

6 Crowe Place
FARRER ACT 2607

SUBMISSION³⁶.....

Mr Quinton Clements
Inquiry Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital
and External Territories
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600



Dear Mr Clements

Inquiry into the Role of the National Capital Authority

This submission is to outline a concern about planning in the ACT, where the National Capital Authority is involved. My misfortune is to be the neighbour of what was a Commonwealth property but now appears to be a property only occupied by the Commonwealth.

I am an ACT resident who is a shareholder in Belconnen Exchange Centre, a company formed to purchase and operate the Belconnen Churches Centre, Block 1 Section 50 Belconnen.

The Commonwealth Department of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) is the occupier of the property adjoining ours. The DIMIA site is currently being developed without any apparent need to satisfy planning principles or requirements established by ACT Planning and Land Management.

As a neighbour we have not been consulted about any proposed activity and have been unable to obtain details of what has been approved by the NCA. While I appreciate the need for the NCA to have a role in planning the National Capital, I expect it to work with the local government planning functions on matters that relate to development activities within town centres. One of the reasons for the process adopted by most local governments is to ensure that the community is alerted to proposed changes and has an opportunity to object.

The current DIMIA development has involved the demolition of walkways linking buildings within the town centre and established as part of the original design of the precinct. The NCA has been unwilling to provide any justification for a change in the design of city features that one would expect would be outside its area of responsibility.

I hope that your Inquiry will provide an outcome involving clarification of the role of the NCA and bring an end to the current bullying approach adopted to property and business owners who are neighbours of Commonwealth occupied land.

Yours sincerely

Doug Barton
23 June 2003