

CANBERRA



YOUR
CAPITAL

FOREWORD

This pamphlet is published by the National Capital Development Commission, the statutory body which was established by the Commonwealth Government in 1958 and charged with the responsibility of developing Canberra both as the National Capital and as a place in which increasing numbers of people will live. The pamphlet is to inform the people of Australia of what is being done, and what is being planned, in their Capital City.



Picture of the model of the Central Areas of Canberra looking from the main retail centre across Commonwealth Bridge to proposed National Centre. The Houses of Parliament and the Kings Bridge are seen at top left.

ETHOS This statue of Ethos — “the spirit of the community” — will stand in Canberra’s new City Square as an expression of the faith of the local community in the city.

Ethos, sculptured by Mr. Tom Bass, has been sponsored by the Canberra Chamber of Commerce. It depicts a young female figure clothed in embroidered cloth into which are woven the many facets of community life. The figure holds aloft a bursting sun, symbolic of the culture and enlightenment available through the National University and research and scientific organizations in the Capital.



CANBERRA AND THE FEDERAL CONCEPT

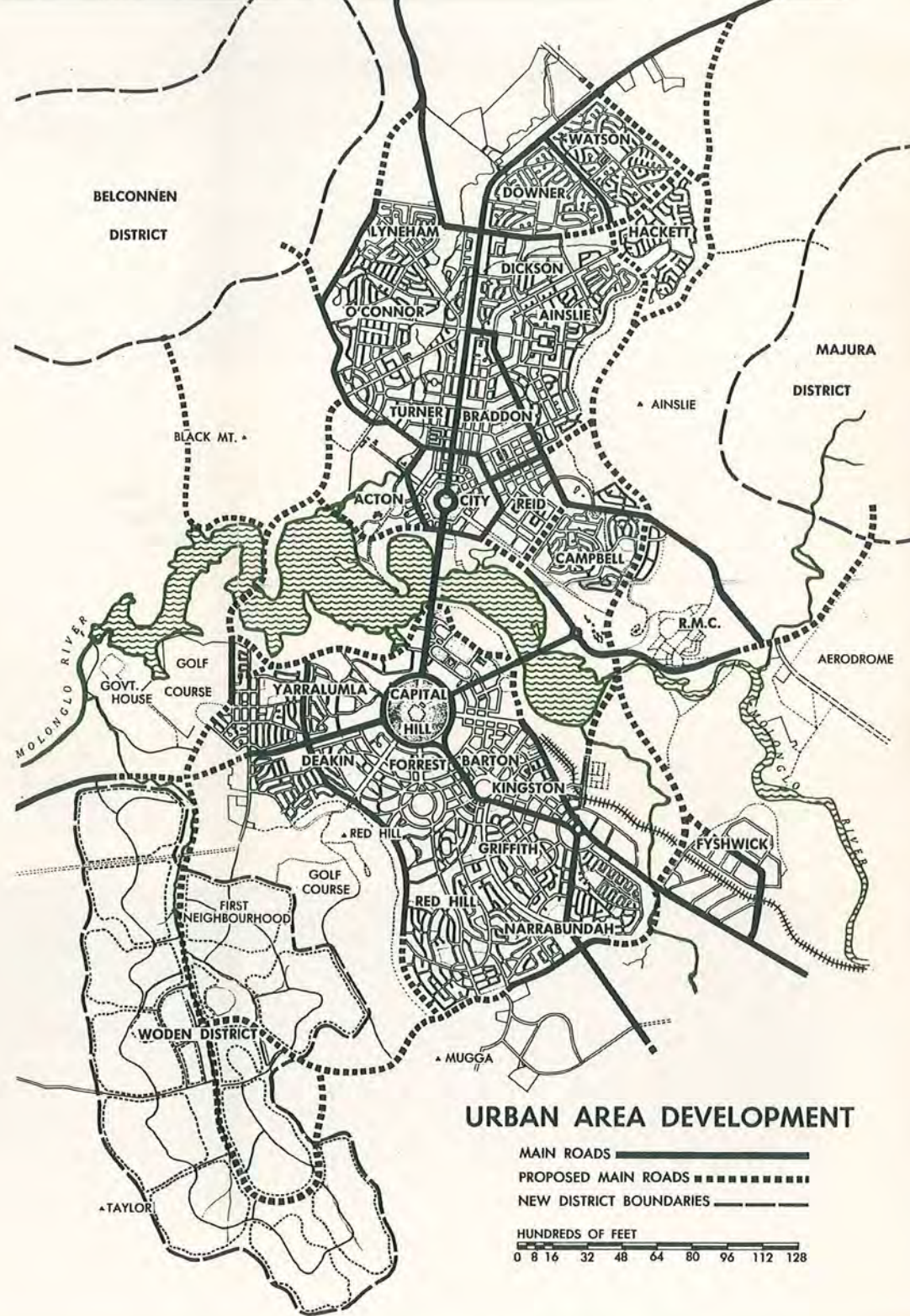
When, in 1901, the six Australian States agreed on Federation, it was decided a Federal Capital should be built. Canberra was chosen as the site and building began in 1911.

Progress, however, was slow in the initial stages. The First World War, the world wide economic depression of the 1930’s and the Second World War interrupted the city’s growth.

Since the Second World War the tempo of Canberra’s development has greatly increased. The rate of population increase in Canberra is now 10 per cent yearly. In 1960 the 50,000 mark was passed and, it is estimated, the population will be 100,000 by 1969 and could reach 250,000 by the end of the century.

Canberra is now a city developing in its own right, no longer solely dependent on Government building activity. The transformation of an empty limestone plain into the National Capital city of a vigorous young nation has, of course, not been brought about without growing pains. But the idealism of the statesmen who conceived the Commonwealth and the dedication of their successors and of the administrators has been rewarded. Canberra has now won acceptance for its identity as the National Capital. An idea has become tangible reality. Australia has, in Canberra, a true symbol of federalism.

In its planning for the future physical growth of Canberra, the National Capital Development Commission is keeping well in mind the purpose of the capital. About 95 per cent of the money spent to develop Canberra will, of course, go on the ordinary, every-day needs of a city—such as housing, engineering works and schools. With the remaining five per cent of its money the Commission will be able to provide certain features which will give Canberra appropriate National Capital characteristics.



New Rex at Canberra Hotel, one of the many contributions being made by private enterprise to the development of the National Capital.



DEVELOPMENT AIMS

In Canberra, the National Capital Development Commission has clear responsibilities. It must open up new residential areas to provide accommodation for the rapidly rising population and expand educational, recreational and other necessary community facilities. At the same time a planned expansion of the road and transport systems is under way and private commerce and industry is being given—and is eagerly accepting—opportunities to build and provide services and a diversity of employment for the population.

All this expansion is being co-ordinated so that the growth of Canberra beyond the immediate planning period can proceed smoothly.

One of the factors on which Canberra's standing as a world capital city will depend is the relationship achieved between the natural landscape of the central areas and the man-made buildings and features to be established. Vital to this is the Lake Scheme, which will unify the two halves of the city and provide the harmonising agent between what man can build in Canberra and what nature has provided.



Red Hill Primary School, typical of the schools being built in Canberra.



The Academy of Science building, near Civic Centre, is of striking architectural interest. It is the venue of many national and international conferences.

WORKS OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

In the construction field, work is well advanced on projects to provide appropriate buildings for the new undergraduate section of the Australian National University. Recent construction work for the university includes an Arts Building, Physics Building and Halls of Residence. At Russell Hill, one of the proposed group of seven office blocks to house the Defence Departments has been completed and work is proceeding towards the completion of the whole project.

The Lake Scheme, due for completion in 1963, is one of the major works of national significance now under way.

A bridge building programme now in progress will provide, by 1963, two high-level bridges giving, in all, 10 traffic lanes across the Molonglo River flood plain—later to be the lake. They are the Kings Bridge, of four traffic lanes, along the Kings Avenue axis and the Commonwealth Bridge, of six lanes, along the Commonwealth Avenue axis.



The Houses of Parliament, situated in the Parliamentary Triangle area.