

16 April 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

email: [jscncet@aph.gov.au](mailto:jscncet@aph.gov.au)

Dear Senator Kate Lundy

**Re: Inquiry into the role of the National Capital Authority**

The National Gallery of Australia would like to submit its comments on the role of the National Capital Authority.

The National Gallery of Australia is one of the major institutions of the Parliamentary Zone and has a long working relationship with the National Capital Authority and recognises and supports an ongoing role of a planning authority for the Parliamentary Zone of Canberra as key to the success of the future development and maintenance of this important precinct of the nation's capital.

Personally I would like to record my strong endorsement in the Director of the NCA Ms Annabelle Pegrum as she is a person of well informed vision, professionalism and capable of representing the aspirations of the NCA and Canberra's future design.

I would be happy to elaborate on this submission at your request

Yours sincerely

Ron Radford AM  
Director

■ national gallery of **australia**

GPO Box 1150 Canberra  
ACT 2601 Australia  
Telephone 61 2 6240 6411  
Facsimile 61 2 6240 6426  
[www.nga.gov.au](http://www.nga.gov.au)  
ABN 27 855 975 449

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**Submission to the Inquiry into the role of the National Capital Authority from the National Gallery of Australia.**

The National Gallery of Australia (NGA) is a major cultural institution situated in the Parliamentary Zone and it recognises and supports an ongoing role for a planning authority with responsibility for the Parliamentary Zone of the national capital.

The NGA has enjoyed a good working relationship with the National Capital Authority (NCA) over many years and I can confirm that since I have been Director, the NCA has contributed effectively to the planning and management of the Arts/Civic precinct of the Parliamentary Zone during a period of significant development for the precinct which contains the National Gallery of Australia, High Court of Australia and National Portrait Gallery.

The NCA has played an important role in a number of significant projects in recent years including the Parliamentary Zone Review, the redevelopment of the Old Parliament House Rose Gardens, Reconciliation Place, Commonwealth Place, the allocation of campuses, the identification of a site for the National Portrait Gallery and the Stage 1: Indigenous Galleries and New Entrance Project at the NGA.

The Parliamentary Zone is a key national space and needs special consideration to ensure its proper administration and to respond appropriately to its ongoing needs in a considered way. The Arts/Civic precinct needs to be maintained and developed at a national level. Long term strategic planning to meet the needs of institutions and the public generally need to be carefully managed.

The NCA brings a professional capacity to lead the strategic development of the Parliamentary Zone.

Canberra as a planned city has the enviable position to realise on the Griffin dream and take its place as one of the great cities of the future. Canberra needs to have an NCA or another organisation with a strong commitment to long term vision and planning.

The program of nationally significant events managed and co-ordinated by the NCA needs to be supported and encouraged to further develop. As we approach the centenary of the establishment of Canberra, we should encourage a greater focus on the national capital through programs and events.

The NGA has been well served by the NCA and wishes to place on record our appreciation for the assistance provided by the NCA to our operations over the life of the NGA.

Ron Radford AM  
National Gallery of Australia

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