

National Trust of Australia



NATIONAL TRUST

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ACT National Trust gives a 'thumbs up' to NCA proposed plans to conserve York Park North

The ACT National Trust has reviewed the National Capital Authorities plans to upgrade and protect the historic York Park North English Oakplantation.

The plantation, located on the corner of Kings Avenue and State Circle Barton, was established on 10 May 1927 as part of the celebrations for the opening of Parliament in the new national capital.

His Royal Highness the Duke of York, who opened the Parliament, planted an English oak tree specially shipped to Australia from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. This oak tree still survives on the western corner of the plantation adjacent to the Kings Avenue, State Circle junction.

National Trust Heritage Officer, Dr Peter Dowling, said today that for many years this small 1.7 hectares plantation has been neglected and while almost all Canberrans and visitors to Canberra have driven past it, its historic significance has been largely unrealised and forgotten.

As part of the upgrading of the park the National Trust has suggested that acorns from the 'Duke of York's Tree' be the primary source of propagation for seedlings to replace original trees which have died.

The ACT National Trust placed the park on its Classified List of significant places in 1996 and in 2004 advocated strongly for its retention when the Federal Department of Finance and Administration considered disposing of the site to permit the construction of an office complex.

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