



10 MACDONNELL STREET,

7

15 April 2008

Secretary
Joint Standing Committee of the
National Capital and External Territories

Joint Standing Committee on the
National Capital and External Territories

Submission No: 75

Date Received: 16/4/08

Secretary:

Dear Sir,

As a past Chairman of the NCA, I was disappointed with the governments decision to slash the budget of the NCA.

The NCA was staffed by a very talented and experienced group of people who in the main performed their tasks with enthusiasm and professionalism. It is of concern that people with such talents are thought to be expendable. I think there is very little chance of the government changing its mind on their decision to reduce the NCA budget, now that 36 people have had their employment terminated.

From all reports it appears that Lindsay Tanner and the razor gang acted with minimal consultation.

I would urge Mr Rudd to allocate the first tranche of money (three million dollars) to complete the planning and documentation of Constitution Avenue, so that if and when the money was made available in the future, work could start immediately and not be held up by redoing and restarting the planning and documentation process. Hopefully, this will be sooner than later.

It is not beyond belief that the architects, engineers and planners could claim on the government for the cancellation of their contracts. Such a claim could cost the government a considerable amount of money and probably an amount up to the three million dollars.

I would urge the local senators and parliamentary representatives to approach Mr Rudd to make the three million available to complete the planning and documentation of Constitution Avenue. I am sure it would be very worth while if they were successful in securing the funds for this work.

Arthur Kenyon A.M.