

Joint Standing Committee on the
National Capital and External Territories

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Secretary:



8 April 2008

Association of Consulting Architects

Australia

Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital
& External Territories
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Dear Sir / Madam

The Association of Consulting Architects – Australia (ACAA) is the employer grouping of Australian Architectural companies employing over 12,000 professional Architects, Urban Designers, Landscape Architects and allied disciplines in the built environment.

We write in relation to the enquiry into the National Capital Authority (NCA) and therefore its future.

The enquiry is welcomed and the ACAA looks forward to contributing and assisting the Commonwealth understand its role in relation to the National Capital. We recommend that it include a review and analysis of the budget cuts to the NCA operations.

The ACAA supports a strong NCA for its ongoing benefits to the Commonwealth including:

- The Griffin Legacy for the National Capital must be maintained through strategic planning for the whole of ACT. This is the key reason for maintaining and adequately funding the NCA.
- During the last decade the Commonwealth has lost most of its skills in Urban Infrastructure and Urban Design. The NCA is perhaps the last Commonwealth body that exercises and promotes quality of urban design through its key role in the ACT. This expertise may be extended as a design resource for Commonwealth agencies.

The ACAA recommends the appointment of a Commonwealth Government Architect, preferably within the offices of Prime Minister and Cabinet – whose Secretary, Terry Moran, has detailed experience of the Government Architect in Victoria. The Government Architect, amongst other duties would:

- Provide the NCA with clear direction and advice in its role for the ACT;
- Develop and coordinate the role of the NCA providing skills and support as an arm of the Commonwealth.

We look forward to contributing to your deliberations on the future of the NCA.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Robert Peck'.

Robert Peck AM
National President