

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE  
NATIONAL CAPITAL AND EXTERNAL TERRITORIES**

Griffin Legacy Amendments

*Chairman: Senator Ross Lightfoot  
Deputy Chair: Senator Kate Lundy*

## National Capital Committee recommends: Griffin Legacy Amendments be disallowed

Federal Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories has recommended that the Griffin Legacy Amendments be disallowed so that the National Capital Authority has the opportunity to refine the amendments.

The committee recommended that the following amendments be disallowed:

- Amendment 56, The Griffin Legacy – Principles and Policies;
- Amendment 59, City Hill Precinct;
- Amendment 60, Constitution Avenue; and
- Amendment 61, West Basin.

The Griffin Legacy amendments are some of the most significant changes proposed for the future urban planning of Canberra. The committee supports the broad aims of the Griffin Legacy Project. The aim of advancing Griffin's plan to guide the future urban planning of Canberra through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is enviable.

The committee, however, believes that the Griffin Legacy Amendments can be improved. Through the roundtable public hearing, evidence was provided which questioned the adequacy of parts of these amendments. These criticisms are not easily dismissed.

In relation to **Amendment 56** concerns were raised about excessive building height, traffic and transport implications, loss of vistas of national significance and loss of green space. In addition, there were concerns about the scale of the proposed developments and the lack of a rigorous planning rationale.

The examination of **Amendment 59**, City Hill Precinct, revealed concerns about the level of detail, issues about public funding and specific concerns about serious disruptions to traffic and excess building heights and loss of vistas.

**Amendment 60** notes that Constitution Avenue will become an elegant and vibrant mixed-use grand boulevard linking London Circuit to Russell, The committee, however, has noted some of the concerns about the amendment including the scale of the proposal and the possible negative impact on the vista from Parliament House towards Constitution Avenue which is one of the most significant urban vistas in the nation.

**Amendment 61** – West Basin of Lake Burley Griffin is notable for its size and scope. It is proposed that part of the lake be reclaimed using infill taken from the proposed Parkes Way and Kings Avenue tunnel. Evidence to the committee suggested that the scale of development for West Basin should configure more closely to the NCA's 2004 proposal.

The report is available on the committee's website:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/ncet/Griffin/index.htm>

**Media conference with chairman and deputy chair: Doorstop at Senate entrance at 11.00am**

**To arrange media comment:** contact the Chairman of the Committee, Senator Ross Lightfoot on 02 6277 3626 (Canberra) or 08 9221 8955 (Perth).

**For further information:** Please contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4355 or visit the committee's website at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/ncet/index.htm>