



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

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

Dear Ms Courto

**CSIRO ENTOMOLOGY BIOSCIENCE LABORATORY AT  
BLACK MOUNTAIN PENINSULA, CANBERRA, ACT**

I refer to your letter of 20 May 2005 regarding the inquiry by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works into the above proposal at Block 3 Section 2 Acton, 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 (NCP) as it applies to the subject site and the proposed development. It also sets out the Authority's current position regarding the assessment of the proposal.

The CSIRO site at Acton is National Land within the Designated Areas of the National Capital Plan. Consequently, works approval is required from the National Capital Authority.

The NCA was provided with sketch plans of the proposal in February 2005 and has advised CSIRO that the proposal is supported in principle. Details of the proposal will have to be considered further as part of an application for works approval. The sketch plans previously received by the NCA are consistent with those included in CSIRO's Statement of Evidence to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works.

Authority representatives will be available to attend the public hearing on 17 June 2005 to advise the Committee if required. Should you need any further advice on the matter, please do not hesitate to contact me on 6271 2840.

Yours sincerely

**James Larmour-Reid**  
**Managing Director**  
**Planning and Urban Design**

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**NATIONAL CAPITAL AUTHORITY  
SUBMISSION TO THE  
PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS**

**DEVELOPMENT OF A CSIRO ENTOMOLOGY BIOSCIENCE LABORATORY  
AT BLACK MOUNTAIN, 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 development of the CSIRO Entomology Bioscience Laboratory at Black Mountain, 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 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 development of a CSIRO Entomology Bioscience Laboratory at Black Mountain, Canberra ACT are set out below.

## **3. RELEVANT NATIONAL CAPITAL PLAN PROVISIONS**

### **Introduction**

The CSIRO facility at Acton, ACT is National Land located in the Designated Areas as set out in the Plan. As such works approval is required from the NCA for any works on the site.

### **Block 3 Section 2 Acton**

#### **3.1 Land Use Policies**

In the Plan the CSIRO facility (Block 3 Section 2 Action) is identified at Figure 9 as being located within The Central National Area (Acton and Canberra Central (part)). The land use is Community Facility which as defined in the Plan includes ‘Scientific Research Establishment’.

#### **3.2.1 Detailed Design**

For sites located within The Central National Area (Acton and Canberra Central (part)) the Plan aims to ensure that these areas achieve high qualities of planning and development within a design context appropriate to their localities.

## **4. ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSAL**

CSIRO Acton is located on National Land within the Designated Areas of the Plan. As such, works approval is required from the NCA for all development on the site. Sketch plans on the proposed CSIRO Entomology Bioscience Laboratory were submitted to the NCA in February 2005. The NCA wrote to CSIRO on 1 March 2005 advising that the

NCA had reviewed the drawings and they were supported in principle. Details of the proposal will need to be considered further as part of an application for works approval. At the time of writing a works approval application has not been received. In assessing the proposal for works approval the NCA will ensure that the development is consistent with the provisions of the Plan.

The NCA also understands that CSIRO have made a referral to the Department of the Environment and Heritage (DEH) under *the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The determination by DEH will need to be provided to the NCA as part of the works approval process.