



**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE
NATIONAL CAPITAL AND EXTERNAL TERRITORIES**

Accountability Hearing with the National Capital Authority

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 16 June 2009

Chair: Senator Kate Lundy

National Capital Authority to front the NCET Committee

12.40pm to 2.00pm, Wednesday, 17 June 2009

Federal Parliament's National Capital Committee will scrutinise the National Capital Authority (NCA) at a public hearing on Wednesday, 17 June 2009 from 12.40pm to 2.00pm in Committee Room 1R2, Parliament House, Canberra.

In July 2008 the committee released its report entitled, *The Way Forward – Inquiry into the role of the National Capital Authority*. As part of that report, the committee made a series of recommendations which sought to enhance the governance and accountability of the National Capital Authority.

In particular, recommendation 3 proposed that representatives of the NCA appear regularly at public hearings before the committee to account for its performance. This is the first public hearing arising from that recommendation.

Chair of the committee, Senator Kate Lundy welcomed the hearing as a means of raising the level of transparency and accountability applying to the NCA. The NCA secures the Commonwealth's ongoing interest in the planning and development of Canberra and the Territory by administering the National Capital Plan (NCP).

The NCP's key objective is to ensure that Canberra and the Territory are planned and developed in accordance with their national significance. Senator Lundy said that it was essential that the NCA was held to account for its performance against this objective.

Senator Lundy said that too often in the past the NCA had not adequately communicated its planning intentions which had resulted in confusion and uncertainty within the Canberra community. The committee will scrutinise the NCA about the effectiveness of its consultation procedures. The committee will also scrutinise the NCA about its performance in managing national land and assets, and promoting Canberra as the National Capital.

Public Hearing Details

Committee:	Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories
Venue	Committee Room 1R2, Parliament House, Canberra
Date:	Wednesday, 17 June 2009
Time:	12.40pm to 2.00pm
Webcast:	The hearing will be webcast live on http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/

For media comment: Please contact the Committee Chair Senator Kate Lundy on 0419 421 553.

For background information: Please contact the committee secretariat:

Phone: (02) 6277 4564 Email: jscncet@aph.gov.au Website: www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/ncet/index.htm