

+

Submission 57

Yarralumla Residents Association
PO Box 7123
Yarralumla ACT 2600

RE Inquiry into the role of the National Capital Authority

We wish to make some brief comments in regard to the terms of reference into which the Federal Parliament's National Capital Committee will be inquiring. We would be appreciative if you could pass these on to the relevant people.

1) Our organisation would be keen to see a well-defined clarification as to the respective jurisdictions of the ACT planning authority and the NCA in a way that is transparent to community groups such as ours; that is, for ACT residents to know just 'who' one is dealing with on any particular issue.

On some occasions this has been a vexed issue; for example

with regard to NCA Draft Amendment 53—Albert Hall Precinct— the plan was produced by the NCA, but the maintenance of the building in question appeared to be the responsibility of the ACT government. with regard to the proposed Yarralumla Bay Recreational Hub, the planning was/is that of the NCA, but the leases of some of the primary stakeholders in that area, such as boating groups, are the responsibility of the ACT government.

This is the kind of murkiness that is exasperating for concerned Canberra residents, and we would thus applaud a reduction of any duplication, or unnecessary overlap, of planning functions and/or responsibilities that exist.

2) Nevertheless, we believe that the role of the NCA is most valuable in Canberra, and our organisation supports its continuation, as an objective body outside of local politics, to be able to plan effectively for the future of our national capital, in a way that local government is not always able to do.

We would also like the committee to note, that engagement of the NCA with our organisation, with regard to proposed plans for the Yarralumla Recreational Hub, has always been informative, productive and helpful. Since 2006, representatives of the NCA have kept us informed by phone calls and emails, attended public meetings (sometimes in their own time) and have made themselves available to answer questions and respond to concerns. We would hope that any revamped NCA could continue the cooperative discourse which we have been able to establish with previous representatives with whom we have engaged.

Yours sincerely

Dorothy G. Jauncey (Secretary, Yarralumla Residents Association) 11/4/08