



NATIONAL TRUST

MEDIA RELEASE

National Trust targets a sustainable future

Friday, 9 November 2007

The Australian Council of National Trusts, the body representing 80 000 National Trust members, has called for a commitment from all parties contesting the federal election to use the nationwide resource of National Trust properties to educate Australians in achieving a sustainable future.

The National Trust is requesting ten million dollars to convert its heritage properties into examples of best sustainable practice.

Pat Comben, Chairman of the Australian Council of National Trusts, stated that the Trust owned or managed over 250 heritage properties across Australia and deserved federal funding.

“In total these properties are visited by more than half a million people annually”, Mr. Comben said. “These much loved places are located in every State and Territory and include important historic buildings and gardens in every capital city, as well as a large number of country towns. They provide a unique national resource for educating the community about best practice in energy and water sustainability.”

Trust places are part of the essential fabric of countless communities and exist with a strong degree of community support.

The Trust is asking for federal assistance to carry out energy and water use audits of its properties and then retrofit them to utilise renewable energy technologies and to reduce water use.

“The incoming government, with an investment of \$10 million over three years can realise a brilliant return on this very modest investment”, Comben continued. “The properties can become examples of best practice and through their high visitor numbers drive home to householders in an engaging way the need for all Australians to take responsibility for energy and water conservation.”

For more information please call Patrick Comben on (02) 6642 4122 (9am – 5pm) or (02) 6642 3216 (after hours)