



 A.C.T. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE OFFICE	
SUBMISSION NUMBER	2
DATE AUTH'D FOR PUBLICATION	15/10/14

The Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee
on Planning, Environment and Territory and Municipal Services

Inquiry into the Albert Hall Plan of Management

I wish to make a brief submission to the Inquiry into the Albert Hall Plan of Management. My name is Maurice Rea Sexton and I reside at 1 Tinaroo Duffy ACT. I have a strong interest and experience in heritage matters and was a foundation member of the Friends of the Albert Hall Inc. I continue to be an ordinary member of that organisation.

Firstly I must say how pleased I am that this matter has now progressed to the stage of a Committee hearing on the matter. It has had a long gestation period.

There are a few aspects of the draft Plan of Management (the draft PoM) that give me concern.

Probably the most important of these is that **the draft PoM does not set any timeframes for the various actions listed in it.** While para 1.6 states that actions will be delivered over Short, Medium and Long Term time frames, it does not go on to identify which actions fall into those respective time frames. Because of this shortcoming, there is no basis upon which the success or otherwise of implementing the draft PoM can be measured. It virtually renders the PoM ineffective as a tool for planning and evaluating the work that might be undertaken over the 10 year period of the plan. **I recommend that each of the actions listed in paragraph 1.6 be allocated a time frame and a relative priority.**

The second aspect of the draft PoM that gives me concern is the proposed **membership of the Management Reference Group**, Para 1.5.2 says that former members of the Capital Works Reference group and the Plan of Management Reference Group *will be considered* (my emphasis) in selecting appropriate and interested parties for the Management Reference Group. As these are people who have driven the campaign for the protection of the heritage of Albert Hall, with the clear objective of its continued wide community use, I consider **that more weight needs to be given to those credentials than to those of potential users of the hall.** The protection of the cultural heritage of the hall has greater significance than Figure 4 of the plan suggests.

I am pleased to see that the PoM **proposes a trialling of some form of venue management resource** that could initially work part-time but eventually work extended hours as the use the venue increases. **I see great value in that strategy which in my view would have benefits all round.**

The other item upon which I am disappointed is the non-availability of affordable **Public Liability Insurance** (PLI) to prospective individual hirers and non-incorporated organisations. At 2.5.3 the draft PoM identifies the non-availability of PLI arrangements to individual hirers and to some community groups as a restraint. **In my view, that constraint should be removed by extending the special PLI arrangements to individuals and non-incorporated community groups.** Such an extension would materially increase the usage of Albert Hall by those individuals and groups and substantially increase the hall's financial viability.

Maurice Sexton
October 2014