



NATIONAL
LIBRARY
OF AUSTRALIA

media release

Parkes Place, CANBERRA ACT 2600

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Building works project commences at National Library

An eighteen month building works project to refurbish the podium, the platform that surrounds the main heritage-listed building, has commenced at the National Library of Australia.

The \$14.737 million project is largely being funded by the Federal Government through a special one off payment announced as part of the 2006-07 Budget.

The podium covers an area of almost 7,400m² - equal to the size of 1 ½ football fields. The refurbishment is being undertaken in six stages, commencing on the northern side of the building adjacent to the café. The main building was constructed in 1968 and extended in 1985.

Two Australian companies, one locally based, have been selected to undertake the project. The design consultant is GHD Pty Ltd and Canberra-based Manteena Pty Ltd has been appointed as the construction head contractor.

Director-General Jan Fullerton AO said that the ongoing conservation, care and protection of both the building and the collection were the key reasons for the podium works.

“The safe storage and management of the national collection is our core responsibility. The waterproofing membrane located under the slate and granite tiles is reaching the end of its useful life and requires replacement,” she said.

“There will be minimal disruption to client services because of the building works. Clients and visitors will be kept well informed of the staging process, which has been given very careful consideration.”

Upgrades to the external stairs, handrails and balustrade to meet current building standards have been factored into the building project. The refurbishment also includes 36 architect designed benches, 12 umbrellas placed along the lake-side of the building and lighting and heating for *bookplate* café's outdoor eating area.

“The improvements to the lake-side of the building will mean that visitors can enjoy the Library's spectacular location next to Lake Burley Griffin into the evening all year round,” said Ms Fullerton.

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