

Committee Chair
Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories
Department of House of Representatives
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
jscncet@aph.gov.au

To the Committee Chair,

The Government Architects Network of Australia is an alliance of Government Architects from across Australia.

We are writing to you to express our collective support for the National Capital Authority and our concern for the future role of the Authority.

We welcome the enquiry into the role – and look forward to the opportunity to contribute, to help review, redefine and reinforce the Commonwealth's role and extent of interest in the Capital.

However we are concerned that, prior to the enquiry, there has been an operational budget cut that has greatly reduced the capacity of the NCA.

We express our concern because of the following critical issues:

- There is a need for an agency to protect and promote design quality across the ACT.
- The NCA plays an essential custodial role, representing and managing the Commonwealth interest in the strategic planning and development of Canberra as the Australian National Capital.
- The NCA is recognised internationally for their professionalism and credibility.
- The NCA contribution as a protector of the Griffin Legacy and in procuring high quality public buildings in the National Triangle has been an invaluable service to the nation.
- In supporting the role we support the need to maintain and drive design excellence as the quality of architecture and urban design in Canberra makes a significant contribution to the sense of identity of the symbolic heart of the nation.
- The NCA seeks to create and maintain a welcoming, inclusive capital city for all Australians by promoting and supporting a high quality built environment through the administration of the National Capital Plan and management of the public realm.

All of the above issues will be severely compromised by the budget cuts that have been put into place. We therefore urge your reconsideration of the operational budget cuts to the National Capital Authority.



Geoffrey London
Convener of the Government Architects Network of Australia Conference 2008.
22 April 2008