

National Trust of Australia



NATIONAL TRUST

Australian Capital Territory
1ST Floor North Building
Corner London Circuit & Civic Square
Canberra City ACT 2601
PO Box 1144 Civic Square 2608

MEDIA RELEASE

ABN 50 797 949 955
Phone 02 6230 0533
Fax 02 6230 0544
Email info@act.nationaltrust.org.au
Web www.nationaltrustact.org.au

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Heritage is poorly considered by ACT political parties

In the lead up to the elections the National Trust forwarded a series of questions to all political parties asking them to state what their heritage policies were and their likely commitment to heritage during the forthcoming term of the Legislative Assembly.

The questions ranged over a number of heritage related issues such as:

- Increasing the funding for the annual ACT Heritage Grants Program
- Nominating Canberra for the Australian National Heritage List
- Re-establish the ACT Heritage Festival to coincide with World Heritage Day in April
- Develop a heritage strategy for the ACT
- Prepare comprehensive heritage surveys prior to and in the planning stages of future development works.
- Provide adequate resources to complete the large back-log of heritage nominations of places of significance in the ACT.

The Trust also asked for the provision of financial support to sustain its work in heritage conservation. The ACT National Trust is the only National Trust in Australia which does not receive any dedicated financial support from its state or territory government.

Unfortunately only two parties, the ALP & the Community Alliance responded to these questions.

The President of the ACT National Trust, Mr Eric Martin AM stated that while some answers were considered adequate, the overall score card was poor with a lack of enthusiasm and no substantial commitment to protect ACT heritage coming from anyone.

This has left the National Trust wondering what commitment to our history and heritage places the other parties have, particularly the Canberra Liberals and the Greens.

Details of the questions and answers are on the Trust website:

<http://www.nationaltrustact.org.au/?pageid=30>

For further information contact

Mr Eric Martin AM
President
(02) 6260 6395

Dr Peter Dowling
Heritage Officer
(02) 6230 0533

0417 067 783

0417 233 194