

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates November 2013

Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 171

Program: 1.1: National Capital Functions

Division/Agency: (NCA) National Capital Authority

Topic: National Capital Open Space System Review

Proof Hansard Page/s: 88-89 (18/11/2013)

Senator Lundy asked:

Senator LUNDY: Thank you very much. I understand that an expert reference panel has been established to guide the final stages of the National Capital Open Space System review. Could you update me briefly on where that review is? I am probably back to Mr Smith now.

Mr Smith: The National Capital Open Space System review has been going on for about two years now. As part of that process we formed an expert reference group. That group has concluded its work. A draft report has been prepared, and it is currently at a stage where it has gone back to the reference group to confirm that its findings are consistent with their deliberations. We have probably had about 50 per cent of the group respond back on the report. So that is its current status. We have also issued a draft report to a number of agencies in the ACT government just to get some feedback.

Senator LUNDY: Would you be able to provide the draft report to the committee?

Mr Smith: We could make that available to the committee, yes.

Answer:

Please find attached National Capital Open Space System Report.

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Infrastructure and Regional Development

Question no.: 172

Program: 1:2 National Capital Estate

Division/Agency: (NCA) National Capital Authority

Topic: Parking

Proof Hansard Page/s: Written

Senator Lundy asked:

1. What are the sites in Barton, the Parliamentary Zone and Russell that have been identified as suitable for multi-storey car parks?
2. Is there any information on when these developments might be expected to be necessary?
3. If so, is there an anticipated timeline for the development of privately owned, multi-storey pay parking in the area?
4. Would the scale and location of multi storey parking sites be constrained by the Parliament House Vista Heritage Management Plan?
5. What are the factors guiding the balance between levels of short and long stay paid parking in the area?
6. Can you anticipate circumstances in which these levels might need to be altered?
7. Other than bringing parking costs in the parliamentary triangle in line with paid parking in surrounding areas, were any longer term plans for limiting traffic and parking congestion considered in the course of the NCA's research into the introduction of paid parking?
8. We notice that in your submission you indicate a number of directions for consideration in improving amenity and services in the area – in the normal course of your operations, have you been progressing these?

Answer:

1. The planning framework allows for multistorey car parks on Block 5 Section 1, Block 14 Section 22 and Section 9 in Barton, Block 1 Section 37 and Part Block 1 Section 35 Parkes (Parliamentary Zone). There is provision in the National Capital Plan for parking structures to form part of development on Constitution Avenue.
2. The National Capital Authority's (NCA) planning framework requires provision of additional car parking to occur in parallel with development in Barton and Parkes.
3. Block 14 Section 22 and Section 9 in Barton are owned by private investors. The lease conditions for these sites require construction of multistorey car parks. In October 2013, the NCA approved the construction of structured car park, hotel and minor retail development at Block 14, Section 22, Barton - 21 National Circuit. Construction is the responsibility of the applicant but is expected to occur in 2014. Preliminary discussions concerning development on Section 9 Barton are underway.
4. Yes.
5. The balance of long and short stay parking is set by assessments of building occupancy demand and consultation with National Institutions. Between 15 May 2013 and 26 June 2013, the NCA invited public comment on the allocation of car parks for long stay and short stay. The NCA is continuing to consult with National Institutions to determine the optimal mix of short stay and long stay spaces and ACT Government Directorates to manage encroachment within the overall pay parking arrangements.
6. The NCA has commissioned audits to continue to monitor parking, public transport and pedestrian and cycling usage in the area. Changes in visitor patterns may result in minor adjustments in the balance of short and long stay spaces.

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7. In 2012, the NCA commenced a National Land movement network review to better achieve the vision of the Parliamentary Zone being a 'place of the people' giving preference to pedestrians and cyclists and prioritising visitor parking. During 2013-14 the NCA is continuing a study into accessibility of the area.
8. Since June 2013, the NCA has:
 - Written to all existing commercial concession holders on National Land requesting their consideration of whether there are viable opportunities to increase the range of services they offer.
 - Met with Institutions and Departments to assist where possible them provide additional amenity to their patrons and/or employees and/or explore expanding cycling infrastructure for increased use.