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MEDIA RELEASE

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National Trust supports the recommendation to reopen Hall and Tharwa Primary Schools

The ACT National Trust strongly supports the recommendation made by the Legislative Assembly report *Schools Closures and Reform of the ACT Education System 2006* to reopen the Hall and Tharwa schools

Both these schools have been classified by the National Trust for their heritage significance and social values to the village communities and both are listed on the ACT Heritage Register for the same reasons.

Hall (1911) and Tharwa (1912) schools are closely associated with a period when small rural schools were provided to meet the needs of the region prior to the large suburban schools being built from 1922.

The ACT Trust has expressed its concerns over the 2006 closures of these schools several times, through the media; by letters to the Chief Minister and Minister in 2006 and placed both schools on our national Heritage at Risk List

The closure of both these schools has left open the question of their future use and so threatens the conservation of the existing fabric of the buildings.

The continued closure of these buildings and their uncertain future has the potential to erode the very historical and social values specified as significant on the ACT Heritage Register.

By placing these schools on the Heritage Register the ACT Government has an obligation to protect the buildings and so retain their historical and social values.

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