



Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia
jscncet@aph.gov.au

3 June 2013

Dear Committee Secretary

Inquiry into the provision of amenity within the Parliamentary Triangle

The Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU) is an active and progressive union committed to promoting a modern, efficient and responsive public sector delivering quality services and quality jobs. We represent around 60,000 members in the Australian Public Service (APS), other areas of Commonwealth Government employment, ACT Public Service, NT Public Service, ABC, SBS and the CSIRO.

As the major union representing employees in the Australian Public Service, the CPSU welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to this inquiry about the provision of amenity within the Parliamentary Triangle.

The CPSU has been involved with this issue for two decades and despite earlier Joint Committee reports, parking problems have only grown, in line with increased employment and residential population density across the Parliamentary precinct.

1. *Describing the changing nature of the working environment in the Parliamentary Triangle*
 - More residential and commercial development has led to a reduction in the availability of parking spaces.
 - The introduction of commercial pay parking lots has triggered the fringe benefits tax applicable to employers in the area.
 - National institutions and other government agencies in the precinct are generally seeking to pass costs directly on to employees.
 - Employees are coming under increasing pressures to work longer hours, often coming and going in the hours of darkness.
 - Over crowding has led to a reduced willingness of workers to journey to access amenities outside the precinct during working hours for fear of losing "their parking space".
2. *The adequacy of the retail services available in this precinct against the benchmark of like employment precincts located in the Capital*
 - Services have not improved significantly over the last two decades.
 - Public transport is still not considered a viable option for most members with the time necessary to get to and from work one of several major issues.
 - Members tell us they expect to be able to access reasonable amenities in the Parliamentary Triangle, for example, childcare, chemists, hair salon, dry cleaners, newsagents, post offices, optometrists, more and better located auto teller machines.
3. *Should these services be considered inadequate, recommend steps that would ameliorate that inadequacy*
 - Developers should be required to provide identified amenities as part of their developments in the precinct.
 - Developers should be required to provide parking at least equal to their anticipated tenant/visitor needs.

- “Park-and-Ride” facilities should be provided outside but nearby the precinct, for example, near Canberra Railway Station, with free or cost-neutral shuttles travelling back and forth from the precinct every 15 minutes during peak hours.
- NCA should make land available for childcare centres within the Parliamentary Triangle.
- Public transport between the precinct, the rest of Canberra and the broader region must be improved.

The CPSU will be appearing at the Joint Standing Committee hearing and can elaborate further on the issues raised and recommendations provided in this submission.

If the Committee requires further information from the CPSU, please contact Vince McDevitt on (02) 6220 9625 or Vince.McDevitt@cpsu.org.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alistair Water". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alistair Water
Deputy National President