

SNAPSHOT

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL DESIGN REVIEW PANEL (NCDRP) IS A JOINT INITIATIVE BETWEEN THE ACT GOVERNMENT AND THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE INDEPENDENT ADVICE ON THE DESIGN QUALITY MATTERS FOR DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS ACROSS CANBERRA.

Advisory role

The NCDRP provides independent, expert and impartial design advice for significant development proposals in key growth and renewal areas across the city.

The NCDRP reviews a diverse range and scale of development proposals; including apartment, mixed-use and commercial developments; public infrastructure projects; public parks and spaces; master plans and estate development plans.

Guiding principles

The Design Principles for the ACT supports the review of projects by the NCDRP and provides high level guidance for proponents when preparing for design review.

Independent and expert

The NCDRP reviews development proposals, under the supervision of the ACT Government Architect and, for proposals under the jurisdiction of the National Capital Authority (NCA), also by the NCA's Chief Planner.

The panel consists of a multidisciplinary and independent membership that is selected for their expertise, experience and communication skills.

Early engagement

Proponents should consult with the NCDRP as early as possible to gain the greatest benefit from the design review process. The Panel's Advice is provided within 10 working days after the design review session.

Regular sessions

Design review sessions are held once a month. A list of the forward session dates can be found on the EPSDD website at www.planning.act.gov.au/designreview.

Self-referral

Proponents are encouraged to present development proposals to the NCDRP that are outside of the development thresholds as identified. The benefits to design review are outlined on page 5 of the Practitioner's Guideline Booklet.

Development thresholds

National Capital Plan

The following development thresholds apply to proposals that must be considered by the NCDRP:

- Instruments under the National Capital Plan:
 - Development Control Plan 17/01 Manuka Circle Precinct, Canberra Avenue
 - National Capital Plan - Amendment 91 - City and Gateway Urban Design Provisions.

The NCA may refer proposals determined to be of significance within Designated Areas that warrant design review.

ACT Government planning jurisdiction

From 1 October 2019, development identified as a prescribed development under the Planning and Development Regulation 2008 must consult with the design review panel. A prescribed development proposal is:

- a building with 5 or more storeys
- a proposal to increase the floorspace of a shop by more than 2,000m², that is fully or partly located in a residential, commercial, community facility and/or a parks and recreation zone.

Confidential and free

Presenting to the NCDRP is a confidential and free service at the pre-development application stage.

Transparent and accountable

The Terms of Reference, panel membership and governance process can be found on the EPSDD website at www.planning.act.gov.au/designreview.

Additionally, the Panel's Advice and a proponent's response to the Panel's Advice is made publicly available when a development proposal is lodged as a development application with the ACT Government.

Contact

The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) provides secretariat support for the NCDRP.

Email: designreview@act.gov.au