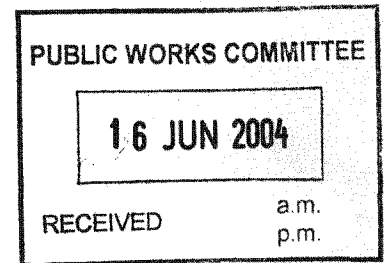




Department of the Environment and Heritage

SUBMISSION 2

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



Dear Ms Courto

**PROPOSED REFURBISHMENT OF ANZAC PARK EAST AND ANZAC PARK WEST BUILDINGS
AND FIT-OUT OF ANZAC PARK WEST BUILDING, PARKES, ACT**

I refer to your letter of 2 June 2004 inviting comment on the above proposal.

This Department is responsible for administering the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act 1999) which provides for the protection of defined matters of national environmental significance. The Act also provides for the regulation of activities by Australian Government agencies, or on Commonwealth land, that could affect the more general environment (defined as including natural as well as heritage and socio-economic values).

The EPBC Act states that proposals by Australian Government agencies likely to have a significant impact on the environment must be referred to the Environment Minister for assessment and approval under the Act. If the question of significance is unclear, or certainty about the application of the EPBC Act is needed, an agency can still refer the proposal and a decision will be made within 20 business days as to whether or not approval under the Act is needed.

In this case, the Department of Finance and Administration (DoFA) referred the proposal to redevelop, refurbish and make additions and alterations to the East and West Portal Buildings and West Portal Cafeteria at Anzac Park, ACT, on 19 April 2004.

The buildings are entered in the Register of the National Estate (RNE) as the Parliament House Vista Extension and the Cafeteria is also included in the boundary of the registered place. The place is likely to be included on the Commonwealth Heritage List by 30 June 2004 under the provisions of Schedule 3 of the Act.

After due consideration, and following receipt of additional information, the Department advised DoFA on 20 May 2004 that the proposal is not likely to have a significant impact on the environment and that further consideration or approval under the EPBC Act is therefore not required. The likely future addition of the place on the Commonwealth Heritage List will not affect this decision.



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In making this decision, the Department had regard to a Heritage Impact Assessment report prepared for DoFA. This report assessed impacts against the heritage values identified in the Management Plan for the site and found the proposed alterations to be largely consistent with the Plan's conservation policies and implementation strategies. The conservation policies were found to have been developed in line with the principles of the Burra Charter and to provide for a best practice approach/standards in heritage conservation.

Having regard to the substantial documentation compiled by DoFA on the proposed action, and the detailed Management Plan to guide the proposed works, the Department is of the view that significant impacts on a listed heritage place are not likely.

Please do not hesitate to contact Fiona Jinman (02 6274 1092) if you need further information.

Yours sincerely



Steve Mercer

Director

EPBC Act Referrals Section

Approvals and Wildlife Division

11 June 2004

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ACT 1999

DECISION THAT ACTION IS NOT A CONTROLLED ACTION

I, MARK FLANIGAN, Assistant Secretary, Policy and Compliance Branch, Department of the Environment and Heritage, a delegate of the Minister for the Environment and Heritage for the purposes of section 75 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, decide that the proposed action, set out in the Schedule, is not a controlled action.

SCHEDULE

The proposed action by the Department of Finance and Administration to redevelopment Anzac Park East and West, ACT and as described in the referral received under the Act on 19 April 2004 (EPBC 2004/1470).

Dated this 20 day of MAY 2004


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**ASSISTANT SECRETARY
POLICY AND COMPLIANCE BRANCH
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE**