

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2007

Transport and Regional Services

Question: NCA 01

Division/Agency: National Capital Authority

Topic: Urban Design Guidelines

Hansard Page: 72 (22/05/07)

Senator Lundy asked:

Ms Pegrum—We contend that they were picked up in the amendments. The amendments actually have provisions for things like best practice in environmental design; they picked up water-sensitive design, building heights, landscape requirements and also things like pedestrian access. What the *Urban Design Guidelines* will do is go a further step and identify for specific sites what additional or new considerations might be taken into account, like whether there are specific setbacks, the character of, say, laneways that might be required, whether there are specific heritage considerations on a site and whether there are particular functional examples. For example, on section 63, we have been discussing with the Territory implications for car parking provisions, the relationship of built-form to other buildings in that area and the way in which the development of that site might address the future extension of Edinburgh Avenue which is now possible under the Amendment. So, that is the nature of them. I would be happy to provide a copy of the National Portrait Gallery ones as an example and, if it is acceptable to the Department of Finance, the ASIO ones. They are the client for that, so I cannot provide those without their agreement, but the others are public record.

Senator LUNDY—Okay. Thank you for that.

Answer:

A copy of the *Urban Design Guidelines* for the National Portrait Gallery is **attached**.

[NCA 01 attachment]

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2007

Transport and Regional Services

Question: NCA 02

Division/Agency: National Capital Authority

Topic: Urban Design Guidelines Peer Review Process

Hansard Page: 73 (22/05/07)

Senator Lundy asked:

Senator LUNDY—Are you able to provide the Committee with a document about the peer review process?

Ms Pegrum—Yes, once we formalise that with the ACT Government and the institutions.

Answer:

A copy of the Terms of Reference for the peer advisory panels is **attached**. A panel has been established in relation to the preparation of *Urban Design Guidelines* for Section 63, City, a site covered by Amendment 59 (City Hill Precinct). The panel comprises nominees from the following professional institutes:

- Royal Australian Institute of Architects;
- Australian Institute of Landscape Architects;
- Planning Institute of Australia; and
- Engineers Australia.

The NCA may co-opt other professionals or public servant/private sector stakeholders on an as-needs basis where it is considered that additional expertise is desirable or warranted.

The panel met for the first time on 18 June 2007 and will meet again on 18 July 2007. The Chief Planning Executive of ACT Planning and Land Authority is a participant on the panel for Section 63.

[NCA 02 attachments A and B]

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2007

Transport and Regional Services

Question: NCA 03

Division/Agency: National Capital Authority

Topic: Consultation with 'Mr Spokes' Bicycle Hire

Hansard Page: 73 (22/5/07)

Senator Lundy asked:

Senator LUNDY—Just going back to the Griffin Legacy Amendments, one of the issues that was raised at the roundtable was the plight of Mr Spokes, the bicycle hirer on West Basin. What engagement and consultation has the NCA sought with Mr Spokes following his concerns being expressed in that forum?

Ms Pegrum—Senator, we refuted some of the concerns Mr Spokes made and we provided detailed information of that to the roundtable as part of their consideration. I do not have that here but I would be happy to table that same response for this Committee.

Senator LUNDY—Yes, if you could

Answer:

[Copy of previous JSC correspondence: 'NCA responses to statements made and questions taken on notice at the "Griffin Legacy Amendments Roundtable" conducted by the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories on Friday 23 February 2007'.]

Statement made by Mr. Shanahan, owner of Mr Spokes Bike Hire. (Hansard, page 60):

"It was up to us to take the initiative to approach Todd Rohl a few months ago. However, there has since been no formal approach from the NCA to us about our future and this certainly concerns us."

NCA Response:

On 19 September 2006, the NCA's Managing Director of Planning and Urban Design met with Mr Shanahan and Ms Edwards (also of Mr Spokes Bike Hire) to discuss matters relating to Mr Spokes Bike Hire and Cafe at West Basin. Mr Shanahan and Ms Edwards were advised that Mr Spokes Bike Hire would be one of the types of facilities that would be consistent with Amendment 61 to the National Capital Plan - West Basin.

As outlined in minutes of the meeting prepared by Mr Shanahan and Ms Edwards (agreed to by the Managing Director Planning and Urban Design), the key outcome of the meeting was that if the Amendment came into force and effect a number of options would be considered including Mr Spokes Bike Hire remaining in the current location, moving to an alternative location or moving to a temporary location and,

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2007

Transport and Regional Services

following development, moving back to West Basin. It was agreed that the NCA was keen to accommodate Mr Spikes Bike Hire in a suitable location during and after the development if it occurred.

Ms Edwards advised by email on 21 September 2006 that it was their intention to proceed with the purchase of Mr Spokes Bike Hire and Cafe.

The ACT Government confirmed by email on 2 March 2007 that contracts on the sale of Mr Spokes Bike Hire were exchanged on 17 October 2006 and settled on 3 November 2006. The consultation period on the draft Amendments finished on 29 September 2006.

Consultation Dates

Discussions (by phone and in person) between NCA staff and Shanahan and Edwards of Mr Spokes Bicycle Hire, regarding Amendment 61 - West Basin and temporary traders permits, have been held on the following dates:

19 August 2006
19 September 2006
21 September 2006
22 September 2006
9 November 2006
23 February 2007
6 March 2007
13 March 2007
22 March 2007
10 April 2007
6 June 2007

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2007

Transport and Regional Services

Question: NCA 04

Division/Agency: National Capital Authority

Topic: Status of Water Police Lease at Yarralumla Bay

Hansard Page: 74 (22/5/07)

Senator Lundy asked:

Senator LUNDY—Thank you. Just going to issues around the lake: some time ago, we became aware that the water police station had been purchased by a private owner for the purposes of—as I think it was reported at the time—a restaurant and/or a bed and breakfast style commercial facility.

Ms Pegrum—Yes. I recall that.

Senator LUNDY—Can you tell us what is the status of that particular physical building at the moment?

Ms Pegrum—This is from memory, and I will correct it if I am wrong here. At the time, there were questions about whether we were going to propose amendments to change the use of the land at that site. I believe that we answered at the time that we would not contemplate a change in use for the site unless the water police no longer intended to use it for that purpose; then we would have discussions with the ACT government regarding what the future uses might be. To my knowledge, there has been no change in that status.

Senator LUNDY—Right. So it is owned by a private owner and it is leased by, presumably, the AFP for the purposes of providing the water police?

Ms Pegrum—I believe so, but I would have to check that with the Department of Finance because they are not our leases.

Senator LUNDY—Would you be able to take that on notice and give the Committee an update on that?

Ms Pegrum—Absolutely.

Answer:

The current lease—Block 16 Section 21, Yarralumla—is on National Land managed by the Department of Finance and Administration (DOFA). The lease purpose is *Community Protection Facility*. Relocation or upgrade of the water police headquarters will be a decision for AFP. Any change to the lease purpose clause, including variations to lease conditions or betterment charges, would be a matter for DOFA to consider in consultation with NCA, and would be subject to the Commonwealth of Australia, City Leases Ordinance 1936, as applied by the National Land Ordinance 1989.

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2007

Transport and Regional Services

NCA staff met with AFP water police on 2 March 2007 to discuss the current status of the AFP's lease at Yarralumla; and future intentions of AFP for this site or elsewhere, in relation to:

1. advice by AFP in their submission on DA 61 West Basin, that they would consider relocating: 'The AFP supports DA61—West Basin ... providing one of the few possible homes for the AFP's water police' (DA 61 submission no. 59); and
2. consideration of the current site in the forthcoming Yarralumla Bay Recreation Hub master plan.

The AFP advised it is not wedded to its current site at Yarralumla and the lease operates on a short-term renewable arrangement. However, the opportunities to upgrade/relocate have not been seriously examined at this stage.

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2007

Transport and Regional Services

Question: NCA 05

Division/Agency: National Capital Authority

Topic: Lake Burley Griffin Rowing Course Upgrade

Hansard Page: 75 (22/05/07)

Senator Lundy asked:

Senator LUNDY—Yes. I will come to that one. What about the feasibility study on the rowing course?

Ms Pegrum—That has been completed and went to the authority—

Mr Smith—The first stage of that work has been completed and was considered by the Authority in March this year.

Senator LUNDY—What was the outcome?

Ms Pegrum—We would be happy to provide the feasibility study to you. It has basically shown that there is the potential. I think there were two options identified, but they do have fairly significant effects on some land and potentially involve lake dredging. The intention is to provide that now to the Australian Institute of Sport and say to them, ‘Here’s a possibility, but clearly there’s no funding available for it.’ I believe the funding was in the order of—

Mr Smith—It was in the order of about \$30 million. There were two options, the bulk of that being the result of the extensive lake dredging that was required to get the required water depths.

Senator LUNDY—The feasibility study has been completed, and you mentioned it was stage 1. Is there a stage 2 plan? Why is that just called stage 1?

Mr Smith—That is because our intention is then to bring on other stakeholders to see if the project will be further developed.

Ms Pegrum—Really, we did not select a preferred option for the two potential courses. Stage 2 would be, if the AIS believes that there is potential in this, to sit down and look at which of those options is the best way forward and then see what other stakeholders need to be involved.

Senator LUNDY—You say there were two options. Did the NCA Board support one or the other of those options?

Ms Pegrum—No.

Senator LUNDY—Was that expected or was it expected that the NCA Board would support one of them to progress it to the next stage?

Ms Pegrum—No, it was not. It was really to indicate that either of these options is available, subject to further study, but at this stage we should involve more of the stakeholders that would be critical to the project. That is where we are at the moment. I would be happy to provide the report.

Answer:

A copy of the Feasibility Study Report is **attached**.

[NCA 05 attachment – not included. Available from the committee secretariat on request.]

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2007

Transport and Regional Services

Question: NCA 06

Division/Agency: National Capital Authority

Topic: Albert Hall Precinct Tree Assessment

Hansard Page: 80 (22/5/07)

Senator Lundy asked:

Mr Rohl—The trees to the north in the amendment were identified, and there was an assessment undertaken in terms of their value, whether they be low, moderate or high value. That is clearly articulated in the Amendment and, where they are considered of high value, from memory, the Amendment ensures that they are managed and protected accordingly.

Senator LUNDY—Have you got a picture that shows which trees are high, medium and low?

Mr Rohl—Yes; in the Draft Amendment that was released for public comment, that was actually incorporated into the Amendment.

Senator LUNDY—How many trees were going to be preserved as a result of that assessment?

Mr Rohl—I could not answer that question.

Ms Pegrum—We would have to take it on notice.

Senator LUNDY—Okay, if you can.

Answer:

Attached is the tree assessment report which has been used to inform which trees are to be preserved in the DA 53 precinct. Precise numbers of trees to be preserved are unavailable, as trees are identified as ‘groups’.

The report includes a plan of the precinct showing groups of trees and their significance rating. The report makes a number of recommendations which have been followed in the drafting of DA 53, including that:

Groups of High Significance trees within the precinct should be retained and protected in future redevelopment of the precinct.

Low and Moderate Significance trees in the north of the precinct (Groups E, F & G), including the pine plantation and Flynn Drive loop road plantings, are in poor condition and should be considered for removal, with regard to future alterations to the Commonwealth Avenue/King Edward Terrace intersection and potential future development within the precinct.

[NCA 06 attachments A and B – not included. Available from the committee secretariat on request.]

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2007

Transport and Regional Services

Question: NCA 07

Division/Agency: National Capital Authority

Topic: Royal Canberra Golf Club—Water Abstraction from Lake Burley Griffin

Hansard Page: 85 (22/5/07)

Senator Lundy asked:

Senator LUNDY—I would not expect so. In fact, could you table all correspondence in relation to this matter so it is on the public record?

Ms Pegrum—We will certainly try to. That correspondence, going back over the years, is quite significant, so it may take a little time.

Senator LUNDY—It will make fascinating reading. Could you take that request on notice?

Answer:

Correspondence is **attached**.

[NCA 07 attachment – not included. Available from the committee secretariat on request.]