Operating Policies and Procedures No. 16—Protests and other assemblies in the Parliamentary precincts

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Part 1—Introduction

This paper sets out the Presiding Officers' guidelines for the conduct of protests and other public assemblies in the Parliamentary precincts (the **precincts**), and private activities outside Parliament House but within the precincts. It also provides information about other authorities with a role in relation to such activities immediately outside the Parliamentary precincts.

Part 2—The Parliamentary precincts

- 2 Pursuant to subsection 6(1) of the *Parliamentary Precincts Act 1988,* the precincts are under the joint control and management of the Presiding Officers of the Parliament—the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- The extent of the precincts is shown on the map at **Attachment A**.
- 4 The Presiding Officers have the discretion to approve or not approve the conduct of protests, assemblies, and private activities within the precincts.
- Inquiries in relation to the conduct of such activities within the precincts should be directed to Australian Federal Police Uniform Protection on (02) 6277 6126 or the Parliament House Security Operations Room (PSOR) on (02) 6277 5999.
- The use of parts of Parliament House and the precincts, in particular the Forecourt, are dealt with in the *Policy and Procedures Manual for use of Parliamentary Facilities* (extract at **Attachment C**). Filming in the precincts is dealt with in the *Presiding Officers' Guidelines for Filming and Photography in Parliament House* (extract at **Attachment D**).

Part 3—Other authorities involved

National Capital Authority

- 7 Under the Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988, the National Capital Authority (**NCA**) is responsible for the management of land in and adjacent to the area of Federation Mall but outside the precincts.
- Inquiries in relation to activities planned to be held outside of the precincts should be directed to the NCA Events Officer on (02) 6271 2888 or email the NCA on events@natcap.gov.au.

Australian Federal Police (AFP)

Anyone planning a protest or assembly in the immediate vicinity of the precincts should contact Australian Federal Police - Protection Intelligence, on (02) 6131 6310. If the protest or assembly is within the precincts, the Australian Federal Police - Uniform Protection (**AFP-UP**) at Parliament House can be contacted on (02) 6277 6126.

Part 4—The Presiding Officers' Guidelines

Use of the precincts

- Subject to any specific exercise of the Presiding Officers' discretion under paragraph 4 above, an assembly or other activity is permitted outside the security boundaries of Parliament House but within the precincts, between sunrise and sunset, unless:
 - (a) it is inconsistent with the dignity of Parliament House;

- (b) it is a threat to the security of Parliament House or its occupants or visitors, to public safety or to occupational health and safety in the precincts, or to property within the precincts; or
- (c) it impedes the business of Parliament House's occupants or visitors.
- An assembly or other activity intended to draw attention to a grievance or other matter of interest, whether personal, political or otherwise (a **protest**), is permitted only in the Authorised Assembly Area shown on the map at **Attachment B**.
- 12 The Presiding Officers may:
 - (a) approve an assembly or other activity within the precincts even if it is or may be covered by paragraph 10(a), 10(b) or 10(c) above; or
 - (b) approve a protest taking place outside the Authorised Assembly Area mentioned in paragraph 11 above.

Breaches and exemptions

- Any breaches of these guidelines may be the subject of action by the Australian Federal Police.
- 14 The Presiding Officers may approve exemptions from any provisions of these guidelines for events they consider to be of Parliamentary or national significance, or in other exceptional circumstances.
- 15 The Presiding Officers may delegate their power to approve exemptions from any or all of the provisions of these guidelines to:
- (a) the head of a Parliamentary Service Department;
 - (b) an SES employee in the Parliamentary Service; or
 - (c) the Parliament House Protective Security Controller.
- An exemption approved by a delegate is taken to have been approved by the Presiding Officers.

Freedom of access to be maintained

17 Participants in assemblies or other activities within or adjacent to the precincts must arrive and depart in an orderly manner without obstructing traffic or otherwise preventing access to the precincts or to Parliament House.

Structures

18 Except with the approval of the Presiding Officers and the NCA, structures must not be erected or placed within the precincts. Structures on Federation Mall also require works approval from the NCA¹.

¹ Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988, section 12

Use of vehicles in the precincts

- 19 Except with the approval of the Presiding Officers:
 - (a) vehicles must not be used within the precincts as part of a protest; and
 - (b) parking is not permitted on nature strips, the grassed area between the east and west lanes of Federation Mall or on ceremonial spaces within the precincts; and
 - (c) all vehicles brought into the precincts are subject to ACT parking and traffic management laws in force in the precincts.

Camping

Camping is not permitted within the precincts. The NCA does not permit camping on Federation Mall or adjacent areas.

Lighting of fires

21 Except with the approval of the Presiding Officers, the lighting, maintenance or carriage of fires within the precincts is prohibited.²

Affixing of signs or banners outside Parliament House

- 22 Except with the approval of the Presiding Officers, signs or banners (including flags) must not be erected, attached or otherwise fixed to any built or natural object, including land, within the precincts. The NCA does not permit signs or banners to be erected, attached or otherwise fixed to any built or natural object, including land, on Federation Mall or adjacent areas.
- Hand-held signs and banners (including flags) may be used in the Authorised Assembly Area. Except with the approval of the Presiding Officers, signs or banners (except an official Australian flag³) must not be displayed in other areas of the precincts outside Parliament House.

 2 Smoking of cigarettes and similar products in the precincts is covered by the Presiding Officers' policy on smoking in the precincts.

³ **Official Australian flag** means the Australian National Flag, the Australian Aboriginal Flag, the Torres Strait Islander Flag and any other flag identified in, or proclaimed under the *Flags Act 1953*.

Wilful marking of surfaces

The wilful marking of surfaces, including land, in the precincts is prohibited. Anyone responsible for marking surfaces in this way may be required to make good the areas marked.

Preparation or sale of food, beverages and other items

25 Except with the approval of the Presiding Officers, food, beverages or other items must not be prepared or sold in areas of the precincts outside Parliament House.

Consumption of alcohol

Participants in protests within the precincts must not consume alcohol during the event.

Sound amplification and access to power

- 27 Subject to paragraph 28 below, sound amplification may be used within the Authorised Assembly Area, but the sound amplification must be directed away from Parliament House while in use.
- The use of amplification equipment is not permitted during ceremonial occasions, or at any other time or in any part of the precincts if that use might disrupt the business of the Parliament.
- If the use of sound amplification is permitted, access to power for that purpose will be made available from within the Authorised Assembly Area. Access can be arranged through AFP-UP on the day of the event by contacting (02) 6277 6126.
- Noise levels, whether inside or adjacent to the precincts must not be offensive or harmful or unreasonably interfere with the activities of other people.

Observance of lawful directions

Participants in assemblies and other activities in the precincts must observe any lawful direction given by Australian Federal Police or members of the Parliamentary Security Service. Failure to observe a lawful direction may result in arrest.

Access to secure areas

Nothing in these guidelines entitles any person to access parts of the precincts that are within the Parliament House security boundary.

Part 5—Approval of guidelines

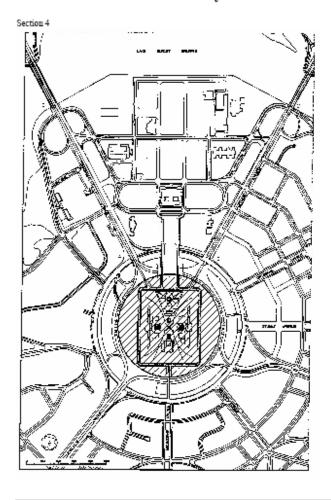
- These guidelines were substantively approved by the Presiding Officers on 8 August 2007.
- The contact details within these guidelines were updated by the Security Management Board on 15 October 2010.

Alan Thompson Secretary Chair, Security Management Board

Attachment A-Parliamentary Precincts

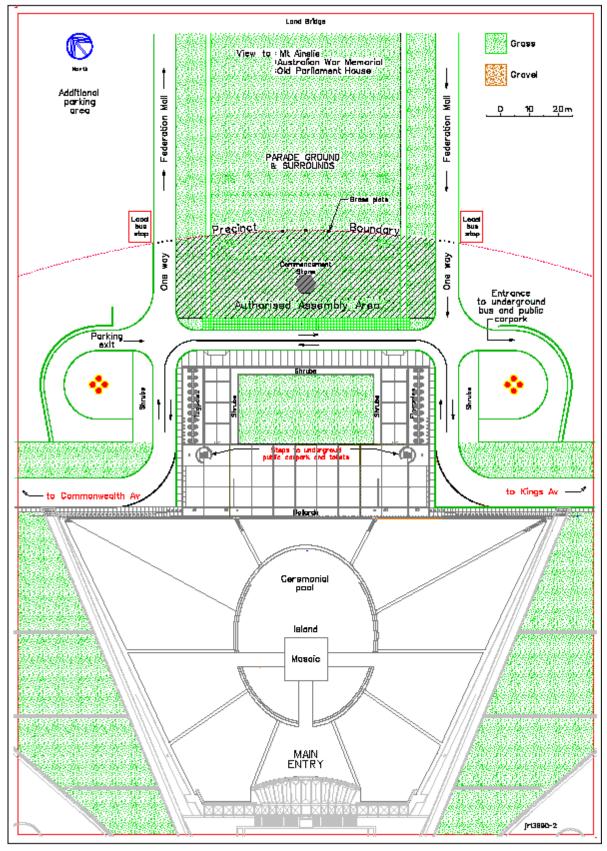
Schedule 1 Parliamentary Precincts

Schedule 1—Parliamentary Precincts



6 Parliamentary Precincts Act 1988

Attachment B-Authorised Assembly Area



Attachment C—Extract from Policy and Procedures Manual for use of Parliamentary Facilities (April 2001)

Forecourt: Apart from its function as public approach and access, use of the Forecourt is restricted to appropriate ceremonial events including events of a parliamentary nature, State occasions, events of major national significance and ceremonial arrivals for visiting Heads of Government.

Forecourt Restrictions: The Forecourt may not be used for events by external organisations or by individuals. The Forecourt mosaic is a nationally significant work of art. Although it was designed such that it can be walked on and inspected by the visitor to appreciate its design and message, restrictions to access include:

- no ceremonies or events are permitted on the mosaic;
- no vehicles of any description are permitted to drive over the mosaic under any circumstances; and
- no gatherings, such as military formations, are permitted on the mosaic.

Attachment D—Filming in the Parliamentary precincts

Extract from Presiding Officers' Guidelines for Filming and Photography in Parliament House (October 2005)

2. Filming for private purposes

(a) Visitors to the building are welcome to film in public areas provided the film is for private purposes and is not to be published. No filming is permitted of security arrangements. No filming is permitted in the Chambers during proceedings.

3. Filming intended for broadcasting or publication

Press Gallery members

Public areas of the building

- (a) Filming is permitted in public areas (except in the vicinity of the chamber galleries and within security screening areas). This guideline is intended to facilitate the work of members of the Press Gallery covering public events in the public areas of the building. It is expected that every effort will be made by members of the Press Gallery to protect the privacy of individuals and not to compromise security of the building.
- (b) No use should be made of the Mosaic Pavement on the Forecourt of Parliament House which is not related to the recognition and appreciation of it as a work of art. Technical equipment should not be allowed to be set up upon the pavement.

Private areas of the building

(c) Filming is permitted in television studios, in private rooms with the explicit permission of the occupants and in rooms/areas in which press conferences are permitted, including courtyards. Apart from these circumstances, all filming in private areas of the building requires permission.

Photographers and filmmakers who are not members of the Press Gallery

(d) Photographers and filmmakers, who are not members of the Press Gallery, wishing to use public or private areas of Parliament House may do so only with the explicit authority of the Presiding Officers. They should apply in the first instance to the Visitor Services office of the Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS). The guidelines at Appendix 1 cover filming by non-Press Gallery members in both private and public areas of the building.