

DEPARTMENT OF THE SENATE
PAPER No. 5144
DATE
PRESENTED
27 FEB 1992
Murray Evans

Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

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on the Australian Capital Territory
proposing that the name
of the committee be changed

February 1992

Australian Government Publishing Service
Canberra



PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

**A SPECIAL REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
PROPOSING THAT THE NAME OF THE
COMMITTEE BE CHANGED**

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**MEMBERSHIP OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

Chairman	Mr John Langmore, MP
Deputy Chairman	Senator Margaret Reid
Members	Senator Terry Aulich * Senator Robert Bell Senator Warwick Parer * Senator Karin Sowada Senator Sue West Mr Paul Elliott, MP Mr Robert Halverson, OBE, MP Hon. Gordon Scholes, MP Mr John Sharp, MP
Secretary to the Committee	Mr Grant Harrison
Administrative Officer	Mrs Marlene Lyons

* Senator Robert Bell was replaced by Senator Karin Sowada on 10 October 1991.

A REPORT PROPOSING THAT THE NAME OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BE CHANGED

On behalf of the Joint Committee on the Australian Capital Territory, I present a special report to the Parliament proposing that the name of the Committee be changed from Joint Committee on the Australian Capital Territory, to Joint Committee on the National Capital.

The proposal has arisen out of the Committee's desire to emphasise the significant change in the focus of the Committee's activities that has occurred since the introduction of self-government in the ACT, and to more accurately reflect the Committee's new responsibilities.

The Joint Committee on the Australian Capital Territory was first established in November 1956. Until the ACT became self-governing, the Committee was primarily concerned with matters relating to the detailed planning and development of the Territory. Much of its work involved the examination of proposals to vary the plan of the road layout of Canberra.

The Committee's responsibility now, after the introduction of self-government in the Territory, is not to examine road variations, or other municipal matters, but to focus on issues relating to the national significance of Canberra. Matters of particular local or Territory-wide significance are now considered, as they should be, by the Territory Government, not by a Committee of the Commonwealth Parliament.

Most of the Committee's work in the current Parliament has reflected its interest in Canberra as the National Capital:

- . the Committee has conducted two inquiries into the development of the National Capital Plan (the object of which is to ensure that Canberra and the Territory are planned and developed in accordance with their national significance);
- . the Committee has examined aspects of Canberra's national and arterial road systems in assessing the transport options, prepared by the National Capital Planning Authority, for the new town of Gungahlin; and most recently,
- . the Committee has reviewed the first proposed amendment to the National Capital Plan.

In addition, the Committee will soon be launching an inquiry into environmental management policies and practices in those areas of open space in the Territory which are of national significance.

Through its work in this Parliament, the Committee has established itself as the parliamentary guardian of those aspects of Canberra which contribute to its character as the National Capital. This responsibility is embodied in the Committee's resolution of appointment, which (in part) charges the Committee with the task of inquiring into and reporting on the National Capital Plan and any amendments to the Plan.

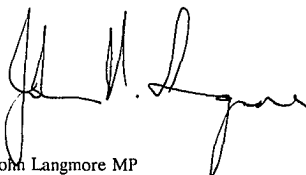
Although many of the individuals and organisations with whom the Committee deals frequently are aware of the Committee's new focus, it has become evident that some people are either unaware that a change has occurred, or are now uncertain about the Committee's role.

A change of name, from Joint Committee on the Australian Capital Territory to Joint Committee on the National Capital, would help overcome this uncertainty. In particular, it would:

- (i) emphasise the fact that there has been a change in the Committee's focus, and
- (ii) indicate more clearly the Committee's new responsibilities.

Recommendation

To formalise the change of name, the Committee recommends that the Government move a motion, in either the Senate or the House, proposing that the Committee be known as the Joint Committee on the National Capital. As well as proposing the name change, the motion should provide for the current membership of the Committee to be continued, and for the new Committee to continue the work of the Joint Committee on the Australian Capital Territory. A draft notice of motion specifying these matters is attached to this report.



John Langmore MP
Chairman

18 December 1991

DRAFT MOTION FORMALISING THE COMMITTEE'S NAME CHANGE

The Manager of Government Business in the Senate or the Leader of the House to move that:

- (1) The Joint Committee on the Australian Capital Territory henceforth be known as the Joint Committee on the National Capital,
- (2) References to the Joint Committee on the Australian Capital Territory in resolutions of either the Senate or the House of this session, be read as references to the Joint Committee on the National Capital, and
- (3) Nominations notified to either the President or the Speaker of Senators or Members to be members of the Joint Committee on the Australian Capital Territory, be *nominations of Senators or Members to the Joint Committee on the National Capital*; and
- (4) A message be sent to the House (or the Senate) acquainting it of this resolution and requesting that it concur and take action accordingly.