

**From:** [Hugh Dakin](#)  
**To:** [LA Committee - ECCB](#)  
**Subject:** INQUIRY INTO ACT'S HERITAGE ARRANGEMENTS - SUBMISSION  
**Date:** Sunday, 19 March 2023 11:54:56 PM

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Greetings,

1. I welcome this opportunity to send my submission.

2. (a) The terms of reference include: "any other related matters with respect to the ACT's heritage arrangements".

(b) In this context, based on my experiences described below, I submit that the government's supposed "enforcement" of heritage legislation is ineffectual, perhaps indeed non-existent, which should be fixed.

3. (a) My experiences relate to the construction of two carports/garages on adjoining properties in the area covered by the Blandfordia 5 Garden City Heritage Precinct Code in Griffith, ACT.

(b) That Precinct Code is excellent, being clear, comprehensive, professional and well-illustrated. It includes at item 2.1b: "additions to buildings...shall not be permitted closer to a front boundary than the original building line, irrespective of existing encroachments".

(c) Carports/garages were built on both properties in breach of the above rule. I have had numerous communications with the ACT Government in consequence, including the following.

(d) Regarding property A, I reported the matter on 16 November 2020 and received an email from the government dated 22 June 2022 which included "I have mailed a further warning letter to the lessee today giving them 30 days to to comply with the order to demolish/remove the unapproved structure". The structure remains on 19 March 2023.

(e) Regarding property B, I reported the matter on 17 March 2021 and received an email from the government dated 22 September 2021 which included "the lessee of the property has been issued with a notice advising them of the illegal structure and is required to have it removed from the land". The structure remains on 19 March 2023.

4. Accordingly, I submit, based on the above, that the Blandfordia 5 Precinct Code, the work of an earlier government, is excellent (see 3.(b) above), whereas the supposed "enforcement" of the legislation, by the current government, is ineffectual, perhaps indeed non-existent (see 3.(d) and 3.(e) above) and this feebleness needs to be remedied.

Yours,

Hugh Dakin

