



National Trust of Australia (ACT)
Business Plan Summary
For the Financial Year ending 30 June 2020

For publishing on the NT (ACT) Website.

Version 1.1

Background

This document summarises the National Trust of Australia (ACT) 2019-2020 Business Plan and will be published on the website for the information of members and other stakeholders.

The Strategic Plan and Business Plan are important to the financial future of the Trust. It currently has only two main sources of revenue – membership subscriptions and tours and events income. The Trust does occasionally receive generous tax deductible donations – for which it is very appreciative. However, it does not hold any heritage real estate from which regular income can be derived. It also receives no government support or concessions for ongoing operating expenses, unlike other community organisations in sport or the arts. Achieving ongoing financial stability for the Trust is a key priority for the Council.

General Matters

Strategic Context

The Council adopted a five-year strategic plan at its April 2019 meeting. The Strategic Plan is available on the Trust's website.

The 2019-2020 Business Plan builds on the Strategic Plan by nominating specific activities and targets for the year, and which Council organs are responsible for achieving the targets. Specifically, the Trust will seek to complete the Stabilise phase identified in the Strategic Plan by 30 June 2020, and move on to the Build phase during 2020-2021.

Role of Council, the Office Manager and Volunteers

All Councillors have accountability to its members for the performance of the Trust. Councillors are elected by members and serve a two-year term, with half of the Council retiring at each. Councillors elect a President and other office holders.

The Trust employs an Office Manager who supports the Trust in administrative and other duties.

The Trust relies heavily on, and is very appreciative of, volunteers in order to carry out its activities. They perform many of the activities of the Trust in a voluntary capacity. Membership of Committees and the Council is a voluntary activity.

Role of Committees

The Committees of the Trust are the engine room of its activities. As noted in the Strategic Plan, the Trust Council is supported by the Tours and Events Committee, the Heritage Committee, and the Business Development Committee. Each of these Committees has specific activities and targets that they have been asked to achieve through 2019-2020.

Each Committee will manage its affairs via the Committee Chair, who will be accountable to Council for the activities of the Committee. Each Committee will seek appropriate resourcing, for example through volunteers, to achieve the outcomes.

All Committees will seek to explore opportunities for grants and this will be supervised by Council.

Risks

The Council has identified a number of risks to the Trust and its activities, and these will be managed by the Council and the Committees. These risks are wide ranging and include strategic, implementation, financial, membership, government, and community engagement.

Committee Specific Matters

Tours and Events Committee

The Tours and Events Committee will continue to conduct a program of tours and events for members and the public. This will continue to include walks, talks, regional and local tours and events, and international tours when possible. The Committee will also organise the AGM, the Christmas Party, and the Open Day (pending a successful grant application). Other tours and events may also be considered as opportunities present themselves.

The Committee will make a modest financial contribution to the Trust's accounts and seek to generate positive participant feedback from the program.

Heritage Committee

The Heritage Committee will continue to review and respond to emergent heritage issues and public consultations. It will also prepare an election issues paper for the 2020 ACT Government election, and build relationships with the community to encourage dialogue on a positive vision for Canberra for the future. Additionally, it will research the Social, Cultural, Environmental and Economic Impacts of Heritage and formulate a strategy for the future of the National Trust (ACT) Collection.

As per previous years, the Committee will conduct the Heritage Awards and the Heritage Symposium.

The Committee will encourage dialogue on a positive vision for Canberra which includes a positive voice towards heritage and heritage issues, promote the heritage activities of the Trust, and promote heritage as an important issue for the 2020 ACT election.

Business Development Committee

The Business Development Committee will manage a number of corporate activities of the Trust, with a significant focus on growing revenue and improving the Trust's financial position.

In addition to regular activities such as preparing and updating plans and reports, efforts will be made to grow revenue through donations, bequests, an updated Patrons scheme, increasing membership numbers (individual and corporate), and other initiatives. Details of these initiatives will progressively be announced. The Committee will also seek to rejuvenate the Trust's engagement with volunteers and prepare an updated constitution for consideration at the 2020 AGM.

For more information and or feedback

The National Trust welcomes feedback from its members and other stakeholders. It also encourages those who would like to assist the Trust in achieving its outcomes to volunteer, particularly by participating in our Committees, or by making a tax deductible donation. Membership of a Committee requires one to be a member of the National Trust (ACT).

The Trust encourages those who are concerned about heritage matters in the community and are not a member of the National Trust (ACT) to join via the website. One of the additional benefits of membership is free or discounted access to more than 800 of Australia and the world's most beautiful places.