



**AUSTRALIAN
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SUBMISSION 37

The Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on the
National Capital and External Territories
Department of the House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Sir/Madam

I write in relation to the current inquiry into the role of the National Capital Authority. Whilst mindful that the period for making submissions to the inquiry has closed, I wish to convey to the Joint Committee the views of the Australian Sports Commission on the role of the National Capital Authority.

The Australian Sports Commission is a statutory authority of the Federal Government, responsible for the implementation of the Government's national sports policy. It incorporates the operations of the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS), and is based on the 65-hectare campus of the AIS in the Canberra suburb of Bruce. Since its establishment in 1981, successive Governments have invested over \$100 million in facilities at the AIS. In the 2002/03 Budget, the Government announced a further \$65.4 million investment in the redevelopment of the AIS campus to maintain its status as the national, and indeed a world-leading international, centre of sporting excellence.

I believe strongly that the AIS campus is a major public institution with wide recognition amongst the general public across Australia and, as such, holds almost national icon status. The AIS is also internationally recognised as a world-leading training institute with many countries looking to copy the AIS concept. However, recent experience has shown the susceptibility of the AIS campus to the vagaries of local planning decisions and politics in the Australian Capital Territory. In invoking its role to ensure that the Territory is planned and developed in accordance with its national significance, the Commission is of the view that the National Capital Authority provides a responsible balance mechanism to offset national interest against local politics.

The Australian Sports Commission supports the retention of the current role of the National Capital Authority as set out in section 6 of the *Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988*. The Commission understands that the Authority maintains a healthy working relationship with the Territory Government in its management of the National Capital Plan.

I would be grateful if the views contained in this letter could be brought to the attention of the members of the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories.

Yours faithfully

Mark A Peters
Chief Executive Officer

16 June 2003

