



National Capital Authority

## Consultation Protocol Planning Information

August 2006

### What is the role of the National Capital Authority?

The National Capital Authority (NCA) secures the Australian Government's interest in the planning and development of the national capital to ensure that it continues to reflect its national purposes.

The NCA is established under the *Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988* (the Act). The Act sets out the functions of the NCA.

Of particular relevance to the draft Consultation Protocol (the protocol) are its planning functions which require the NCA to:

- prepare and administer (which includes determining applications for works approval the National Capital Plan (the Plan); and
- keep the Plan under constant review and to propose amendments to it when necessary.

### What is the National Capital Plan?

The National Capital Plan (the Plan) is the strategic plan for Canberra and the Territory. It ensures that Canberra and the Territory are planned and developed in accordance with their national significance.

This recognises the value of the unique purpose, setting, character and symbolism of Australia's national capital.

The Plan sets out the planning principles and policies for Canberra and the Territory, and detailed conditions of planning, design and development for designated areas because of their particular importance to the special character of the national capital.

### When does the National Capital Authority need to consult?

The *Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988* (the Act) requires the NCA to consult on draft amendments to the Plan with the community and stakeholders.

The Act does not require that the NCA consult on Development Control Plans (DCPs). However, as part of the process for preparing a DCP, the NCA forwards a copy of a draft DCP to the ACTPLA for comment.



Consultation for applications for works approval (development applications) is only necessary when required by the Plan. The Plan requires consultation for certain types of development proposals which include applications for a:

- residential development and/or redevelopment (including a single dwelling house) in the Deakin/Forrest Residential Area;
- telecommunication facility where it is considered it will create a high visual impact; and
- dual occupancy.

When an application is lodged for one of the above developments, the applicant is required to consult with the community and stakeholders about the proposal.

## What is the purpose of the draft Consultation Protocol?

The purpose of the protocol is to formalise, clarify and provide guidance for the community and stakeholders, and to ensure consistency in the application of consultation within the legislative requirements of the Act and the Plan.

What does the draft Consultation Protocol set requirements for?

The protocol sets out the minimum requirements which must be carried out:

- when the National Capital Plan (the Plan) is being made or amended;
- when a Development Control Plan (DCP) is being made;
- on a development application; and
- when the NCA informs community and stakeholders on an annual basis.

Additional consultation may also be undertaken by the NCA or an applicant above what is required to be undertaken in accordance with this protocol.

