Parliament House Security Upgrade Works – Perimeter
Security Enhancements

Executive Summary

- In September 2014, a review of the Australian Parliament House (APH) security arrangements was commissioned in response to the increased National Terrorism Threat Level in Australia.

- The review recommended a series of internal and external security enhancement activities at APH, of which the internal recommendations are progressively being implemented under the direction of the Presiding Officers.

- This brief is being tabled Under Section 5 of The Parliament Act 1974 which requires that: "no building or other work is to be erected on land within the Parliamentary zone unless the Minister has caused a proposal for the erection of the building or work to be laid before each House of the Parliament and the proposal has been approved by resolution of each House of Parliament".

- The proposed works are for security enhancements including fences, landscaping, and CCTV around the perimeter of APH including the northern and southern ramps and the House of Representatives and Senate Wing perimeters.

- Designs and visual representations of the proposed new construction works are available to Senators and Members through the offices of the President and the Speaker.

- The Presiding Officers have conducted confidential briefings with all parties, and individual Senators and Members. In addition to these briefings relevant committees have also been briefed in confidence.

Section One – Background

- In response to the increased National Terrorism Threat Level in Australia, the Presiding Officers authorised a Targeted Security Review of security arrangements at APH to be undertaken in September 2014.

- The Presiding Officers then established a multi-agency taskforce to implement the recommendations of that Review.

- The taskforce is chaired by the Presiding Officers and comprises representatives from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Attorney-General's Department, the Department of Finance, the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, the
Australian Federal Police (AFP), the Department of the Senate, the Department of the House of Representatives and the Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS).

- Part of the early works of the taskforce was to implement immediate security enhancement measures at APH which included an increased AFP presence, both internally and externally around the building, increased static guarding and patrols in the private areas and tighter access pass requirements for visitor and guests. These recommendations have been implemented progressively since November 2014.

- The Taskforce also developed the Australian Parliament House Security Upgrade-Implementation Plan which outlines a series of improvements or enhancements to the security arrangements at APH. DPS, of which the Presiding Officers have oversight, has been assigned primary responsibility for the security hardening of APH, including entry points, the building fabric and security infrastructure.

- The external construction works under review in this submission are around the northern (Forecourt Ramps), the western (Senate Wing), the eastern (House of Representatives Wing) and the southern (Ministerial Wing) perimeters

Section Two - Proposed external perimeter enhancements

The design, locations and specifications of the proposed external perimeter enhancements are supported by the Taskforce and include the installation of:

a) Fencing to the Northern & Southern Grass Ramps
   - Two lines of fencing on each of the four grass ramps are proposed, with the existing highest line of fence (closest to the flag mast) to be replaced with a new fence. And the existing fence further down the ramps to be removed and a new fence to be situated further down the ramp.
   - The new fences will be painted to match the existing fences.
   - The fences located closest to the flag mast on the northern side of the building are proposed to be 1200mm high, and the fences on the southern side are proposed to be 1500mm high.
   - The fences located further down the grass ramps (closest to Parliament Drive) are to be 2600mm high on the northern and southern ramps.
   - The design avoids introducing horizontal elements into the fence, which would potentially enable scaling of the barrier.

b) Forecourt Fencing along the angled wall
   - The design proposes the replacement of the existing fence in the garden of the angled wall defining the eastern and western edges of the forecourt.
• The eastern and western sections of the fence are to be installed at the edge of the continuous planter beds.
• The new fences will be painted to match the existing fences.
• At the intersection of these fences and the new fencing on the grass ramps, a glass panel will extend through the full depth of the planting zone. The height of the glass panels will match the height of the adjacent fencing on the grass ramps, and be aligned with them.
• The outermost edge of the panels will be cut back at an acute angle to retain the building profile established by the precast coping and wall below. The design of the fences uses vertical palings of flat bar painted steel sections measuring 100mm x 20mm.

c) Ministerial Wing Fencing along the angled wall

• The design proposes to replace the existing fence along the angled walls of the Ministerial Wing with vertical palings of flat bar painted steel sections measuring 100mm x 20mm.
• The eastern and western sections of the Ministerial Wing fencing are to be installed at the edge of the planter beds and painted to match the existing fences.
• At the intersection of these fences and the fencing on the grass ramps a glass panel will extend through the full depth of the planting zone.
• The height of the glass panels will match the height of the adjacent fencing on the grass ramps, and be aligned with them. The outermost edge of the panels will be cut at an angle to retain the building profile established by the precast coping and wall below.
• This fence will be connected along the stepped rear profile of the roof to a glass barrier/glazed up-stands, face fixed to the existing concrete parapet wall.

d) Barriers on the Eastern and Western Building Perimeter

• The design proposes Landscape Barriers on both the Senate and House of Representatives sides of the building. The barriers consist of 1200mm high steel fencing accompanied by planting.
• The Landscape Barrier will provide an impediment to accessing the building in the areas between the outer faces of the two curved walls.
• The design of the fences uses vertical palings of flat bar steel sections measuring 100mm x 20mm, painted to match the existing fences.
• The configuration of the landscape barrier generally runs parallel to Parliament Drive between the two driveways which provide vehicular access into and out of
the Senate and House of Representatives. Beyond this area, the fence turns in order to connect with the curved wall at approximately 90-degrees.

- Due to the curvature of the wall, this creates an oblique fence alignment of approximately 45-degrees. To re-establish alignment with the predominantly orthogonal planning of the architecture and civil works, the landscaping proposed for this area adopts 45-degree return to the landscaping.
- New 2600mm high sliding security gates are required at the vehicular slip road entrance and exit provided at both the Senate and House of Representatives.
- The retractable bollards in the driveway are retained. Beyond the gates, after the first set of bollards upon entry, a holding zone for a vehicle up to 6000mm long is provided between the gates and the second row of retractable bollards.
- One additional bollard and a new kerb crossing for landscape maintenance access is provided within the vehicular holding zone.
- New pedestrian control security turnstiles are proposed on the four landings of the existing exterior pedestrian stairs centred on the building’s east and west axis. This will enable pedestrian ingress and egress to be managed through these points.

e) Camera surveillance

- To support, and supplement the existing cameras, work is being undertaken to install cameras at selected points around the fences and gates.
- 38 new cameras are being proposed in virtual perimeter design, with two existing cameras to be upgraded and relocated.
- These cameras provide additional capability of thermal monitoring and image surveillance. This will allow the perimeter to be monitored more adequately and provide early intervention of infringement on the secure areas.

f) Selected glazing replacement around the building perimeter.

- This work replaces the existing glazing and frames with hardened glazing and frames at three ceremonial entrance points around APH.

Section Three – National Capital Authority Approval, Moral Rights and Heritage considerations

a) A comprehensive submission has been provided to the National Capital Authority (NCA) in relation to the proposed works. The NCA has considered and advised in-principle approval of the works as proposed.
b) Moral Rights considerations (Copyright Amendment (Moral Rights) Act, 2000)

- The proposed external perimeter enhancements result in a visual and structural amendment to the building's existing external perimeter.
- The nominated administrator of Mr Giurgola's moral rights has been consulted during the design process and has advised DPS of their position in regards to the proposed design and its impact on the design intent of APH. These measures and comments have been noted and efforts have been made to implement changes while balancing risk mitigation requirements.

c) Heritage (Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999)

- Parliament House is a nationally significant twentieth century building. It is included on the Australian Institute of Architects Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture.
- An independent heritage consultant was engaged to provided Heritage Impact Assessments and mitigation advice to avoid original design intent degradation throughout the design process. The advice and mitigation measures were addressed in the design.
- The HIA assessed the perimeter treatment (fences and gates) degree of impact on the heritage values of APH as moderate; long term, medium scale and moderate intensity.
- The HIA degree of impact assessment of the selected glazing replacements around the perimeter was considered to have between minor to moderate impacts according to the individual aspects of the work.