



## The Hon Catherine King MP

Minister for Regional Services, Local Communities and Territories  
Minister for Road Safety

750-1197

Reference: C13/250

6 JUN 2013

The Hon John Murphy MP  
Standing Committee on Petitions  
PO Box 6021  
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Chair

Thank you for your letter of 11 February 2013 to the Hon Simon Crean MP concerning a petition about the ongoing lack of parking and public transport in the Parliamentary Zone. I apologise for the delay in responding.

As you would be aware, as part of the 2013-14 Budget, the Australian Government announced the introduction of pay parking on National Land, including the Parliamentary Zone, from 1 July 2014 as part of a broader policy for parking management on National Land.

The National Capital Authority is currently undertaking consultation with the public to seek views on the mix of long and short stay parking available on National Land as well as comments on the amenities and services available in these areas. Consultation for both these issues closes on the 26 June 2013 and further information can be found at <http://www.nationalcapital.gov.au/haveyoursay/index.php>.

In relation to the petitioners' concerns regarding the impact of the closure of the Patrick White Lawns car park on parking availability in the Parliamentary Zone, the area is not a formally designated car park. The Patrick White Lawns commemorate the 1973 Australian of the Year and first Australian to win the Nobel Prize for Literature and sit within the Parliament House Vista - a place included on the Commonwealth Heritage List. The Patrick White Lawns were only made available for short-term, temporary use as a car park several years ago.

The restoration of the Patrick White Lawns was identified as a high priority in the Parliament House Vista Heritage Management Plan (available from [www.natcap.gov.au](http://www.natcap.gov.au)). Restoration is completed and the area has been returned to use for public recreation.

Thank you for raising this matter.

Yours sincerely

CATHERINE KING