

MEDIA RELEASE

National Trust of Australia



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Albert Hall – just the tip of an iceberg of inane city planning

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The current heated community debate centred on the planned development of the Albert Hall precinct is just the tip of an iceberg of urban planning which the National Capital Authority has on the table for Canberra.

The Albert Hall precinct is renowned for its picturesque surrounds but plans are afoot to place several 2-4 story buildings as well as an 8 story building around the current complex

In addition, recent amendments to the National Capital Plan by the NCA reveal plans for massive inner urban development extending from Anzac Parade, along Constitutional Avenue, up to and around City Hill and extending along the northern shoreline of West Basin Lake Burley Griffin.

The ACT National Trust has organised a meeting with senior officials at the NCA on Monday to discuss the plans.

Dr. Peter Dowling, Heritage Officer for the ACT National Trust is concerned about the future urban landscape.

“Together with the proposed Albert Hall Precinct changes on the southern shoreline of Lake Burley Griffin, these other plans will result in an urban landscape reminiscent of a dark nightmare”, Dr Dowling stated. “Driving along Constitution Avenue, Commonwealth Avenue, Vernon circle and London Circuit would be like driving through a concrete and glass canyon.”

While there is a need to revitalise parts of our inner city it is the vast scale of the development proposed by the NCA and the total lack of overall consideration of the heritage values of our national capital and the places which people want to conserve which is concerning the National Trust.

Following the meeting with the NCA on Monday the ACT National Trust has until the end of April before community consultation on the project ends and the motion goes before the government.

For more information please call
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