

Monday, April 07, 2008

Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories
Department of House of Representatives
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
AUSTRALIA

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Dear Committee Secretary

The Australian Council of Built Environment Design Professions (BEDP) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the enquiry into the role of the National Capital Authority (NCA).

BEDP is the peak industry body of design professional associations and institutes and represents nearly 100,000 architects, engineers, planners, quantity surveyors, lighting designers and landscape architects throughout Australia.

I would like to acknowledge the work NCA does in creating a National Capital which all Australian's can be truly proud of. It is of concern that significant budget cuts have been made to NCA prior to the conclusion of the inquiry. However, BEDP sees this inquiry as an opportunity to clearly define the role of the NCA from that of the ACT Government and work towards ensuring that the National Capital is well planned and designed.

To provide clear guidance for the NCA in the future, BEDP recommends that a Commonwealth Government Architect be appointed and located in the offices of Prime Minister and Cabinet. The Government Architect will be responsible for overseeing the role of the NCA and ensure that the duplication of services does not occur.

BEDP looks forward to the outcomes of this enquiry. If you require any further information, please contact Johanna Gastevich, Executive Officer on (03) 8620 3843.

Yours sincerely



Richard Green
Chair

Australian Council of Built Environment Design Professions (BEDP) Limited