

National Trust of Australia



NATIONAL TRUST

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Date: 11 April 2007 For Immediate Release **Our Heritage Places are at Risk**

The ACT National Trust has been busy reviewing the heritage listed places in the ACT and assessing their current risk.

The President of the ACT Trust, Mr Eric Martin AM, stated today, "The result of this exercise is alarming to say the least. We have identified many places which we consider are under various degrees of risk, ranging from potential destruction, deterioration and neglect."

"Most prominent is the erosion of the Garden City philosophy under which our city was planned. The current debate centred on the planned development of the Albert Hall precinct is just the tip of an iceberg of other plans extending from Anzac Parade to Lake Burley Griffin which the Commonwealth and Territory Governments have on the table."

Individual places in the ACT at risk include the Belconnen Naval Transmitting Station, Tharwa Bridge, Hall and Tharwa Schools, Yarralumla Brickworks, several early homesteads, the Cameron Offices and many other natural and historic places which have been nominated to the ACT Heritage Places List but which have not been processed.

But more worrying is the loss of protection to thousands of significant places throughout Australia due to the deletion of the Register of the National Estate from the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act (EPBC) and the erosion of the Garden City philosophy in the current urban planning of our city.

All these places have been nominated to an Australia-wide programme run by the National Trust which will identify places at risk in all the states and territories.

The nominated at-risk places for each state and territory will be launched nationally in April, and then the nation's top ten places will be selected and announced in July.

With the release of this new joint programme, the National Trust hopes to draw attention to the dire state of some of Australia's heritage and the damaging effect of political and business influences on important places our community wants to conserve.

A web site has been created by the National Trust specifically for this project: www.heritageatrisk.org.au

For further information please call:

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