



# Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–2024

## Answer to question on notice

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Asked by: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Heritage

Redirected to: Minister for Business, Arts and Creative Industries

Reference: 250219 Environment - Heritage

Hearing: 17/02/2025

In relation to: Environment - Heritage Sites

Question received: 24/02/2025

Answer Due: 04/03/2025

Can you provide a total of all operational costs for the privately managed Heritage Sites Mugga-Mugga Cottage and Lanyon Homestead?

Please provide a breakdown of costs for the maintenance of these private properties, including heritage asset upkeep, land management and general repairs.

Many privately operated heritage sites, namely Lanon Homestead, received asset maintenance funding. As per the Annual Report, it is planned that Lanyon Homestead will receive \$3,097, 000 for overall upgrades, \$3,903,000 for driveway and Shearer Precinct upgrades, and \$951,000 for cultural upgrades. Are these private properties expected to operate at profit, or do they require ongoing government support?

Please provide further information on ACT Historic Places data, including a breakdown of visitor statistics, the types of activities hosted in these spaces, and how overall they contribute to the community

Michael Petterson MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Lanyon Homestead and Mugga Mugga Cottage are not privately owned or operated properties, they are wholly owned by the ACT Government and managed by the Cultural Facilities Corporation (CFC) as "designated places" under the Cultural Facilities Corporation Act 1997. Both properties are also heritage-listed under the ACT Heritage Act.

The CFC is a statutory corporation of the ACT Government, partially funded through an annual appropriation. In 2023-24 the CFC recorded its highest percentage of own-source revenue (57.7%).

## OFFICIAL

The CFC employs its own workforce of curatorial, exhibitions, collections, horticulture and facilities maintenance staff. Lanyon Homestead, Mugga Mugga Cottage and Calthorpes House (at times collectively referred to as “ACT Historic Places”) are maintained as house and land museums, showcasing aspects of the ACT’s significant natural and cultural heritage. Lanyon Homestead in particular is open year round, Wednesday-Sunday, with free access to the gardens for the community and low-cost guided tours of the house. The CFC also provides education and public programs to schools and the community.

Upgrades to Lanyon Homestead are generally funded by a capital appropriation from Government and include major conservation works of the homestead and historic outbuildings, adaptive reuse of the former Nolan gallery by converting it to modern office accommodation for staff, upgrades of the 2km driveway which is susceptible to storm damage, and stabilisation of the historic shearers precinct as a future site for visitation.

In 2023-24, Mugga Mugga, Calthorpes House and Lanyon Homestead received 70,536 visitors (increase of 28% from 2022-23). This included 7,508 students for education programs, and 7,047 visitors for public programs and events. These sites play an important role in delivering curriculum-related education programs for schools that connect with the history and heritage of Canberra, including First Nations, non-Indigenous, and natural heritage values and stories.

The CFC delivered 819 public programs and tours at these three sites in 2023-24. These included signature events like the Harvest Day Out festival and Live @ Lanyon Spring concert with the Canberra Symphony Orchestra. Lanyon Homestead is also the official satellite site for Floriade. 45.5% of attendees to the public events were first time visitors, with the majority from the South Canberra/Tuggeranong region.

In alignment with the ACT Arts Policy, the CFC in its management of these sites also supports ACT artists including through exhibition and development opportunities as part of the Lanyon Art Prize, and employment opportunities by engaging local artists to deliver art-based public programs.

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

Signature:



Date: 4/3/25

By the Minister for Business, Arts and Creative Industries, Michael Pettersson MLA