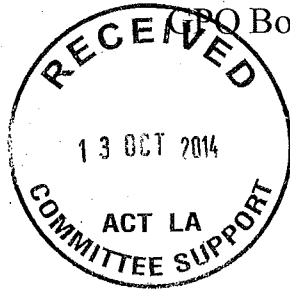





**Royal Scottish Country Dance Society
Canberra and District Branch**

GPO Box 1795, Canberra ACT 2601



13 October 2014

Mr Hamish Finlay
Secretary
Standing Committee on Planning, Environment
and Territory and Municipal Services
Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory
GPO Box 1020
Canberra ACT 2601

	A.C.T. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE OFFICE
SUBMISSION NUMBER	3
DATE AUTH'D FOR PUBLICATION	15/10/14

Dear Mr Finlay

I refer to your Committee's invitation to provide submissions to its inquiry into the draft plan of management for Albert Hall.

The Scottish Country Dancing community in Canberra has held regular annual Balls since the 1950s. I understand that the Albert Hall was the venue for many of these events in earlier years. More recently, Canberra's Scottish Country Dancers have made only very occasional use of the Albert Hall, despite the fact that it is recognised as an outstandingly attractive venue for major dance events. The cost of hiring the Albert Hall has been a major factor influencing decisions to seek an alternative venue for most of our recent annual Balls.

A Scottish Ball was held there in 2008 as a joint effort arranged by all of the Scottish Country Dance groups active in Canberra. I understand that the hall was rented at the standard rate for community groups on this occasion. In 2013 the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Canberra and District Branch, organised a Scottish Ball as one of the Centenary of Canberra dance events, under a contract with the SoCanDance consortium through which the ACT Government made the hall available at no cost. We greatly appreciate the Government's vision and generosity, which enabled the holding of this event in the venue that was historically most appropriate.

Canberra's Scottish Country Dancers have a strong interest in the continuing availability of the Albert Hall as a dance venue that can be hired at a reasonably affordable cost. Current hire rates are such that we could only consider holding major events which can justify a comparatively high ticket price. We think that the availability of the Albert Hall at an affordable cost (particularly if it would otherwise be unused) would encourage more community use of the facility for dance events to the benefit of this important element of Canberra's cultural life, and the community generally.

Yours sincerely

(signed)
Alan McCulloch
Secretary

Chairman: Jack Arthur phone +61 2 6254 7879

Secretary: Alan McCulloch phone +61 2 6288 5670 e-mail alan.mcculloch@netspeed.com.au