

MEDIA RELEASE

National Trust of Australia



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National Capital response to Albert Hall is just a part of the way to a sensible outcome.

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The National Trust welcomes yesterday's decision by the National Capital Authority to pull back from their plans for a 25 metre (8 storey) building in the Albert Hall precinct and to ensure that the primary use for the area will not be commercial.

But this decision just goes part of the way to restoring some type of sensibility to the whole debate.

The NCA has not backed off from developing the area around Albert Hall and the future use of the precinct is still not clear.

There is a major conflict between the ACT Heritage Council, representing the ACT Government, and the NCA over recommendations made in a conservation and management report on the Albert Hall which was commissioned over a year ago.

This report by the ACT and another covering the foreshores of Lake Burley Griffin commissioned by the NCA are still in draft stage and have not been released to the public.

The ACT National Trust has urged both groups to stop pointing the finger of blame and responsibility at each other and seriously consider that not only is this development impacting on Canberra City but also the National Capital of Australia.

The ACT Trust met with planning representatives from the NCA yesterday and made it clear that they considered the planning inappropriate and presumptuous given that there had been no comprehensive environment and heritage study done on the whole Albert Hall precinct.

The ACT Trust will be urging the NCA to withdraw the current Development Variation for the Albert Hall precinct, take it back to the drawing board, and come up with a better solution which addresses the historic and social importance of the area as well as the traffic flow and parking logistics.

For more information please call
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