

Wilson, Frances (REPS)

From: Director, Facilities & Services [Amanda.Hart@anu.edu.au] on behalf of Warwick Williams [Warwick.Williams@anu.edu.au]
Sent: Friday, 9 May 2008 2:51 PM
To: Mikac, Stephanie (REPS)
Cc: Wilson, Frances (REPS)
Subject: - Response to Question National Capital Authority Inquiry hearing on 1 May 2008 -

Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories
Reference: Role of the National Capital Authority

Dear Ms Mikac,

The University undertook on 1 May 2008 to provide a response to a question raised by the Chair of the Committee on heritage matters. The University has a long standing commitment to the management of heritage and places of value on its campus. It has established organisational structures within its Facilities and Services Division, including the formal appointment of an Heritage Officer, to oversee compliance with its legislative obligations under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. These arrangements do more than ensure we meet our minimum statutory obligations, and reflect a genuine desire to identify and promote the importance of heritage within our community as the University balances the need to protect heritage alongside the need to fulfil our national role in research and teaching. The project

Old Canberra House attempts to achieve that balance. The actions undertaken by the University in the past 4 years are, we believe, evidence of our ongoing commitment. We have developed a detailed heritage strategy which includes a schedule for progressive assessment of all relevant buildings and other places on University owned property against the heritage criteria for the Commonwealth Heritage List, outlined in the Act. In addition, there is an ongoing program of developing Conservation Management Plans for existing heritage listed buildings. The University has already completed CMPs for a number of its heritage listed buildings and sites, including the School of Art, School of Music, Toad Hall and Mount Stromlo. There are also areas on campus (such as the Acton Village) subject to specific heritage plans and which are being protected.

There have also been specific projects ranging from the restoration of a significant midden at our Kioloa Coastal Campus to the reconstruction of the Commonwealth Solar Observatory Building at Mount Stromlo, which are evidence of our genuine desire to protect places which have value to the broader Australian community.

Additionally, heritage studies to identify indigenous and ecological values have been undertaken at our initiative for much of our property and will be completed by 2009. These studies have, where appropriate, been conducted in consultation with the traditional owners. The details of these studies are available for community review, along with other relevant information and CMPs, which are published on a Heritage Website (heritage.anu.edu.au) that has been developed by the University, as part of an overall strategy to build awareness within our community.

All new construction completed on campus is subject to both internal and external evaluation to identify any impact on heritage values. Where that does occur, we establish strategies to minimise that impact and commission architects with heritage experience, such as Tanner Architects on Old Canberra House.

All capital projects are reviewed internally by a Campus Planning and Development Committee (which has an independent chair and membership from the campus community, as well as external representatives) and any heritage issues are subject to review in this forum. External approval is provided through the National Capital Authority, which has been diligent in ensuring that any project with heritage implications is reviewed by the relevant Commonwealth department. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information on the procedures that have been established by the University. Yours sincerely,

Warwick Williams
Director
Facilities and Services