



OUR ALBERT HALL

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MEDIA RELEASE

Friends of the Albert Hall Inc warmly welcomes the news that the NCA has agreed to withdraw Draft Amendment 53 (DA53).

This is a great outcome for the thousands of people who signed a petition to the Federal Parliament in 2007 calling for DA53's immediate withdrawal.

The Friends and many other like-minded community groups - including in particular the National Trust of Australia ACT, Walter Burley Griffin Society and Yarralumla Residents' Association - have campaigned, on behalf of the Canberra community, since 2007 for this result. In this campaign, The Friends has been strongly supported by our members and other supporters, who include many dedicated individuals and community groups concerned about the future of Albert Hall and its Heritage Precinct.

We thank them all for their support and they share in this success.

It is also a great outcome for all Canberra residents for whom Albert Hall is an iconic and much-loved part of Canberra's history and heritage and, as Canberra's Town Hall, central to community, cultural and civic life in Canberra for over 80 years.

It is also a welcome outcome for the protection of the Albert Hall's wider heritage precinct and a precious part of Canberra's lake side environment.

The Friends welcomes the fact that the NCA has responded to community concerns in this way. We hope this signals the start of a new era for relations between the NCA and the Canberra community, with the NCA being prepared to listen to and hear widely expressed community views.

We also remind the NCA that, should there be any further proposal for planning in the precinct, the community **must** be regarded as key stakeholders in any such planning, and **must** be included at the earliest concept stage of any such planning.

The Friends will now be focusing our attention on the ACT Government's Albert Hall Capital Works Reference Group which is over sighting repairs and maintenance on Albert Hall and the long overdue ACT Government's Plan of Management for Albert Hall.

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