



1ST FLOOR, NORTH BUILDING
CORNER of LONDON CIRCUIT
& CIVIC SQUARE
CANBERRA CITY ACT

PO BOX 1144
CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608

EMAIL: info@act.nationaltrust.org.au
WEB: www.nationaltrustact.org.au

T: 02 6230 0533

F: 02 6230 0544

PATRON: The Hon Margaret Reid AO

MEDIA RELEASE

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Protection of early historic places in North Weston Development

The ACT National Trust and Canberra Archaeological Society (CAS) are concerned for the protection and conservation of historic cultural remains in the North Weston and Molonglo Valley development areas.

We note in the *Canberra Times* (6 January 2010) that environmental groups are concerned about the loss of Yellow Box/Red Gum grassy woodlands in the area during development. While this is of concern to both organizations we are also apprehensive about the future of sites associated with the rural history of the area.

The National Trust together with the Canberra Archaeological Society expressed concerns to the Chief Minister in June 2009 about rural heritage and Indigenous artefacts in the area. The response received was that heritage consultants were assessing the area and the Government had complete confidence that all necessary steps to identify the impact of the development on heritage values would be taken.

The Trust and CAS asked for further feedback via the ACT Heritage Unit on the progress of the heritage assessments but none has been forthcoming. No draft reports have been received or any inkling of which sites if any were considered important and how they were to be conserved or interpreted within the development.

At a recent historical archaeological workshop held in Canberra the possibility was raised of joint funding between government and developers to maximize the conservation of historical and Indigenous cultural heritage in areas undergoing urban development and to recognize Canberra's history at the same time as we celebrate 100 years of the foundation of the ACT.

For further information contact:

National Trust: Dr Peter Dowling, Heritage Officer, 6230 0533 or 0417 233 194

Canberra Archaeological Society; Helen Cooke, President, 0408 443 243