



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY
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Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into ACT's heritage arrangements

Submission Number: 041

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Protecting, promoting and enhancing the economic, cultural, social and environmental well-being of the residents of North Canberra

The North Canberra Community Council receives funding and support from the ACT Government

Legislative Assembly Inquiry into ACT's heritage arrangements

The North Canberra Community Council includes the suburbs of Acton, Ainslie, Braddon, Campbell, City, Dickson, Downer, Hackett, Lyneham, O'Connor, Pialligo, Reid, Russell, Turner and Watson. All these suburbs apart from Hackett have heritage places of significance. Please see Appendix 1. List of North Canberra suburbs with places of heritage significance currently on the ACT Heritage Register.

Management of these places and the broader Heritage of the ACT is important for both the present and the future as it conserves places, built form and objects of significance. These have the potential to capture the stories and experiences (intangible heritage) and cultural and natural history of the ACT.

We note the following references to heritage significance regarding natural history and places, as well as cultural groups (highlighted in red) within the remit of the ACT Heritage Council under the *Heritage Act 2004* as below:

Under the [Heritage Act 2004](#) (the Act) the Council is responsible for keeping a register of places and objects in the ACT which have heritage significance at the Territory level. A place or object must meet at least one of the heritage significance criteria outlined in the Act to be entered in the register. The criteria are:

- a. importance to the course or pattern of the ACT's cultural **or natural history**;
- b. has uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the ACT's cultural **or natural history**;
- c. potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the **ACT's cultural or natural history**;
- d. importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural **or natural places** or objects;
- e. importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by the ACT community or a **cultural group in the ACT**;
- f. importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement for a particular period;
- g. has a **strong or special association** with the ACT community, or a **cultural group** in the ACT for **social, cultural or spiritual reasons**;
- h. has a special association with the life or work of a person, or people, important to the history of the ACT.

To manage the ACT Heritage Council's remit there needs to be increased resources, including the those serving on the ACT Heritage Council of those with environmental/ecological expertise and multicultural expertise.

We endorse the following submissions for their expertise in managing heritage of all forms and their recommendations on how to improve Heritage arrangements for the ACT.

- Submission 008 - Griffith Narrabundah Community Association PDF (655.4 KB)
- Submission 004 - Professor Roz Hansen AM PDF (744.4 KB)
- Submission 003 - ACT Commissioner for Sustainability & the Environment PDF (584.9 KB)
- Submission 001 - Duncan Marshall AM and Dr Michael Pearson AO PDF (511.1 KB)

These recommendations for improving heritage arrangements include:

- addressing climate change and reduce biodiversity loss
- increasing resource allocation
- strengthening the capacity of the ACT Heritage Council to enforce heritage legislation
- revising the composition of the ACT Heritage Council to include expertise to cover environment and multicultural heritage
- establishing the ACT Heritage Council as an independent statutory body with a decision-making role
- clarifying the role of ex-officio members of the ACT Heritage Council and the need to a need to separate the powers of the EPSDD and the ACT Heritage Council
- revising the development application process that currently undermines the standing of the ACT Heritage Council
- improving mechanisms for penalties and offences.

Jochen Zeil, Chair NCCC on behalf of the NCCC Committee

31 March 2023