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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
DEPARTMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY – PROPOSED FIT-OUT OF NEW LEASED PREMISES**

RESPONSES TO PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

No	Submission	Issues Raised	Comment
1	Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency	Department's own submission	No comment
2	National Capital Authority	Notes that the Authority is currently considering an application for works approval for the proposed development of the Nishi building and is awaiting the outcome of processes initiated under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999</i> before making a decision on the application.	No comment
3	Australian Academy of Science	"There appears to have been a substantial amount of work done on the fit out of the building before the building has been approved."	Work in relation to design of the fit-out has been limited to that necessary for the Department to effectively address the requirements of the Public Works Committee.
		"However, in its present location the building will have a serious impact on a heritage building and its surrounds. Accordingly, the development should not proceed in its present form on the proposed site in the New Acton precinct."	These matters are currently before the National Capital Authority and the Minister for Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts for determination.
4	Owners of Units Plan 3063 "Metropolitan"	Siting, land use and development approval processes for the New Acton precinct.	These matters are currently before the National Capital Authority for determination.
5	Eric Martin and Associates	Siting, land use and development approval processes for the New Acton precinct.	These matters are currently before the National Capital Authority for determination.
6	Walter Burley Griffin Society (Canberra Chapter)	See Submission 8	See Submission 8
7	Molonglo Group	Notes the green credentials of the proposed development and the value of undertaking an integrated fit-out.	No comment

8	Walter Burley Griffin Society (Management Committee)	<p>Given the radical revision of DCCEE portfolio responsibilities since November/December 2009, the proposed fit-out of new office space should be withdrawn and re-considered with reference to the new mission, organisational structure, functions, outputs and staffing levels of the Department.</p>	<p>The Department has undertaken a thorough planning process and, as indicated during the public hearing, the Department is confident the 12,250 square metres is consistent with essential requirements.</p>
		<p>DCCEE should provide the Public Works Committee with the comparative cost/benefit analysis undertaken to date, which led to the proposal for a \$20.5 million fit-out of new commercial premises in the proposed New Acton Nishi building, rather than the \$13.2 million upgrade of 2 Constitution Avenue funded in the 2009-10 Budget.</p>	<p>The funding being made available for the proposed \$20.5 million fit-out has been allocated to the Department consistent with established budgetary processes.</p>
		<p>As a matter of probity, and in the public interest, DCCEE should provide comparative data on the five (5) bids received in response to the Department's tender process for new accommodation, with respect to the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is the base building completed; • if not, does the proposed base building have planning approval; • if not, does the proposed base building comply with the planning controls; • does the proposed base building have heritage approval; • if not, does the proposed base building comply with an endorsed Conservation Management Plan; • cost effectiveness; • environmental impacts – embodied energy/operational energy and associated Greenhouse Gas (GHG) impacts; • likely heritage impacts of the base building and establish how the New Acton Nishi building, which ranks negatively on all of the above, was selected. 	<p>The Department has provided to the Committee, under separate cover, a summary of the selection process undertaken to identify the Nishi building as the preferred location for the Department's new office accommodation. The Department notes that this material is commercial-in-confidence.</p>

		<p>In the event that the developer manages to gain works approval and heritage approval for the base building, despite its non-conformity with the zoning of the subject site and the building height plane of the Hotel Acton Conservation Management Plan, the impact of the base building on the heritage values of Canberra will be such that the DCCEE contribution to the project, as anchor tenant, should be deemed unacceptable and insupportable by the PWC.</p>	<p>No comment</p>
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