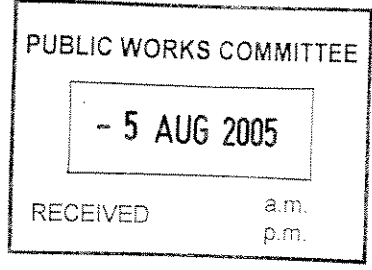


**Australian Government**  
**National Capital Authority**

SUBMISSION ..... 2 .....

Ms Vivienne Courto  
Inquiry Secretary  
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Ms Courto

**PROPOSED REFURBISHMENT OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN MINT, CANBERRA, ACT**

I refer to your letter of 7 July 2005 regarding the inquiry by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works into the above proposal at Block 1 Section 65 Deakin, ACT. The National Capital Authority (NCA) is pleased to provide a written submission advising the Committee of the NCA's interest in the matter.

The submission provides the legislative background and discusses the relevant provisions of the National Capital Plan (the Plan) as it applies to the subject site and the proposed development. It also sets out the NCA's current position regarding the assessment of the proposal.

The Royal Australian Mint site in Deakin is National Land located outside the Designated Areas of the Plan. The site is subject to the Special Requirements of the Plan.

The NCA was provided with sketch plans of the proposal in May 2005 by the Department of Finance and Administration. The NCA advised the Department on 8 July 2005 that the proposal was supported in principle subject to design resolution of a number of minor matters. The sketch plans previously considered by the NCA are consistent with those included in the Department of Finance and Administration's Statement of Evidence to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works. Final drawings will need to be submitted to the NCA for endorsement relating to the proposal's consistency with the provisions of the National Capital Plan.

NCA representatives will be available to attend the public hearing on 19 August 2005 to advise the Committee if required. Should you need any further advice on the matter, please do not hesitate to contact Natalie Broughton on 6271 2867.

Yours sincerely

**SHAMSUL HUDA**  
A/g Managing Director  
Planning and Urban Design

5 August 2005

*Building the National Capital in the hearts of all Australians*

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**NATIONAL CAPITAL AUTHORITY  
SUBMISSION TO THE  
PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS  
PROPOSED REFURBISHMENT OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN MINT  
CANBERRA, ACT**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

The National Capital Authority (NCA) has prepared this submission in response to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC) inquiry into the proposed refurbishment of the Royal Australian Mint, Canberra, ACT.

This submission provides the relevant background information on the NCA's role in planning and development in the ACT and the NCA's involvement in the site and its development. It sets out the provisions of the National Capital Plan (the Plan) applicable to the subject site and outlines the NCA's current position regarding the assessment of the proposal.

**2. LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND**

The National Capital Planning Authority was established in 1989 as part of the introduction of self-government in the ACT, with a view to securing the Federal Government's continuing interest in the planning and development of Canberra as Australia's National Capital. The name was changed to National Capital Authority on 4 June 1996.

The functions of the Authority are set out in the *Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988* (the Act). One of the functions of the NCA under the Act is to prepare and administer the Plan. Section 9 of the Act sets out the object of the Plan as follows:

***Object of the Plan***

9. *The object of the Plan is to ensure that Canberra and the Territory are planned and developed in accordance with their national significance.*

The Plan is required to set the general policies to be implemented throughout the Territory, and in particular, the policies of land use (including the range and nature of permitted land use) [Section 10(2)(b)].

In addition, the Act makes provision for the Plan to identify "Designated Areas" – "areas that have the special characteristics of the National Capital". [Section 10(1)]. Within

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Designated Areas the NCA is the responsible planning authority and all "works" require the approval of the NCA in writing [Section 12(1)(b)].

The Act also enables the Plan to set out "Special Requirements" for the development of any area (not being a Designated Area), being requirements that are desirable in the interests of the National Capital [Section 10(2)(d)].

The Act at section 11(2) outlines the effect of the Plan on Commonwealth agencies as follows:

#### *Effect of Plan*

11. (2) *The Commonwealth, a Commonwealth authority, the Territory or a Territory authority shall not do any act that is inconsistent with the Plan.*

The Plan has been prepared in accordance with the act and is being administered by the NCA. Provisions of the plan relevant to the proposed refurbishment of the Royal Australian Mint, Canberra, ACT are set out below.

### 3. RELEVANT NATIONAL CAPITAL PLAN PROVISIONS

#### **Introduction**

The Royal Australian Mint at Deakin, ACT is on National Land located outside the Designated Areas as set out in the Plan. The site is subject to the Special Requirements of the Plan.

#### **Land use**

The General Policy Plan of the National Capital Plan identifies the Royal Australian Mint (Block 1 Section 65 Deakin) as part of the Broadacre Areas land use. The range of uses permitted in the Broadacre Areas includes:

*The Royal Australian Mint on its present site only*

#### **Special Requirements**

The Special Requirements for Broadacre Areas include provisions for National Land not included within a Designated Area of the Plan. Section 5.3.1 of the Plan notes that:

*It is in the interests of the National Capital that all National Land achieve a quality of development which reflects Canberra's significance as the National Capital, and that proposals be assessed in relation to the provisions of both the Territory Plan and the National Capital Plan.*

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The Special Requirements of the Plan require the following matters to be addressed as part of any development proposed on the site:

- (i) *Adverse environmental impacts from on-site developments, on adjacent land and development, shall be identified and redressed to the extent practicable.*
- (ii) *Adequate provision should be made where appropriate for visitors to sites.*
- (iii) *Functional relationships between uses within and external to the site shall be provided for.*
- (iv) *Consistency in the external design and site layout of buildings and landscaping shall be sought.*
- (v) *Satisfactory arrangements shall be made for parking accommodation and vehicular access and egress. Traffic impacts of development shall be taken into account.*

### **Territory Plan**

The development proposal for the Royal Australian Mint has to be consistent not only with the National Capital Plan but also the Territory Plan that is administered by ACT Planning and Land Authority (ACTPLA). The refurbishment proposal was, therefore, referred to ACTPLA (in May 2005) for consideration and comment. ACTPLA advised the NCA on 15 June 2005 that it has no issues arising from the proposal as submitted.

### **Environment and Heritage**

The Department of Finance and Administration made a referral on the proposed refurbishment works to the Department of the Environment and Heritage (DEH) under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. DEH has made a decision that the proposed action to carry out refurbishment of the Royal Australian Mint is not a controlled action.

## **4. ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSAL**

The Department of Finance and Administration submitted Final Sketch Plans on the proposed refurbishment of the Royal Australian Mint to the NCA for consideration in May 2005.

The NCA assessed the proposal against the relevant provisions of the National Capital Plan and advised the Department (on 8 July 2005) that the proposal as submitted was supported in principle subject to design resolution of a number of minor matters. The NCA has requested that these matters be addressed and documented in the final drawings to be submitted to the NCA for endorsement relating to the proposal's consistency with the provisions of the National Capital Plan. The NCA is confident that all design issues will be resolved.