



PLANNING

A NATIONAL

CAPITAL

CANBERRA TO-DAY AND TO-MORROW

The task of planning and building a Capital City to serve a vigorous, fast developing young nation is a challenging and complex assignment.

The National Capital Development Commission, the statutory authority charged with this duty, is very conscious of its responsibilities to the nation in all its decisions.

The Commission must first of all see that the municipal development of Canberra goes ahead efficiently and at a rate appropriate to a city whose population increases by more than 10 per cent. each year. At the same time the Commission must ensure that Canberra is provided with the features necessary to its identity as National Capital.

How the Commission performs its dual function is a subject of vital interest to Australians everywhere. The decisions made now are not only important to the current generation of Australians but have significance for unborn generations. What the present generation of Australians does with the National Capital will be judged by Australians of the 21st century and beyond.

The National Capital Development Commission is confident that its standards of civic design and planning will provide a rich legacy in the National Capital for future generations. It is confident also that present-day Australians will approve the planning and development of Canberra.

The Commission believes that the kind of work it is doing should be known to all Australians and that public knowledge and discussion can assist it to maintain standards of planning and developmental efficiency.

For this reason, the Commission follows a policy of publishing to as wide as possible an audience its planning proposals and details of the development work it is guiding.

Recently the Commission opened a permanent exhibition designed to show the people of Australia what is being planned, and what is being done in Canberra.

This exhibition, located in the new Canberra Civic Offices, shows, by means of models, maps, photographic and mosaic items, the present-day Canberra scene and envisages the city of the future.

The exhibition is open seven days a week for the convenience of visitors to Canberra. The Commission is most interested to hear opinions and suggestions and invites all visitors to fill in questionnaire forms available at the exhibition.

The Commission spends some 95 per cent. of its funds on housing, schools and engineering services—the normal municipal needs of a fast-growing community.

With the balance of its funds the Commission must create in Canberra the special features necessary to the city's identity as National Capital.

To achieve this a high level of planning is essential.

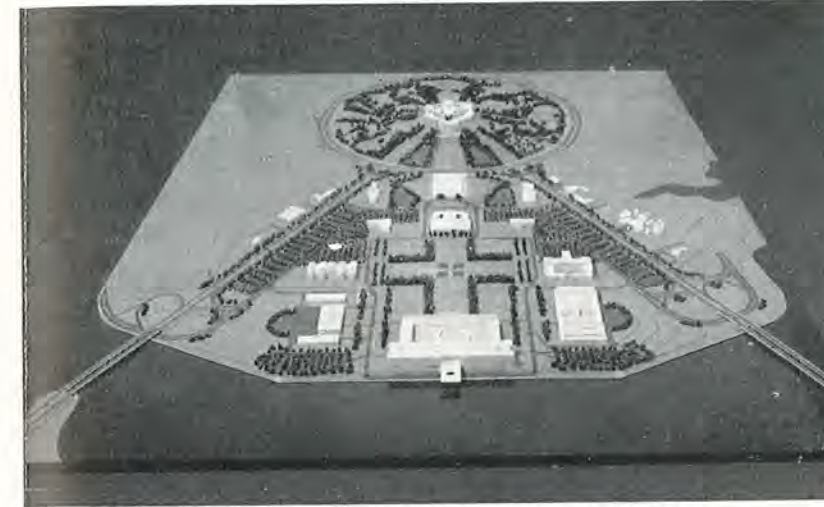
Most of the great capital cities of the world were endowed with special features in the days when the needs of the ordinary people were largely ignored. The capital city features were built and the people had to look after themselves as best they could. Monumental buildings were erected but nobody worried about the drains.

In Canberra the emphasis is very definitely on meeting the needs of the people first. However, with imaginative planning and action, the National Capital features are also being created.

By thoughtful planning, a rationalised building programme and adaptation of existing topographical features, Canberra is being given, at comparatively small cost, features which will give it the special qualities it needs to serve the nation creating it.

These qualities will become more pronounced as the capital matures over the years. The National Capital Development Commission aims to see that the Australians of the future have cause for satisfaction with their capital as a city functional to its purpose and expressing a truly Australian character.

To ensure this, the Commission, and the present-day generation of Australians, must not think only in the narrow terms of immediate needs. The planning targets must be such as to fire the imagination and challenge the capacity of the whole nation.

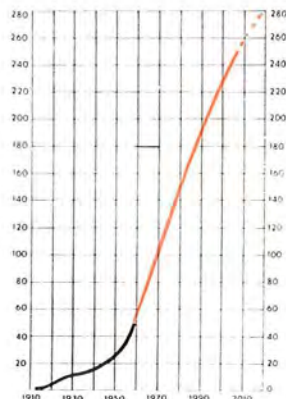


Planning Model showing lay-out of Parliamentary Triangle area

Aerial view of Canberra's new Civic Offices and City Square



LARGEST INLAND CITY



In less than 50 years since its foundation stones were laid, Canberra has become Australia's largest inland city.

Canberra's population is now approaching 60,000 and is growing at a rate of over 10 per cent. yearly. It is now estimated that the figure will reach 100,000 in 1969 and 250,000 by the end of the century.

This spectacular rate of population growth is a major factor in the planning of the National Capital. To ensure orderly development and the preservation of Canberra's character, the planning must be both long-range and definite.

The fulfilment of all the plans for the Central Area of the city—the site of the major national buildings—will take many years. Meanwhile, the municipal development of Canberra is proceeding at a brisk rate.

By 1963 the present Canberra City District will have been built out and the first houses in new suburbs in the district of Woden will be occupied.

The Woden Valley, lying to the south-west of the present Canberra, will ultimately accommodate a population of up to 60,000.

Eleven neighbourhood areas, each with a population of some 5,000, are planned for this district. Schools, shops and recreation facilities will be provided in the area to serve the local population. Provision will also be made for government and private offices and service industries to provide a proportion of employment close to the residential areas.

PERMANENT EXHIBITION

The National Capital Development Commission's permanent exhibition is located on the ground floor of the new Canberra Civic Offices, London Circuit.

These are Canberra's municipal offices. They flank a City Square—in which is situated a fountain pool—used for community and national ceremonial occasions. The flags of the six State capital cities are flown at the head of the square.

The exhibition is open during the following hours:—

Weekdays	..	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Friday nights	..	7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Saturdays and Public Holidays	..	10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., 1.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Sundays	..	2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

A receptionist is on duty to answer inquiries.

The theme of the exhibition is the Canberra scene generally, planning proposals and the partnership of interest between the development authority and private enterprise.

The National Capital Development Commission's planning exhibition.

