

Joint Standing Committee on the
National Capital and External Territories

Submission No: 7

Date Received: 1/4/08

Secretary:
The Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: current inquiry into the role of the National Capital Authority.

Term of reference No.1

The best way to avoid the duplication of planning functions is for the NCA and the ACT Government to be responsible, as far as possible, for different areas. The NCA currently has responsibility for a substantial area of inner Canberra and with that, responsibility for a range of functions which no federal body need be involved in. It is, for example, responsible for land at Yarramundi Reach and, consequently, for the public toilets at Yarramundi Reach and on the southern side of Glenloch Interchange. This is ridiculous.

The only areas for which the NCA should be responsible are those with a definite federal role viz the Parliament House, the Parliamentary Triangle narrowly defined (the area between the lake, Commonwealth and King's Avenues but excluding those two roads which are arterial roads with which the NCA should have no involvement), the Governor General's residence, the Lodge and the land in the immediate vicinity of the War Memorial, the National Museum, the Botanic Gardens, Duntroon and ADFA. It should have no involvement with areas like Uriarra and Pierce's Creek settlements or any arterial roads.

Terms of reference Nos. 2, 3 and 4

The NCA needs to be pulled into line. The performance of the organisation, as it impinges on the public, has been arrogant in the extreme. It has no evident regard for the wishes of the Canberra community. A very good illustration of this is in relation to its section 53 proposal. It is very obvious to anyone who reads the letters to the editor column in the Canberra Times that public sentiment is strongly against this proposal. There was a public meeting where the tone was very much against the proposal and a petition with over 3,000 signatures was prepared on the matter. Total impact on the plans of the NCA – nil.

While this is partly a matter of the personnel at the NCA, it also underlines my earlier point that the only way to deal with the NCA is to limit its role as far as possible so that it cannot cause too much trouble.

Term of reference No.5

Consistent with the above, the NCA should have no role in these matters.

Yours sincerely



Stan Marks

