

NATIONAL TRUST of AUSTRALIA (AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY)  
ABN 50 797 949 955



NATIONAL TRUST

Unit 3.9, Level 3, Griffin Centre  
20 Genge Street, Canberra ACT 2600

PO BOX 1144  
CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608

EMAIL: [info@nationaltrustact.org.au](mailto:info@nationaltrustact.org.au)  
WEB: [www.nationaltrustact.org.au](http://www.nationaltrustact.org.au)

T: 02 6230 0533  
F: 02 6230 0544

PATRON: The Hon Margaret Reid AO

10 March 2017

Ms Fiona Moore  
Acting Secretary  
ACT Heritage Council  
GPO Box 158  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

(By email: [heritage@act.gov.au](mailto:heritage@act.gov.au))

Dear Fiona

**Re: City Railway Remnants, Kingston (The Causeway) and Reid (part Block 12 Section 33)  
part Cunningham Street Southern Road Verge and part Block 7 Section 11, Kingston**

I refer to the decision of 9 February 2017 by the ACT Heritage Council to make a provisional entry to the ACT Heritage Register for the City Railway Remnants, The Causeway, and part Cunningham Street Southern Road Verge and part Block 7, Section 11, Kingston and part Block 12, Section 33, Reid, with effect from 10 February 2017 to 9 July 2017, and the Council's invitation for written comments in respect of the provisional registration during the public consultation period.

The National Trust (ACT) strongly supports and applauds this provisional registration of the four places noted on the site plan attached to the decision of the Heritage Council. However, we believe that the listing does not cover all existing evidence of the railway line and easement. The route across Jerrabomberra Wetlands is still evident and we believe that there are remnant land forms in Grevillea Park from the former railway line. The Trust considers that these need to be fully investigated and the listing extended to include these areas.

Around 2005, as part of an ACT Heritage Grant, the National Trust (ACT) arranged for the nomination of the former Amaroo Street Railway easement as a proposed entry into the (then) Australian Capital Territory Interim Heritage Places Register, together with other places. The Trust was also highly supportive of entry into the ACT Heritage Register of the Yarralumla Brickworks Railway Remnants which finally occurred in October 2010.

The Trust notes that Water Burley Griffin's plan for Canberra included a City Railway which was to run from Queanbeyan, to the present Kingston station to what is now Russell, along the line of Amaroo Street to Civic, and then northwards out of the city to Braddon. Further, that the City Railway Remnants are part of

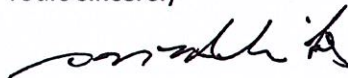
the only remaining physical evidence of the implementation of the planning for the main railway that was part of Walter Burley Griffin's design for the city of Canberra.

The Trust supports the Conservation Objective for the places, namely "that the City Railway Remnants shall be conserved and appropriately managed in a manner respecting its heritage significance." However, the Trust considers that in respect of Criterion (h): "**has a special association with the life or work of a person, or people, important to the history of the ACT**", it is arguable that both the remnants and surviving examples of the easements of the temporary railway in Kingston and Reid equally meet the stated criteria as they are inextricably interconnected and, in the case of the surviving easements, give a spatial recognition to the planning intention of the railway.

The Trust questions why the reference to 1911 is made in the Statement of Significance when there is no discussion or reference to 1911 in any of the assessment under the criteria. There is no reference to the 1923 floods that removed the railway bridge of the temporary line and effectively spelt the end of the railway despite the gazettal of an easement in 1925. This fact puts a number of issues and details into context and needs to be included in the analysis and discussion.

The Trust considers that provision of appropriate descriptive and interpretative signage in the places will be essential to the proper understanding and appreciation of the City Railway Remnants by the wider community.

Yours sincerely



Scott McAlister  
President