
The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

Report of the inquiry into the provision of amenity within the Parliamentary Triangle

Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories

June 2013
Canberra

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Foreword

The provision of amenity in the Parliamentary Triangle is a matter the Committee has had cause to consider in the past in the context of proposals to introduce pay parking on National Land. It is within this context that the Committee finds itself considering the question of amenity once again.

The Committee is also conscious that the budget decision to introduce pay parking on National Land affects the entire Central National Area, not just the Parliamentary Triangle, and so the Committee has chosen to interpret its terms of reference more broadly, taking in the entire area affected by the budget decision.

The Central National Area contains the Parliament, a number of government departments and a range of significant national institutions, divided amongst four precincts: the Parliamentary Triangle (Parkes), Barton, Russell and Acton. It contains an aggregate of some 20 000 employees and receives numerous visitors. Despite this, it is, in comparison to other major employment centres in Canberra, distinctly lacking in shops and other services.

In the past, this lack of amenity has certainly been a justification for free parking in the Central National Area. With the decision to implement pay parking from July 2014, the Committee believes that the Commonwealth cannot ignore the need for these services, especially considering the large number of people who work in these precincts. Car travel to and from the Central National Area is regarded as essential because of its isolation, lack of services, and the slowness and lack of flexibility of public transport. Reducing reliance on cars necessitates improving amenity.

The Committee has recommended the development of a strategy for the provision of amenity within the Central National Area, including the Parliamentary Zone. This will incorporate the provision of retail services, parking, access to public transport, childcare services, the development of timelines and the allocation of responsibilities for the provision of these services. It also requests that the Government provide funds for the development of the strategy in the 2014–15

budget. The Committee has also recommended that the NCA regularly report to the Committee on the development of amenities; and that a 'park and ride' facility be developed to improve access by public transport.

I would like to thank all those who have contributed to the inquiry and report. Despite the limited time available for the inquiry, the Committee has received a range of useful evidence from a representative group of interested parties and has had the time to give this evidence due consideration. I thank my Committee colleagues for their ongoing and constructive input into the work of the Committee; and the secretariat for their seemingly tireless support of the Committee's work.

Senator Louise Pratt
Chair



Membership of the Committee

Chair Senator Louise Pratt

Deputy Chair Mr Luke Simpkins MP

Members	The Hon Dick Adams MP	Senator Judith Adams (until 4/4/12)
	Ms Gai Brodtmann MP	Senator Trish Crossin
	Ms Anna Burke MP (until 9/10/12)	Senator Gary Humphries
	The Hon Simon Crean (from 22/4/13)	Senator Stephen Parry
	Mrs Natasha Griggs MP (from 20/8/12)	
	Dr Andrew Leigh MP (until 22/4/13)	
	The Hon Bruce Scott MP (from 9/10/12)	
	Mr Patrick Secker MP (until 20/8/12)	
	Hon Peter Slipper MP (until 24/11/11)	

Committee Secretariat

Secretary Mr Peter Banson

Inquiry Secretary Dr Bill Pender



Terms of reference

The Committee to inquire into and report on the provision of amenity within the Parliamentary Triangle, with particular reference to:

- a. Describing the changing nature of the working environment in the Parliamentary Triangle;
- b. The adequacy of the retail services available in this precinct against the benchmark of like employment precincts located in the Capital; and
- c. Should these services be considered inadequate, recommend steps that would ameliorate that inadequacy.



List of abbreviations

ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ADF	Australian Defence Force
APS	Australian Public Service
ASIO	Australian Security Intelligence Organisation
CPSU	Community and Public Sector Union
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DPS	Department of Parliamentary Services
FBT	Fringe Benefits Tax
IGC	Intergovernmental Committee on parking
JSCNCET	Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories
NCA	National Capital Authority
NGA	National Gallery of Australia



List of recommendations

1 The provision of amenity within the Parliamentary Triangle

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government direct the National Capital Authority to develop a strategy for the provision of amenity within the Central National Area, including the Parliamentary Zone, and provide funds for the development of the strategy in the 2014–15 budget, incorporating:

- Provision of retail services
- Provision of parking
- Provision of access by public transport
- Provision of childcare
- Timelines for development
- Development responsibilities

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that the National Capital Authority provide a twice yearly report on development of amenities to the Committee as part of its regular biannual briefings.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that the National Capital Authority negotiate with the Government of the Australian Capital Territory upon the development of a ‘park and ride’ facility on a suitable site in order to improve access by public transport to the Parliamentary Zone, and making permanent the Centennial Year shuttle bus.

