

SUBMISSION 20.1

Joint Standing Committee on the
National Capital and External Territories

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Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories Secretary:

ENQUIRY INTO THE ROLE OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AUTHORITY

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Federal Parliament should maintain and strengthen the National Capital Authority (NCA) to ensure the national significance of the design of the National Capital is the responsibility of the National Parliament. This is absolutely fundamental to addressing the terms of reference of this enquiry by the Joint Standing Committee.
2. That the NCA retain responsibility for two key areas, namely:
 - (a) The Strategic Policy Plan (NCSP) for the entire ACT (now known as the General Policy Plan).
 - (b) The full responsibility for the areas of special national importance in the central national area.
3. That the immediate priority for the NCA in co-operation with the ACT Government (ACTPLA/LDA) be to produce a new strategic plan setting out principles, goals, and targets to absolutely ensure that the further development of the National Capital leads to best world practice in environmentally sustainable design, planning and development.
4. That following the endorsement of the NCSP by the Joint Standing Committee that the ACT Government be charged with the delivery and having primary responsibility for the implementation of the strategic plan policy in co-operation with the NCA.
5. That the NCA have primary responsibility for the central national area in also delivering outcomes of the new NCSP.
6. That a Commonwealth Architect be appointed to ensure appropriate levels of oversight are applied to achieving the highest standards of design for areas of national significance.
7. That in preparing the NCSP the strategic urban policies underpinning the "Griffin Legacy" publication of 2007 be expanded, adapted and refined as necessary to form the bones of the urban framework of the new National Capital Strategic Urban Design Plan.

These recommendations may well radically reposition the direction, form and quality of planning and development in the National Capital by 2020 and well into the future.

This refocusing on strategic values, especially the goal of achieving an environmentally sustainable capital city will no doubt thrust the National Capital into the world spotlight and this will in-turn deliver the "effective national promotion of the National Capital" that the Joint Standing Committee desires.