



Australian Government

**Australian Government response to the Joint
Standing Committee on the National Capital
and External Territories report:**

**A Capital for All Australians
Report of the inquiry into fostering and promoting
the significance of Australia's National Capital**

May 2026

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Overview

The Australian Government thanks the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories (the Committee) for its report *A Capital for All Australians* (May 2024). The report presents 21 recommendations from the Committee, and a further 9 recommendations from Senator David Pocock. These recommendations reflect a shared vision: to ensure Canberra remains a dynamic, inclusive, and representative National Capital for all Australians.

As Australia's National Capital, Canberra should symbolise a sense of belonging for all Australians. It should be a place where the voices and stories of our nation are shared and celebrated, where our histories are vibrant, accessible, and engaging, and where the richness of our cultures, including of Indigenous people, is respected and represented.

Whether it begins with a school excursion to Parliament House or a family visit to national institutions like the National Gallery of Australia, the National Library of Australia and Questacon, Australians engage with the stories that shape our identity. From exploring our rich and diverse history at the National Museum of Australia to honouring service and sacrifice at the Australian War Memorial, these experiences create a meaningful connection to the nation's capital.

Referring this Inquiry to the Committee recognised that many people and organisations have memories of how Canberra was, opinions on what it is like now, and ideas for the future. The Inquiry's Terms of Reference sought to elicit ideas on making the Capital – and its National Institutions – as dynamic and representative as possible, ensuring the symbolic importance of the Capital while harnessing the region's sporting, cultural and tourism potential.

Maximising the potential of our National Capital requires collective effort. The Committee's recommendations require consideration across governments, institutions and organisations. Recommendations also cover a breadth of areas – including transport, infrastructure, accessibility, tourism, and sporting, cultural, and civic facilities. Responsibility for actions and outcomes linked to the Committee's recommendations varies and, in many cases, is shared.

Since the introduction of self-government to the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) in 1988, the National Capital Authority has worked to maintain, enhance and promote the national qualities of Canberra. This includes through projects like the renewal of Commonwealth Avenue Bridge that is catering for long-term transport needs while maintaining heritage values; major strengthening of infrastructure at Scrivener Dam, which retains and controls the water that forms Lake Burley Griffin; remediation of the National Carillon façade and instrumentation upgrade works, and reimagining of the National Rose Gardens, Federation Centenary Fountains and Commonwealth Park.

It is crucial that the work of the National Capital Authority is progressed in coordination with the ACT Government. In a growing city that an increasing number of people call home, we recognise that the ACT Government is investing in enabling infrastructure and seeking to drive private sector investment into a range of projects across the territory. This includes investment in public transport services and in venues to develop a vibrant arts, sports and entertainment culture. Additionally, the ACT Government, through VisitCanberra, works to attract domestic and international visitation to the region, as well as providing visitor information services.

For its part, the Australian Government takes a place-based, partnership approach to investing in Canberra. Working where appropriate with the ACT Government, and providing funding for the NCA and Canberra-based National Institutions, the Australian Government prioritises targeted and coordinated investment to leverage the best outcomes.

For example, the 2026-27 Federal Budget included \$50 million for priority rail infrastructure upgrades between Canberra and Sydney and the 2024–25 Federal Budget included \$50 million towards planning for Stage 2B of the ACT Government’s Canberra Light Rail – building on an existing \$343.9 million commitment to deliver Stage 2A. As part of the National Capital Investment Framework, the Australian Government allocated \$100 million through the 2025–26 Budget towards the design and construction of the new Canberra Aquatic Centre in Commonwealth Park, and for the design and development of the new Canberra Convention and Entertainment Centre Precinct, as well as providing \$9.98 million over 2 years to develop a Bruce Precinct Master Plan. In the 2025–26 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO), funding was allocated for the following:

- \$10 million to enhance lighting around the Central Basin of Lake Burley Griffin to improve safety and useability of the public spaces.
- \$119.2 million for the Australian War Memorial to support its financial viability and day-to-day operations, and completion of its redevelopment.
- \$219.7 million for the National Gallery of Australia to fix its leaking roof and develop an engineering prioritisation strategy for the building.
- \$4.5 million for the National Library of Australia to support works to the heritage windows, doors and façade.
- \$17 million to progress the development of the Ngurra Cultural Precinct.
- \$53.6 million for the upgrade to Commonwealth Avenue Bridge, and undertake strengthening works to the Scrivener Dam dissipator
- \$5.8 million to extend the Parliament and Civics Educations Rebate (PACER) program in 2026 and 2027.

No great nation should remain static, nor should its Capital. The Australian Government acknowledges that as an evolving place – in a vibrant, forward-looking country – there will be ongoing opportunities to ensure Canberra remains the Capital that Australians deserve. The Government is committed to continuing to work where appropriate with other governments, the private sector and the broader community to support a strong, dynamic and representative Capital for all Australians into the future.

The Australian Government thanks the Committee for their work on this Inquiry, and the people, groups and organisations that have contributed their time, knowledge and ideas to help inform the Inquiry’s report and the Committee’s recommendations. The Government’s position on each of the Committee’s recommendations, and the recommendations included in additional comments from Senator Pocock, are detailed below.

Response to Committee Recommendations

The Australian Government's response to the recommendations of *A Capital for All Australians: Report of the inquiry into fostering and promoting the significance of Australia's National Capital* is set out in detail below.

Recommendations are provided in numerical order except where it is more appropriate to group recommendations together.

Recommendation 1:

2.47 The Committee recommends that all National Institutions publish public transport and pedestrian access information on their websites to ensure that visitors and residents are aware of transport options beyond the use of private vehicles.

The Government **agrees in principle** to this recommendation.

The National Institutions determine how to most effectively promote visitor access to their sites, based on visitor feedback and amenity.

In promoting visitor access, most National Institutions actively publish a range of visitor access information on their websites. The extent of this information varies, but includes links to local public transport information on Transport Canberra (<https://www.transport.act.gov.au>), information about bus routes, and pedestrian access information.

Examples of existing information available on National Institutions' websites on transport options include:

- Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies: <https://aiatsis.gov.au/about/connect-us/visit>
- Australian Institute of Sport: <https://www.ausport.gov.au/ais/visit/getting-here>
- Australian National Botanic Gardens: <https://parksaustralia.gov.au/botanic-gardens/visit/getting-here/>
- Australian War Memorial: <https://www.awm.gov.au/visit/plan>
- Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House: <https://www.moadoph.gov.au/visit/getting-here-and-parking>
- National Archives of Australia: <https://www.naa.gov.au/visit-us/australian-capital-territory#act-getting-here>
- National Film and Sound Archive of Australia: <https://www.nfsa.gov.au/visit-us>
- National Gallery of Australia: <https://nga.gov.au/visit/#getting-here>
- National Library of Australia: <https://www.nla.gov.au/visit-us/getting-to-the-library>
- National Museum of Australia: <https://www.nma.gov.au/visit>
- National Portrait Gallery of Australia: <https://www.portrait.gov.au/content/location/>
- Parliament House: https://www.aph.gov.au/Visit_Parliament/Plan_your_Visit
- Questacon: <https://www.questacon.edu.au/visiting/getting-here-and-parking>

Recommendation 2:

2.48 The Committee recommends that the National Capital Authority continue its works to improve pedestrian accessibility and footpaths between bus stops and all National Institution buildings, and within the National Triangle

The Government **agrees in principle** to this recommendation.

Through the National Capital Authority (NCA), the Australian Government undertakes annual capital works programs to maintain and enhance footpaths and pedestrian infrastructure within the National Triangle.

In 2024–25, the NCA introduced wayfinding maps to help visitors navigate the National Triangle and encourage active travel by highlighting walking routes using pathways that connect open spaces with National Institutions. The NCA also released a Visitor Map to support locals and visitors navigate the National Triangle, including the National Institutions, memorials, activities and amenities available.

In 2025–26, the NCA reviewed lighting infrastructure in the National Triangle to improve safety, efficiency and sustainability. Over coming years, new lighting designs and installations will be implemented. Lighting around the Central Basin of Lake Burley Griffin has been a priority, with temporary lights installed in 2025–26, and a permanent lighting solution will be delivered with funding of \$10 million allocated in the 2025–26 MYEFO.

These initiatives align with the National Capital Plan that acknowledges the need to improve and develop accessibility and connectivity. Planning and design policies within the National Triangle seek to make access easy and open by providing a comprehensive network of paths, cycleways and roads, and establishing well signed, convenient routes to major destinations.

Recommendation 3:

2.49 The Committee recommends that the Commonwealth Government work with the ACT Government to establish a hop-on hop-off shuttle bus service which stops at each National Institution, and other ACT points of interest.

The Government **notes** this recommendation.

Responsibility for establishing a hop-on hop-off shuttle bus service connecting the National Institutions and other ACT points of interest is a matter for the ACT Government.

The Australian Government remains committed to improving transport connectivity in Canberra through major infrastructure investments. In partnership with the ACT Government, the Australian Government is delivering \$343.9 million for Canberra Light Rail Stage 2A, extending the existing service from the city to Commonwealth Park, and \$50 million for the planning and approvals for Stage 2B which will connect Commonwealth Park to Woden, via the National Triangle. This is part of the Australian Government's over \$120 billion 10-year infrastructure investment pipeline.

Recommendation 4:

2.50 The Committee recommends that the Commonwealth Government prioritise the Sydney to Canberra rail connectivity and capacity project to improve passenger services and travel time.

Recommendation 5:

2.51 The Committee recommends that the Commonwealth Government work with the ACT and New South Wales Governments to provide additional train services and carriages on the Sydney to Canberra rail line.

The Government **agrees** to these recommendations.

While passenger rail services are managed by state and territory governments, and private operators, the Australian Government, through the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC), manages and maintains the North-South Rail Corridor between Melbourne, Sydney, and Brisbane. The Sydney to Canberra line forms part of this corridor. NSW TrainLink operates passenger services between Canberra and Sydney, and the NSW Government manages the track between Canberra and Goulburn, including planned upgrades to the Canberra Railway Station.

As part of the 2026–27 Federal Budget, the Australian Government committed \$50 million for priority rail infrastructure upgrades between Canberra and Sydney. This funding forms part of a \$100 million package, with matching contributions of \$25 million from both the NSW and ACT Governments. The Government will work with network operators and transport agencies to determine the most cost-effective interventions, with an immediate focus on improvements to the line between Goulburn and Canberra. This investment will also fund a business case for planned network upgrades and timetable improvements to help to improve efficiency and travel times for passenger services over the coming years.

The Government's commitments also include almost \$2.8 billion for the ARTC's Network Investment Program to strengthen the National Rail Freight Network. The commitment to the ARTC's Network Investment Program includes \$150 million for track rehabilitation between Albury and Sydney to improve reliability, ride quality, and remove temporary speed restrictions.

These works will supplement trackwork already underway through the \$41.6 million Southern Highlands Overtaking Opportunities project, reducing travel times and improving the rail corridor's capacity, reliability and efficiency for both freight and passenger services. The NSW Government is also investing in new Regional Rail Fleet trains, which will start serving the line once testing and commissioning is complete.

The Australian Government has also committed \$2.8 million to make the Canberra Railway Station precinct housing ready. The funding is being provided under the \$150 million urban Precincts and Partnerships Program and builds on the ACT Government's investment in planning, engagement, design and tendering to shape the precinct's future.

The Government has established the High-Speed Rail Authority (HSRA) to deliver on a new high-speed passenger rail connection between Sydney and Newcastle as the first part of an east coast network, marking an important step toward faster, more sustainable travel across eastern Australia. Future stages will connect Melbourne to Brisbane via Canberra and Sydney.

HSRA delivered the Newcastle to Sydney business case in December 2024 and the Australian Government has committed to a \$659.6 million two year-development phase. The development phase is to further refine the cost and scope of the project to get it shovel-ready for a final investment decision by government.

Recommendation 6:

3.94 The Committee recommends that the Commonwealth Government develop and fund a marketing campaign that promotes digital access to Australia's national collections, particularly to regional, rural, and remote communities.

The Government **notes** this recommendation.

Making the national collections accessible to all Australians, not just to those who live in or visit Canberra, is a priority for the Australian Government. Along with touring their collections, the National Institutions are achieving this objective individually through the digitisation of significant cultural material for online access, and with material that supports digital classroom learning and outreach activities.

Several collaborative initiatives are currently being implemented by the National Institutions to undertake collective marketing and capitalise on significant digitisation programs. This includes marketing as part of the *Cultural Icons* campaign developed with 'Visit CBR', which promotes the National Institutions. Major cultural infrastructure websites, such as the National Library of Australia's *Trove* platform, National Archives of Australia *RecordSearch* and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) *Atlas of Living Australia*, make accessible digitised collections that attract online visits from locations throughout Australia including regional, rural and remote communities.

In the 2023–24 'Impact of our National Cultural Institutions' reporting, it shows that there were more than 37.7 million website sessions to the websites of the National Institutions.

Recommendation 7:

3.95 The Committee recommends that the Commonwealth Government consider core funding to the National Institutions for touring exhibitions of regional, rural, and remote communities.

The Government **agrees in principle** to this recommendation.

The Australian Government's National Cultural Policy *Revive* aims to ensure all Australians, including those in regional, rural and remote areas, can access and engage in the nation's art, culture and heritage. A key action under *Revive* is to support activities and programs that develop and tour exhibitions beyond Canberra.

To achieve this, the Australian Government provides both base and targeted funding to National Institutions, which is supplemented by private philanthropy. In the 2023–24 Federal Budget, base funding for nine National Collecting Institutions, along with Questacon, was increased to strengthen their core functions, including outreach programs to make their collections accessible.

The *Sharing the National Collection* initiative provides \$11.8 million over four years from 2023–24 to the National Gallery of Australia for long-term loans to regional and suburban galleries and cultural institutions across Australia. By February 2026, the Australian Government had announced over 330 loans to 41 partner institutions nationwide, with displays in every state and territory.

The *National Collecting Institutions Touring and Outreach* program provides \$1.0 million each year to support touring exhibitions. Since 2009, the program has enabled more than 200 exhibitions from the National Collecting Institutions to travel to more than 350 venues across Australia.

The *Visions of Australia* regional exhibition touring program provides approximately \$2.8 million each year to eligible arts and cultural organisations to develop and tour exhibitions across Australia, particularly to regional and remote communities. National Collecting Institutions are eligible to apply for funding from this program.

Recommendation 8:

3.96 The Committee recommends that the National Capital Authority work with the ACT Government to develop a single online platform that provides useful visitor information on all the National Capital and collecting institutions and points of interest. Information should include but not be limited to access and transport options, current events, and exhibitions, and ways to link and explore people, places, and themes across the institutions.

The Government **does not agree** with this recommendation.

The ACT Government provides comprehensive visitor information, including details on the National Institutions, through the Canberra and Region Visitor Information Centre, and the 'VisitCanberra' website. In addition, 'Events Canberra' publishes weekly updates on local events, including those hosted by National Institutions, while the National Capital Authority offers detailed information on the National Triangle. Creating another online platform would add unnecessary duplication rather than improve accessibility.

Recommendation 9:

3.97 The Committee recommends that the National Capital Authority develop a Canberra pass or ticket that provides entry to range of National Institutions, including ticketed exhibitions and shows, and provides certain discounts and offers for pass holders.

Recommendation 10:

3.98 The Committee recommends that the Commonwealth Government formalise the coordinating role of the National Capital Authority to oversee and coordinate the work and tourism opportunities of Canberra's national and collecting institutions.

The Government **notes** these recommendations.

The National Institutions manage their own ticketing arrangements, including decisions regarding discounts and offers, and are best placed to oversee promotional and tourism activities and events.

To support visitors, the 'VisitCanberra' website provides comprehensive information on events, accommodation deals and attractions. It also offers the 'Canberra Mega Pass', which bundles entry to the Australian Institute of Sport, National Zoo and Aquarium, and Questacon.

The NCA has established a seasonal (quarterly) Electronic Direct Mail which coordinates information and inputs about events and activations in the National Triangle and includes the information from National Institutions.

Recommendation 11:

3.99 The Committee recommends that the Commonwealth Government review the current PACER program to ensure that the program provides an opportunity for all Australian schools to participate, and to tailor a program to suit schools' educational and travel needs.

Recommendation 12:

3.100 The Committee recommends that any Commonwealth Government review of the PACER program examine the potential for:

- a broader range of fields not currently covered by the program such as science, arts and culture;
- the inclusion of smaller institutions as part of the program;
- more flexibility for schools to visit institutions that support particular learning or education programs within schools; and
- remote participation options for schools that are unable to travel to Canberra.

The Government **agrees in principle** to recommendation 11 and **notes** recommendation 12.

The 'Parliament and Civics Education Rebate' (PACER) program provides financial assistance to help students from all Australian schools including government, non-government, and home schools, visit Canberra and engage with national institutions that deliver high-quality civics and citizenship learning experiences.

Participating schools must attend PACER-approved in-person programs with at least three of four core civics education institutions: Australian Parliament House, Museum of Australian Democracy, National Electoral Education Centre, and the Australian War Memorial. When these are unavailable, approved alternatives include the National Museum of Australia, National Gallery of Australia and the High Court of Australia. For schools unable to travel, the Australian Government provides remote access through initiatives such as the 'Civics and Citizenship Education Hub', offering free, curriculum-aligned digital resources. In addition to PACER, many institutions deliver their own digital and outreach programs to schools.

While visiting Canberra under the PACER program, schools may include activities beyond civics education, such as science, arts and cultural institutions that enrich students' learning. Although not part of the PACER program, the Australian Institute of Sport attracts over 300,000 visitors (primarily year 6 students) each year.

To improve equity, a PACER Pilot introduced in 2023 offers higher rebates for remote and low socio-economic status (SES) schools, a zoned funding model, and streamlined eligibility. Since its introduction, participation has steadily increased, and average rebates per student remain significantly higher than pre-COVID levels, reflecting the Government's commitment to equitable access. In 2025, the Australian Government announced \$5.8 million over two years from 2025–26 to extend the PACER Pilot rebate settings for the 2026 and 2027 calendar years.

An independent evaluation of the PACER program in 2024 assessed the program's equity, curriculum alignment, and complementarity with state and territory education initiatives. The evaluation was undertaken across the suite of Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS) programs that the Department of Education delivers to support teaching and learning.

For PACER, the evaluation highlights a range of program-specific findings and opportunities, including:

- barriers for schools in accessing PACER include lack of promotion, financial barriers, distance from Canberra, mandatory institution capacity, and school staffing and resources.
- retaining the pilot increases to the base PACER funding, or ensuring inflationary costs are considered in future funding model planning, will improve equity and inclusivity and respond to financial barriers emerging from cost-of-living pressures.
- student voice could play a more active role in program design.

The PACER element was undertaken part-way through the first year of the 2023 additional rebates pilot funding. The full evaluation report is available at <https://www.education.gov.au/australian-curriculum/resources/report-department-education-evaluation-pacer-and-cce-programs>.

Recommendation 13:

3.101 The Committee recommends that the Commonwealth Government develop a National Capital welcome and information pack to be provided to visitors and participants of national programs such as PACER and Australian citizenship ceremonies.

The Government **agrees in principle** to this recommendation.

The Australian Government works with the National Capital Authority, the Office for the Arts, the National Institutions, and the ACT Government, to promote visitation to the National Capital. These agencies provide visitor information online, and through the Canberra and Region Visitor Information Centre. Individual National Institutions also develop tailored materials and promotional activities to attract their target audiences and visitors.

In addition, Austrade has published a bilingual reference booklet in English and Simplified Chinese to assist tour guides welcoming Chinese and other overseas visitors. This resource, funded through the 'Approved Destination Status' Scheme, is titled 'Exploring Australia' and features 50 popular destinations across Australia, including Canberra's National Institutions.

Recommendation 14:

- 4.68 The Committee recommends that the Commonwealth Government work with the ACT Government to upgrade Canberra’s stadium infrastructure to:
- provide the necessary infrastructure to support national and international sporting events;
 - improve training and preparation facilities for athletes and teams;
 - include gender-friendly player facilities; and
 - improve spectator experience and comfort through increased stadium capacity, improved seating and weather protection, accessible parking and transport options, and suitable corporate facilities.

Recommendation 16:

- 4.7 The Committee recommends that the Commonwealth Government invest in the AIS to ensure it remains a world class institution and able to fully support Australian athletes in the lead up to international sporting competitions, including the 2032 Brisbane Olympics and Paralympics.

Senator Pocock Recommendation 3:

- 1.34 That the Commonwealth Government invest in the construction of a new National Stadium co-located in Civic with the new National Convention Centre, and that the NCA work collaboratively with the ACT Government to modernise sound laws in the National Capital.

The Government **agrees in principle** to recommendation 14, **agrees** with recommendation 16, and **notes** Senator Pocock’s recommendation 3.

In the 2024–25 Federal Budget, the Australian Government committed \$249.7 million for the Australian Sports Commission to deliver three new sports facilities at the AIS Campus in Canberra, including:

- a multi-storey, fully para-accessible accommodation facility;
- a large indoor multi-sports dome to provide an all-weather, 24/7 training facility with integrated facilities for testing and analysis; and
- a high-performance training and testing centre to provide state of the art equipment and support for athletes.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works approved this project in March 2025, with construction work expected to commence in 2026 for completion in early 2028.

The investment directly addresses the key recommendations of the January 2024 *Independent Review of the AIS Infrastructure* and will ensure Australia’s elite athletes have access to a world-leading high-performance sport training environment which supports athletes’ preparations for future international competitions, including the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The Australian Sport Commission is concurrently working to develop an AIS Campus Masterplan, which will outline the long-term vision to ensure the site remains the world’s best sport precinct — future-proofing facilities, strengthening Australia’s competitive edge, supporting athlete wellbeing, connecting to the local community and fostering collaboration and innovation across the Australian sport system.

The Australian Government is investing a further \$9.98 million over two years from 2024–25 to work in partnership with the ACT Government on a Bruce Precinct Master Plan. The Plan will identify optimal land uses within the Bruce precinct which includes the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) Campus, the North Canberra Hospital Campus, the Canberra Institute of Technology Bruce Campus, and the GIO Stadium, and will complement an AIS Master Plan to be developed by the Australian Sports Commission. This will ensure an integrated approach to planning across the broader Bruce precinct and help guide future investment decisions.

It is the responsibility of the ACT Government to fund stadium infrastructure upgrades and manage noise standards in Canberra.

Refer to the response provided for Recommendation 17 and Senator Pocock’s Recommendation 2 in relation to the development of a new National Convention Centre for Canberra.

Recommendation 15:

4.69 The Committee recommends that the marketing and promotion of Manuka Oval as a boutique sporting facility be improved to raise the profile of the National Capital as a destination and attract more visitors.

The Government **notes** this recommendation.

The ACT Government has responsibility for managing the marketing and promotion of Manuka Oval.

Recommendation 17:

5.56 The Committee recommends that the Commonwealth Government fund the development of the National Convention Centre to support national and international meetings of business, community and government, and to increase visitation to the National Capital.

Senator Pocock Recommendation 2:

1.23 That the Commonwealth Government invest in the construction of a new National Convention Centre with an exhibition space of at least 10,000 square metres capable of servicing Canberra's current and future needs as Australia's meeting place.

The Government **agrees in principle** to recommendation 17 and Senator Pocock's recommendation 2.

Through the 2025–26 Federal Budget, the Australian Government committed \$31.1 million for the design and development of a new National Convention Centre for Canberra.

Development and construction of a new National Convention Centre in Canberra to a scale supportive of national and international functions or events, including live entertainment and sport, will increase visitation to, and foster and encourage awareness of, the National Capital.

Recommendation 18:

5.57 The Committee recommends that the Commonwealth Government work with the ACT Government to assist with the redevelopment of, and investment in, the Canberra Theatre Centre.

The Government **notes** this recommendation.

The ACT Government is delivering a new 2,000 seat Lyric Theatre as part of the transformation of the Canberra Theatre Centre. Future works to the Canberra Theatre Centre will include refurbishments to the Canberra Theatre, The Playhouse, and the Courtyard Studio.

Recommendation 19:

5.58 The Committee recommends that the National Capital Authority upgrade Stage 88 to attract performers outside of the Territory and maximise the potential of the venue to host a broader range of events and performances.

The Government **agrees in principle** to this recommendation.

The Australian Government, through the National Capital Authority, will be investigating options to improve the Stage 88 infrastructure to attract a broader range of events and performances, to activate the Commonwealth Park precinct, and contribute to the promotion of the National Triangle.

Recommendation 20:

6.74 The Committee recommends that the Commonwealth Government, in consultation with the ACT Government and non-government bodies, promote Commonwealth and National Heritage Listed sites within the National Capital.

The Government **agrees in principle** to this recommendation.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of preserving and sharing the significance of the natural, cultural, and Indigenous heritage of the National Capital.

Through the National Capital Exhibition, the story of Canberra as Australia's capital, including its people, events, history and design, is told. Programs such as the National Capital Authority's 'Anzac Parade' program discusses the symbolism, heritage and historic value of Anzac Parade.

The Australian Government, through the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, shares information on the heritage values of ACT sites listed on the Commonwealth and National Heritage Lists. Place managers are responsible for the promotion of these sites.

Recommendation 21:

6.75 The Committee recommends that the Commonwealth Government work with the ACT Government to improve visitor experience at local ACT lookouts, including Mount Ainslie, Red Hill, and Black Mountain, and that a feasibility study be undertaken to examine food and comfort options for each site.

The Government **agrees in principle** to this recommendation.

The ACT Government has responsibility for managing ACT lookouts, including Mount Ainslie, Red Hill, and Black Mountain.

The Australian Government collaborates with state and territory governments to deliver on visitor economy outcomes and implement the 'THRIVE 2030' strategy. This national strategy for the long-term sustainable growth of the visitor economy, recognises the importance of investment in visitor infrastructure and includes a specific policy priority relating to enhancing visitor infrastructure.

Additional Recommendations by Senator Pocock

(excluding those mentioned previously)

Recommendation 1:

1.18 That the Commonwealth Government invest in the completion of the original City to the Lake vision, as presented in the ACT Government's 2014 City Plan, to increase connectivity between the City Centre and Lake Burley Griffin, unlock land for much-needed housing and present space for Canberra's new convention centre and stadium to be optimally located.

The Government **notes** this recommendation.

The 'City to the Lake' vision was an ACT Government initiative. It has been subsequently replaced by the 'City and Gateway Urban Design Framework' (December 2018), a joint ACT Government and NCA product.

Recommendation 4:

1.37 That the Commonwealth Government invest in the construction of a new Civic Pool in Commonwealth Park.

The Government **agrees in principle** to this recommendation.

Through the 2025–26 Federal Budget, the Australian Government committed \$68.9 million towards the design and construction of the Canberra Aquatic Centre in Commonwealth Park.

Recommendation 5:

1.43 That the Commonwealth Government remove the efficiency dividend for all our National Cultural Institutions.

The Government **notes** this recommendation.

The Australian Government is committed to supporting the financial sustainability of the National Cultural Institutions. In the 2023–24 Federal Budget, the Australian Government provided \$535.3 million over 4 years from 2023–24 (and \$118.3 million per year ongoing) to support the operations and long-term financial sustainability of the nine National Cultural Institutions. The National Cultural Institutions have also been excluded from the application of Whole-of-Government savings measures on external labour.

Recommendation 6:

1.48 That the NCA be given all parking revenue generated on the national land for which it is responsible, and that this additional revenue be used for the purposes of maintaining and restoring that land and the built assets it contains.

The Government **notes** this recommendation.

The National Capital Authority oversees the National Capital Plan and maintains a portfolio of key assets (valued at over \$1.5 billion) on behalf of the Australian Government. As well as fostering an awareness of the National Capital, it maintains and upgrades existing infrastructure, constructs new facilities, and develops landscaped areas for parks, public spaces, and commemorative sites.

The National Capital Authority is funded primarily through annual appropriations from the Australian Government and generates a small portion of its funding through revenue from processing works approval applications.

Recommendation 7:

1.51 That the Commonwealth Government request Cricket Australia update its governance structure and the composition of its board to match the rights and representation of the territories to those of the states.

The Government **agrees in principle** with this recommendation.

The Australian Government, through the Australian Sports Commission (ASC), encourages all sports to adopt governance structures that align with the ASC's Sport Governance Principles. This includes ensuring diversity amongst the voting members and decision makers of every sporting organisation, which at a national level should include representatives from across different parts of Australia.

The ASC is not a regulatory body and is unable to intervene in the decision-making processes and operations of sporting organisations. Cricket Australia manages its own governance arrangements, including the composition of its board.

Recommendation 8:

1.56 That the Commonwealth Government co-invest with the ACT Government in a Home of Football for the National Capital by contributing the remaining \$18.75 million needed to complete the project as originally planned.

The Government **notes** this recommendation.

A Home of Football for the ACT is a matter for the ACT Government's consideration.

The Australian Government notes the *2024 Independent Review into the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) Infrastructure* identified that the AIS might be a viable alternative site for Capital Football rather than the proposed Home of Football site at Throsby. The ACT Government is a key stakeholder included in the development of the AIS Campus Masterplan.

Recommendation 9:

1.61 That the Commonwealth Government provide additional funding to the ACT Government to support its efforts in improving the quality of water flowing into Lake Burley Griffin, including by replacing the concrete stormwater systems with naturalised creeks and wetlands.

The Government **agrees in principle** to this recommendation.

Through the *Urban Rivers and Catchments Program* (the Program), the Australian Government is committed to repairing waterways in urban, outer-urban and regional centres to improve water quality and habitat for native species (including threatened species).

Under round one of the Program, \$3.2 million was made available to help restore Canberra's waterways, including \$450,000 for on-ground actions focused on the Jerrabomberra Wetlands and Jerrabomberra Creek.

Work is also being undertaken by the ACT Government to understand the impact on water quality of nutrient loading from the catchment in urban lakes in the ACT. The National Capital Authority has trialled potential in-lake options to manage blue green algae blooms in Lake Burley Griffin and will continue to explore new, innovative options in this area.