



Australian Government
National Capital Authority



Committee Secretary
Senate Economics Committee
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary

Senate Estimates Hearing 3 November 2005 – Treasury Building Fountain

At the Senate Estimates Hearing of 3 November 2005, Senator Sherry asked questions in relation to the Norma Redpath Treasury Fountain located in the Northern Forecourt of the Treasury Building, Parkes ACT. These questions were taken on notice by the Treasury who have requested that the National Capital Authority (NCA), as the Agency responsible for the fountain, respond.

The NCA's response is attached

Please contact Mr Graham Scott-Bohanna, Managing Director Design at the NCA on 6271 2888 if you require further information regarding this matter.

Yours sincerely

Barb Kraaz
Ministerial Liaison and Legal Officer
National Capital Authority

17 November 2005

Building the National Capital in the hearts of all Australians

T 02 6271 2888 | F 02 6273 4427 | www.nationalcapital.gov.au | email natcap@natcap.gov.au

Couriers & deliveries: Treasury Building, King Edward Terrace, Parkes ACT 2600 | Mailing: GPO Box 373 Canberra ACT 2601

ABN 75 149 374 427

Questions on Notice

Senate Estimates Economics Legislation Committee – 3 November 2005.

The Treasury Fountain

Senator Sherry – What was the cost of renovating it?

The cost of conservation and restoration works for the Treasury Fountain was \$332,339.

The cost included the conservation of the bronze sculpture and the upgrading of the electrical and hydraulic equipment.

Senator Sherry – Why was it left for almost 10 years to fix it?

In 1964 the National Capital Development Commission engaged noted Australian sculptor Norma Redpath to design the Treasury Fountain for the northern courtyard of the Treasury Building. The fountain was completed and commissioned in 1969.

In December 1998 a condition assessment was undertaken by consultants to the National Capital Authority which concluded that the fountain was in reasonable condition but was in need of some maintenance work.

In February 2000 the sculptor inspected the fountain and advised the National Capital Authority that, in her opinion, the sculpture was not in good condition and required extensive restoration to regain the original patination of the bronze sculpture and to re-align the water jets to operate as originally designed.

In July 2000 the Treasury Fountain was turned off for some months while the electrical supply distribution boards throughout the Treasury Building were upgraded as part of the refurbishment of the building. The fountain was restarted once the electrical works were completed.

In August 2000 a heritage and conservation assessment was undertaken by the National Capital Authority in close consultation with the sculptor.

In March 2002 the restoration works commenced and were completed in August 2002. Over a number of weeks in August and September 2002, in consultation with the sculptor, adjustments were made to the water flow and water pressure to re-align the water jets to achieve the original design.

In September 2002 the fountain was officially recommissioned by the Hon. Wilson Tuckey MP, the then Minister for Regional Services, Territories and Local Government.