



MEDIA RELEASE

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National Capital Authority Approves the Raising of London Circuit

The National Capital Authority (NCA) has approved packages of work proposed by the ACT Government to facilitate the development of several city blocks and provide a path of travel for a future light rail system.

After an extensive public consultation period, the NCA has approved the raising of London Circuit and traffic signalisation at the intersection of Parkes Way and Corranderrk Street.

The approval does not include design work or construction proposals commissioned for Light Rail Stage 2A (to Commonwealth Park) and Stage 2B (to Woden). This was not presented to the NCA and is not part of the consultation process. The plan to undertake the extension of light rail will need to have a separate Works Approval application.

Chief Executive, Sally Barnes, said “There was significant public interest in the proposal to raise London Circuit as a first step towards a future light rail project and the changes the proposal will bring to traffic conditions in central Canberra. The NCA recognised the need for the public to have their say, and that is why we extended the standard consultation process of 15 business days to 40 business days. With 126 public submissions, the community displayed its commitment to the consultation process.”

The Consultation Report released today outlines the NCA’s review of the key issues raised by members of the community as they relate to the separation of the raising of London Circuit from Light Rail Stage 2, the need for the removal of the cloverleaves, the landscape and the public realm, construction traffic and disruption, changes to traffic post-construction and, finally, pedestrian, cyclist and road vehicle safety. The NCA considered all issues raised and concluded the proposal is not inconsistent with the National Capital Plan.

The NCA is satisfied that the project will maintain the geometry of the Griffins’ plan for Canberra and proposes high quality landscape and public realm outcomes that will not have a major impact on the vista or approach to the Australian Parliament House.

Ms. Barnes added, however, “It is important to note the NCA’s role was to carefully consider the works approval applications in the context of the requirements of the National Capital Plan (the Plan). Since 2006 the Plan, approved by both the Australian Parliament and the ACT Government, has included mechanisms that enable the establishment of a four- way intersection at London Circuit and alter the current cloverleaf arrangements to support initiatives to renew the City Centre and bring future residential and mixed use activity closer to Lake Burley Griffin.

Many people raised concerns about the ACT Government's decision about the purpose of the current proposal, the mode of transport selected for Canberra, project management and total cost, all of which are beyond the NCA's legislative reach and planning considerations. These issues fall under the purview of the ACT Government."

The NCA's approval will allow the ACT Government to raise London Circuit as a stand-alone initiative for the City Centre, noting it is critical to support future transport initiatives including the establishment of a mechanism to lift light rail carriages onto Commonwealth Avenue.

Ms. Barnes further stated, "The NCA will require future developments, after the cloverleaves are removed, to be of the highest quality and design. The premium public realm and landscape features approved for the new intersection, for instance, will need to be carried over along Commonwealth Avenue and all the way through to Light Rail Stage 2A.

To access the full Consultation Report, including the public submissions, please visit the NCA website at nca.gov.au.

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