consideration, the Authority agreed to the preparation of an amendment to the National Capital Plan to change the land use of Block 1 Section 86 Acton from Uncommitted Land to Community Facility, to facilitate the longer-term plans for the ANU and the ACT Government. Further, the Authority agreed to use its powers to approve proposals for student accommodation facilities in advance of the passage of the National Capital Plan amendment.

University of New South Wales – Update

The Authority received and discussed the information provided on the detailed planning and design conditions to guide development of the potential UNSW Campus on Constitution Avenue, Reid.

Following consideration, the Authority endorsed the provided detailed conditions for planning, design and development for the site, subject to strengthening the provisions relating public car parking supply.

Media and Communications Report

The Authority received and noted the Media and Communications Report, which included 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 asked for further work to be done on a Partner Recognition and Sponsorship Policy.

Works Approval Report

The Authority received and noted the Works Approval Report, which included an update on key current developments and recent 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 the former CSIRO Headquarters in Campbell, Hume Circle and the Australian Institute of Sport.

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 report provided on the work of the NCA Audit Committee, especially relating to their most recent meeting held on 31 May 2019. The Authority also noted a summary prepared by the Australian National Audit Office on Board Governance arising from a series of four audits in this area conducted in April/May 2019.

Other business

The Authority did not raise any other business.

The Authority noted its next regular meeting is scheduled for 3 September 2019.

