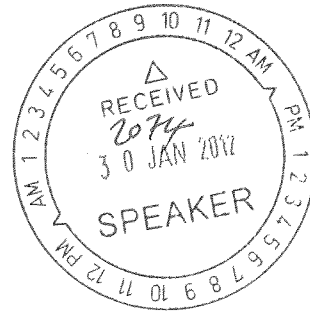




Australian Government
National Capital Authority

Our Ref: 112306

Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA
Speaker
ACT Legislative Assembly
GPO Box 1020
Canberra ACT 2601



Dear Mr Speaker

I am writing in reply to your letter of 5 January 2012 in which you advised that the ACT Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure (the Committee) intends to conduct a review of the *Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988*. Your invitation to make a submission is very much appreciated and reinforces the collegiate relationship the National Capital Authority (NCA) endeavors to maintain with the ACT Legislative Assembly.

As you would be aware, the NCA is also a product of the ACT Self-Government arrangements, being established under the *Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988*. In this regard, the NCA's direct interest in self-government matters is restricted to the matters set out in our enabling legislation.

I do not think it would be appropriate for the NCA to express views on self-government matters outside our direct statutory interests. Doing so would potentially create confusion about the official Australian Government position. It would better for the Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport to comment on behalf of the Australian Government.

I note that the Committee might decide to hold a round table meeting or public hearings. We would be happy to participate in any such forum, particularly where those discussions relate to matters within our statutory functions.

Thank you, again, for your letter. I wish the Committee all the best with its review. If you would like to discuss any element of my response in detail, I encourage you to contact the Chief Executive of the NCA, Mr Gary Rake, on 6271 2870.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shelley Penn'.

Shelley Penn
Architect FRAIA
Chairperson
27 January 2012

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