

2016

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR
THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING,
ENVIRONMENT AND TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES INQUIRY INTO
DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT FOR THE ALBERT HALL**

No 11

**Presented by
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Minister for Planning and Land Management**

Government Response to the Standing Committee on Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services Inquiry into Draft Plan of Management for the Albert Hall

Introduction/Background

The Albert Hall is a heritage listed building owned and managed by the ACT Government. The land is designated as Public Land under the Territory Plan.

The Albert Hall is a valued heritage and cultural institution in Canberra. It has and continues to provide a social venue for community events including cultural events for people of various backgrounds and origins. The Plan of Management sets out the priorities applying to who may use the facility and places a higher priority on community based events.

The Albert Hall is currently managed by ACT Property Group in Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate. This area of Government performs the role of property manager and also manages the hiring of The Albert Hall to members of the community. The Albert Hall is heavily used across the weekends and moderately used during the working week.

The *Planning and Development Act 2007* section 320(1) requires that the custodian for an area of public land must prepare a draft plan of management for the area. As the Albert Hall site is designated as public land a Plan of Management is required.

The ACT Government prepared a draft Plan of Management for the Albert Hall. The Plan of Management was developed in consultation with relevant community, Government and commercial stakeholders.

The Minister for Planning submitted the draft Plan of Management for Albert Hall to the Standing Committee on Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services on 14 August 2014. The Standing Committee invited submissions in October 2014 and held a public hearing on 1 April 2015. The Report on the Inquiry was submitted to the Assembly in November 2015.

The ACT Government has considered the eight recommendations made by the Standing Committee and has agreed to six of the recommendations and noted two recommendations. The final plan of management will be publically released following formal approval by the Minister for Planning and Land Management under the *Planning and Development Act 2007*.

Government Position on Recommendations/Findings

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider reviewing the *Planning and Development Act 2007* to determine whether the requirement to develop plans of management is appropriate and effective.

Government Position

Noted

The ACT Government will consider this in future reviews of the legislation.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure the Plan of Management for the Albert Hall more clearly links the Plan of Management with its objectives.

Government Position

Agreed

The ACT Government will update section 1.3 of the Plan to better reflect linkages to the management objective under the legislation.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that the draft plan of management clarify its relationship to other statutory requirements, including the conservation management plan approved by the Heritage Council.

Government Position

Agreed

The ACT Government will update section 1.1 of the Plan to better reflect linkages the relationship between relevant legislation and the conservation management and landscape plan.

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that Section 1.6 of the draft Plan of Management include indicative timeframes for the proposed actions.

Government Position

Agreed

The ACT Government will amend the Plan to add Annexure C. This Annexure will detail the proposed actions as detailed in Section 1.6 and the indicative implementation timeframes.

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government confirm that for the hire of Albert Hall community groups will be charged a discounted rate.

Government Position

Agreed

Section 1.5.5 and Objective 2 in Section 1.3 currently state that an objective is to ensure the hire of the facility is affordable for individuals and community groups. The ACT Government will amend section 1.5.5 Hire Costs to clarify that a community rate will continue to be available to Incorporated Associations. Details of hiring arrangements will be provided in the, to be developed, action plan for Hiring Arrangements.

Recommendation 6

The Committee recommends that the draft Plan of Management clarify that hire fees for the Albert Hall are not expected to fully recover all the costs of the Albert Hall.

Government Position

Agreed

Section 1.5.5 and Objective 6 in Section 1.3 were drafted to address this, however section 1.5.5 will be updated to ensure this is more explicit.

Recommendation 7

The Committee recommends that groups that regularly undertake activities in the Albert Hall that fall within the definition of primary uses should be given the opportunity to make longer term and/or advance bookings.

Government Position

Agreed

This will form part of the action plan for Hiring Arrangements with provision for advance bookings for multi day events in certain circumstances.

Recommendation 8

The Committee recommends that the draft Plan of Management clarify that any commercial coffee or catering ventures at the Albert Hall should not impinge on the ability of hirers to self-cater through use of the venue's kitchen facilities.

Government Position

Noted

Dot point one under 1.5.6 includes the statement that "Self-catering kitchen facilities will be maintained and available to hirers". As such the ACT Government believes that this is already addressed.