

Di Johnstone

From: Sky Christensen [campaign@act.greens.org.au]
Sent: Thursday, 2 October 2008 3:46 PM
To: info@ouralberthall.com
Subject: ACT Greens: Friends of the Albert Hall Questionnaire response

Dear Peter,

Thank you for your questionnaire.

Deb Foskey and Kerrie Tucker of the Greens have been supportive of the Friends of the Albert Hall since the group was established last year. See the attached media releases from Deb Foskey's office.

To answer your questions:

1. We agree to recognise the Albert Hall as a municipal "town hall" facility with its prime function being affordable community, cultural and civic use.
2. We commit to the retention of ACT Government ownership of the Albert Hall.
3. We recognise the statutory designation of the Albert Hall site as public land.
4. We commit to the immediate development of a Plan of Management.
5. We agree that the Plan of Management will reflect the principles of point 1.
6. We agree that the Plan of Management should be developed prior to any long term management arrangement for the hall being entered into.
7. We commit to the retention of the Hall under public management.
8. We agree with the implementation of a recurrent budget for hall operations with a capital works program to restore the hall.
9. We support the Government's nomination of the hall to the National Heritage List.
10. We agree to review the public liability policies for the hire of the hall with a view to ensuring that the use of the hall remains affordable.

Regards,

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Sky Christensen
Campaign Coordinator
ACT Greens 2008 Assembly election campaign
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5/10/2008

Deb Foskey MLA

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5 April 07

Release crucial report on Albert Hall

Deb Foskey, ACT Greens MLA, today called on the ACT Government to release the Conservation and Landscape Management Plan (CMP) for Albert Hall which has been around in draft form since the middle of last year.

"The ACT Government appears to have ducked on the issue of Albert Hall and let the National Capital Authority take all the flak in the growing community concern about the fate of the area," said Dr Foskey today.

"Yet the ACT Government plays a crucial role in the future of Albert Hall. It owns the building, and is currently in the process of preparing tender documents for future management of the site."

"It is hard to see how it can do this without considering the Conservation and Landscape Management Plan which the ACT Government was obliged to prepare under its own heritage legislation."

"The Plan was given to the NCA months ago, yet it is apparently still in draft, waiting for the ACT Heritage Council and Minister Hargreaves to adopt it."

"The passionate community debate is poorly informed without the CMP and I call on the ACT Government to release it as soon as possible in the interests of an informed debate."

"Otherwise the ACT community can rightly wonder why the ACT government is so silent on this issue and if there is something in the Plan it doesn't want us to know. If there is nothing to hide, show us," said Dr Foskey.

MEDIA CONTACT Roland Manderson **62050551** or **0412241379**

ACT GREENS RELEASE

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25 May 07

Albert Hall for the community

Deb Foskey, ACT Greens MLA, today called on the ACT Government to make sure that community use of Albert Hall is prioritised over commercial objectives.

“The ACT Government finally heard community concerns last night on issues around the management of Albert Hall,” said Dr Foskey.

“I asked early in April for the ACT Government to release the Conservation and Landscape Management Plan for Albert Hall which has been around in draft form since the middle of last year. It has not yet been made public, although Minister Hargreaves assured me that it would be.”

“The ACT Government plays a crucial role in the future of Albert Hall. It owns the building, and is currently in the process of deciding who is the successful tenderer for future management of the site.”

“At last night’s public meeting, it was very clear that the Canberra community wants their Hall to be restored and maintained for community use.”

“The Government’s tender documents require only that community organisations have access for a minimum of 50 days in the first year, with no obligations to provide access in succeeding years.”

“I have real concerns that the tender documents require the lessee to perform the capital works and maintenance based on their assessment of what these should be, rather than what best would serve the community.”

“The place has been run down so much that well over a million dollars will be needed to restore the building and make it safe – all within heritage guidelines.”

“If the tenderer pays for those works, we will end up with shared control, making it harder for the government to represent community wishes for the Hall.”

“There should be community consultation on the objectives of the management plan before the tender documents are drawn up to prevent this happening. It is to be hoped that now that it has heard community concerns, the ACT Government will ensure that this tender process provides good outcomes for the community and Albert Hall,” said Dr Foskey.

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6 June 07

The future of Albert Hall

Deb Foskey, ACT Greens MLA, called on the ACT Government to put a stop on its tender process for the private management and maintenance of Albert Hall.

“The Opposition in the Assembly today moved a motion which supported my attempts last week to get the ACT Government to put a halt on its tender process for the management of Albert Hall” Dr Foskey said today.

“My motion called for the ACT Government to recognise the ongoing community cultural value and the heritage of Albert Hall, to acknowledge the importance of continued public ownership and community participation in control of the Hall and to make community access and activity as the primary use for the building.”

“I welcome the Opposition’s belated support today, and supported Mr Pratt’s motion which had the same intent as mine last week.”

“The Government amendment acknowledged the significance of Albert Hall, but did not commit to a transparent and comprehensive process.”

“I am particularly opposed to plans to require the business winning the tender to make capital investment in maintenance of the Hall. Albert Hall will be de facto part privatised, if that proceeds.”

“The May 24 public meeting in Albert Hall made it clear that the Canberra community wants its Hall to be restored and maintained for community use.”

“Clearly, the NCA’s plans for the site and the ACT Government’s plans for the management and maintenance of the Hall need to be sorted out in a public, transparent process; and ongoing management needs to have room for community input.”

“The ACT Government, at the very least, should put a hold on the tender process until such an open process is concluded” said Dr Foskey.

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ACT GREENS RELEASE

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8th October 2007

Albert Hall – back to the people

Deb Foskey, Greens MLA, today welcomed the news that the ACT Government will resume management of the Albert Hall.

"This is the outcome the community wants, and it has been expressed one way or another at many meetings," said Dr Foskey.

"The Friends of Albert Hall have been asking that the tender process be terminated as for-profit management of Albert Hall has at times precluded community use of what is, in effect, our town hall ."

"There has also been a problem of maintenance to the point where Albert Hall now needs major repairs to be an attractive – and safe – community venue."

"I am sure the community is hoping that the ACT Government will give Albert Hall a make-over fitting to its heritage for its 80th birthday."

"The Greens support the Chief Minister's application for the Hall to be added to the national heritage list, to ensure that community use of Albert Hall over the history of Canberra is one of the values most needed to be protected."

"With the ACT Government taking over management of the Hall, we now need to see the beginnings of a needs-assessment devised in consultation with the Friends and other current and future users."

"All this can feed into the Plan of Management which is required by the Land Act, and which will give the community greater security that Albert Hall will remain in community hands."

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ACT GREENS RELEASE