



12 December 2008

Business Council welcomes Government Response to NCA Report

Canberra Business Council (CBC) today welcomed the Federal Government's response to *The Way Forward* – the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories' report on the Inquiry into the National Capital Authority.

"Canberra Business Council is pleased that the Federal Government has accepted 13 of the 22 recommendations of the JSCNCET report," Ms Chris Faulks, CEO of Canberra Business Council, said today. "The uncertainty surrounding the future of the NCA since its funding was slashed early this year has paralysed the organisation and significantly slowed planning approvals. Hopefully the NCA will now move ahead again."

Ms Faulks said all Canberrans should welcome the Commonwealth Government's unequivocal affirmation of its enduring commitment, on behalf of all Australians, to the future of Canberra as a planned national capital."

Ms Faulks said the Council strongly supports the Federal Government's decision to maintain the statutory independence of the NCA and to simplify and update the National Capital Plan. In addition the Council welcomes the Commonwealth Government's commitment to work with the ACT Government on transport, the location of Commonwealth Government Agencies in the ACT and the establishment of an intergovernmental committee for the simplification of planning and land management.

Ms Faulks said Canberra Business Council is delighted that the Government supports, in principle, a consultative mechanism which will enable the Commonwealth to foster links to the ACT Government, Canberra business representatives and the community.

In its submission to and appearance before the NCA enquiry, CBC promoted the reactivation and upgrading of the Ministerial Canberra Consultative Forum (MCCF), (which has not met since the election of the Rudd Government) as a model for a consultative forum. The Council encourages the Minister to move quickly to decide whether a re-activated MCCF can form the basis for the National Canberra Consultative Forum recommended in the NCA Report.

CBC also strongly supports the Commonwealth Government's commitment to work with the ACT Government to celebrate and commemorate Canberra's centenary and ensure there is a national celebration of the capital as a place of national significance. CBC will continue to urge that the centenary be marked by an infrastructure legacy that will continue to commemorate the centenary beyond any short-term celebration.

For further comment Contact:

Chris Faulks | CEO | Canberra Business Council | 0421 994 488 |