



## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES  
SUZANNE ORR MLA (CHAIR), CANDICE BURCH MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), JAMES MILLIGAN MLA

### Inquiry into referred 2017–18 Annual and Financial Reports ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by Caroline Le Couteur: To ask the Minister for Environment and Heritage

[Ref: Heritage, Environment & Heritage, EPSDD Annual Report]

In relation to: Preparation of a Heritage Strategy for the ACT

Noting that In February 2016, in preparation for developing an ACT Heritage Strategy, the Government released a Discussion Paper: Five Year ACT Heritage Strategy, 2016-2021, Discussion Paper

1. Is the Government going ahead with developing a Heritage Strategy?
  - a. If yes: What are the steps from here and when will the community be consulted?
  - b. If not: Is there any other strategic work you are doing on heritage instead of a new strategy?

MICK GENTLEMAN: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. In reviewing the priorities of ACT Heritage following its restructure from the Strategic Planning Division to the Environment Division within EPSDD, the further development of a Heritage Strategy has been put on hold whilst current resourcing necessarily responds to the increasing submission of statutory heritage advice and approval requests and community expectation to reduce the nomination list.
  - a. n/a
  - b. The ACT Heritage Council (the Council) met on 15 November 2018 where it agreed to develop a Strategic Plan to focus on priority issues and deliver a strategic vision for the Council. This work will continue in 2019.

Other strategic work for the 2017-18 period includes:

- Heritage Festival analysis and review  
ACT Heritage engaged an external researcher to develop a demographic profile of attendees and to measure their experiences, an understanding of their behaviours and insights that can be used to help shape the Festival for future years. This work was completed in 2018.
- Reducing the list of nominations awaiting assessment  
ACT Heritage and the Council has reduced the list of nominations awaiting

assessment. Since reaching a peak of 320 in 2008 the current number of nominations awaiting assessment is 91.

- Development of priority list of nominations to be assessed in 2017-18
  - At the beginning of each reporting period, the Council decides on its annual priority list of nominated places and objects to be assessed.
  - Council decides its priorities for assessing nominated places and objects based on resourcing, community expectations, and land development pressures and threat to a heritage place or object and appeal risk.
  - The Council completed 68% of its priority list assessments for the reporting period as well as making decisions on three other places additional to the list, which were identified as additional priorities as the year progressed.
  - 68% is a sound result, as the Council must balance the requirement to make heritage decisions in addition to its other functions, such as the provision of statutory advice and assisting with ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal appeals.

- **Priority List Result Breakdown**

<b>15</b> nominations on the priority list assessed, out of <b>22</b> identified priorities on the list (68%)
<b>3</b> additional nominations assessed during 2017-2018 that were not on the priority list, but were on the <b>nominations list</b>
<b>18</b> nominations assessed in total in 2017-2018
<b>2</b> nominations on the <b>nominations list</b> identified as duplications, reducing the entire list by <b>2</b>
<b>Nominations list</b> reduced by <b>20</b> nominations

- Increased and new ways of public consultation and engagement  
On behalf of the Council, ACT Heritage has adopted practices and taken additional measures to engage further with stakeholders and increase clarity surrounding heritage issues and decisions. Specifically:
  - In early 2018, ACT Heritage contacted nominators of places that have been nominated longer than one year to inform them of assessment status. Nominators were also invited to provide new or additional information on nominations to assist the Council with expediting assessments in the future.
  - ACT Heritage updated the Register to include detailed contextual information on nominated places/objects to provide clarity for property owners and nominators.
  - ACT Heritage worked with EPSDD Communications to boost outreach and publicity surrounding Council decisions on provisional registration. Specifically,

Council decisions to provisionally register are now publicised on social media to increase community 'buy in' on heritage matters.

- Internal review of heritage offence and compliance provisions  
Commenced internal review of heritage offence and compliance provisions to ensure tools and legislation required for effective compliance and enforcement action are suitable leading to a good heritage outcomes.
- Review of ACT Heritage processes  
Developing effective and efficient ways of operating where possible. This is ongoing.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services

Signature:



Date: 3/12/08

By the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Mick Gentleman MLA

