

Parliament House Security Upgrade Works – Perimeter Security Enhancements

Executive Summary

- In September 2014, in response to the heightened security threat environment in Australia, a review of the Australian Parliament House (APH) security arrangements was commissioned.
- The review recommended a series of internal and external security enhancement activities at APH, of which the internal recommendations are progressively being implemented under the direction of the Presiding Officers.
- This brief is being tabled Under Section 5 of *The Parliament Act 1974* which requires that: “*no building or other work is to be erected on land within the Parliamentary zone unless the Minister has caused a proposal for the erection of the building or work to be laid before each House of the Parliament and the proposal has been approved by resolution of each House of Parliament*”.
- The proposed works are for security enhancements including a fence, gate house, replacement of window framing and glazing, and additional vehicle bollards at the perimeter of the Ministerial Wing of APH.
- Designs and visual representations of the proposed new construction works are contained in Section Two of this brief.

Section One – Background

- In response to the heightened terrorist threat environment in Australia, the Presiding Officers established a multi-agency Taskforce to undertake a review of security arrangements at APH.
- The Taskforce comprises the Presiding Officers and representatives from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Attorney-General’s Department, the Department of Finance, the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and the Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS). The Taskforce is chaired by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- Part of the early works of the Taskforce was to recommend immediate security enhancement measures at APH which included an increased AFP presence, both internally and externally around the building, increased static guarding and patrols in the

private areas and tighter access pass requirements for visitor and guests. These recommendations have been implemented progressively since November 2014.

- The Taskforce developed the *Australian Parliament House Security Upgrade-Implementation Plan* which recommended a series of improvements or enhancements to the security arrangements at APH, and assigned specific tasks to individual agencies to complete. DPS, of which the Presiding Officers have oversight, has been assigned primary responsibility for the security hardening of APH, including entry points, the building fabric and security infrastructure.
- The external works are located outside the Ministerial Wing at the southern side of Parliament House. Works Approval is required to be granted by the National Capital Authority for the proposed works.
- A security fence and gatehouses were requirements of the original brief and were in the design documentation during the Design Development (pre-1988) phase of work on Parliament House. Around 1986 it was determined that neither the fence nor the gate/gatehouses were required for the building's security.
- The design in both 1986 and 2015 proposes a pair of gatehouses flanking and framing the building's north-south axis. The proposed configuration of the security fence closely matches the design proposed as part of the original Parliament House brief.

Section Two - Proposed external perimeter enhancements

The design, locations and specifications of the proposed external perimeter enhancements are supported by the Taskforce and include the installation of;

- a) *A perimeter fence at the southern façade of the Ministerial Wing, positioned in the fence location originally proposed in early designs for APH.*
 - The proposed fence provides an additional layer of security between the slip-road and grass embankments and the façade of the building.
 - The proposed fence includes installation of a steel security fence and retractable gates (approx.2.6m high).
 - The intent of the fence is to act both as a visible deterrent and physical barrier.
 - Along with the physical barrier, the existing three closed circuit television cameras outside the Ministerial Wing are proposed to be relocated and further supported with an additional seven external cameras that will oversee the enclosure and gate house facilities.
 - The fence supports other internal and facade works to enhance the security of APH as a whole, which will occur during 2015 and 2016.

- b) *A gate house facility outside the entrance to the Ministerial Wing.*
- The proposed gate house provides an external point of egress to the Ministerial Wing external courtyard with the capability to undertake advanced security screening, lock-down capability, and traffic flow management prior to entering the building.
 - The proposed gate house will be constructed from pre-cast concrete with stainless steel and aluminium window framing.
 - The intent of the gate house is to ensure only authorised personnel are able to enter the Ministerial Wing, and establish a physical barrier between the slip-road and building.
 - The proposed gate house has been designed to complement the proposed perimeter fence as an integral component of the security in depth approach.
- c) *Vehicle bollards at the base of the Ministerial entrance stairs.*
- The proposed installation of eight vehicle bollards at the base of the Ministerial entrance is envisioned to provide an additional layer of security between Parliament Drive and the Ministerial entrance stairs.
 - The intent of the vehicle bollards is to act as a deterrent and physical barrier for vehicles attempting to access the Ministerial entrance via the stairs.
 - The proposed vehicle bollards complement the existing bollards installed at the slip-road entry and exit points.
- d) *Glazing Replacement at Ministerial Ground Floor Entrance.*
- This work replaces the existing glazing and frames with ballistic proof material, designed to match existing material.
 - The intent of the glazing replacement is to provide ballistic protection to the Ministerial Entrance as a component of the security in depth approach.
- e) To visually demonstrate the proposed external perimeter construction and enhancements the following drawings are attached for information.
1. External fence 3D.1
 2. External fence 3D.2
 3. Gate House & Fence – Location Plan
 4. Gate House & Fence – Site Plan
 5. Gate House & Fence – Demolition Plan

6. Gate House & Fence – New Works Plan
7. Gate House & Fence – Roof Plan
8. Gate House & Fence – Sections
9. Gate House & Fence – Elevations
10. Fence – Elevations.1
11. Fence – Elevations.2
12. Fence – Elevations.3
13. Fence – Elevations.4
14. Fence – Elevations.5

Section Three – National Capital Authority Approval, Moral Rights and Heritage considerations

- a) A comprehensive submission has been provided to the National Capital Authority (NCA) in relation to the proposed works. The NCA has considered and advised in-principle approval of the works as proposed.
- b) Moral Rights considerations (*Copyright Amendment (Moral Rights) Act, 2000*)
 - The proposed external perimeter enhancements result in a visual and structural amendment to the building's existing external perimeter.
 - To ensure the interests of the Australian Parliament House Moral Rights holder have been considered, DPS engaged the architectural firm of one of the original architects, Mr Hal Guida, to design the proposed enhancements.
 - The Moral Rights holder, through his nominees, has advised DPS of the measures to be undertaken in relation to the maintenance of design intent. These measures have been accepted and are underway.
- c) Heritage (*Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999*)
 - Parliament House is a nationally significant twentieth century building. It is included on the Australian Institute of Architects Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture and, while not included in a statutory heritage list, Parliament House and its Surrounds meet the threshold for listing against several of the National Heritage List criteria.
 - Given proposed external perimeter enhancements result in a visual and structural amendment to the building's existing external perimeter, and to ensure the Heritage impact of the proposed enhancements is considered, DPS engaged an

independent heritage consultancy firm to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) of the proposed design and provide advice on any potential impact/s.

- The HIA received differed for each of the enhancements, and is summarised as follows:
 - *Perimeter Fence* – the proposed security fence is assessed as having a moderate impact on the heritage values of Parliament House. Furthermore it is acknowledged that the landscaping contour in these areas was originally designed to accommodate a fence in the proposed (approximate) location.
 - *Gate Houses* – the proposed gate houses is assessed as having a moderate impact on the heritage values of Parliament House and do not significantly or permanently impact the landscape setting or design intent.
 - *Vehicle bollards* – the proposed vehicle bollards is assessed as minor and will have minimal impact on the heritage values of Parliament House.
- A HIA of the glazing replacement is underway; however, the impact is expected to be minor as the proposal is to match existing materials.

Key:

Severe: Severe impacts generally have two or more of the following characteristics: permanent/irreversible; medium-large scale; moderate-high intensity.

Moderate: Moderate impacts generally have two or more of the following characteristics: medium-long term; small-medium scale; moderate-high intensity.

Minor: Minor impacts generally have two or more of the following characteristics: short term/reversible; small-scale/localised; low intensity.

- The Presiding Officers and DPS are cognisant of the importance of Heritage Management and the ongoing work underway to develop the Central Reference Document, Conversation Management Plan and Design Principles documents that will support and guide works within the Parliamentary Precinct for the next 150 years.
- To that end, while the HIA does not suggest any of the three enhancements pose a severe heritage impact to Parliament House, as assessed against the Heritage List criteria, the Presiding Officers have instructed DPS to ensure the final design solution, including all structures, finishes, colours and placement considers and supports the expectations of these documents.