

ACT GOVERNMENT ARCHITECT  
QUARTERLY  
REPORT



**ACT**  
Government

DECEMBER 2016



## **Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate**

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# ABOUT THE ACT GOVERNMENT ARCHITECT

CATHERINE TOWNSEND was appointed to the position of ACT Government Architect in September 2016. The role is part time and this enables her ongoing mutually beneficial commitments to industry, education and practice:

- her position as ACT Government Architect enables a full overview of the field and activities within industry and government
- her long involvement in industry forums facilitates an airing of alternative views and the identification of unifying positions (Building Regulatory Advisory Committee, liaison with industry peak bodies, leadership positions within the Australian Institute of Architects)
- as Chair of the ACT Architects Registration Board she is knowledgeable about regulatory mechanisms; their administrative and enforcement operations and issues
- as President of the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia (AACA) she is aware of international best practice in education, accreditation, professional competencies and professional registration
- Catherine's appointment as Adjunct Professor in the Faculty of Arts and Design enables her input to and understanding of the education of next generation practitioners, and
- her position as co-Director of Townsend + Associates Architects forms a vital link in providing informed advice to government in a real understanding of how policy translates to the marketplace.

# COMMITTEES AND ENGAGEMENT

## Committees

### Building Regulation Advisory Committee

The Government Architect is also a member of the Building Regulation Advisory Committee which provides industry input and recommendations on existing and proposed regulations affecting construction in the ACT. The Committee assists the ACT government to work collaboratively with businesses to ensure laws and regulations do not hamper innovation or business development. The committee considers improved approaches to licencing of builders, among other matters.

### Government Architects Network of Australia

The Government Architect is a member of the Government Architects Network of Australia (GANA) which meets twice a year to discuss issues of common concern across all states in Australia.

At the meeting, the NSW Minister for Planning, Rob Stokes launched a significant new policy document created by the NSW Office of the Government Architect, the draft Architecture and Urban Design Policy. The issues faced in the expansion of the City of Sydney are applicable to other jurisdictions. The document contains valuable work on urban sustainability, social and economic structures.

## Engagement

The Government Architect spoke to several public and industry groups about the role of the Government Architect and provided the opportunity to openly discuss issues and seek feedback.

### Design Canberra

The Government Architect supports the development of cultural initiatives such as Design Canberra – a festival showcasing design on a range of scales and mediums and was actively involved in the festival.



# HIGHLIGHTS FOR SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2016

In the period September to December 2017, the Government Architect undertook the following activities:

## Environment Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

The Government Architect met with representatives of the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) and was briefed on the new 3D City Planning tool, the City and Gateway Urban Renewal Strategy, and various Master Plan projects.

## Land Development Agency

The Government Architect met with senior executives of the Land Development Agency (LDA) to discuss ongoing projects and priorities.

## Capital Metro

The Government Architect commenced as a contributing member of the Capital Metro Design Advisory Panel (DAP) providing detailed comments on proponent proposals to ensure that design of the line and attendant structures provide a high quality urban design for Canberra. The DAP addressed light rail stop design proposals and selection of the artist for works to be integrated into all light rail stop designs.

## ACT Courts Project

The Government Architect is a member of the Design Review Panel for the new ACT Courts complex, which reached the stages of detailed materials selection and review.



