

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



NATIONAL TRUST

Unit 2.03, Level 2, Griffin Centre
20 Genge Street, Canberra ACT 2600

PO BOX 1144
CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608

EMAIL: info@nationaltrustact.org.au
WEB: www.nationaltrustact.org.au

T: 02 6230 0533

PATRON: The Hon Margaret Reid AO

22 January 2020

Minister Mick Gentleman
Minister for Planning and Land Management
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Minister Gentleman

ACT SUPREME COURT BUILDING

The National Trust has been concerned about the conservation of the ACT Supreme Court building since the planned expansion to the ACT Courts complex in 2015.

The National Trust supported the concept which was finally accepted in preference to the expressions of interest proposal in 2015.

The National Trust was invited by Lloyd Esau to view the nearly completed adapted building last week and confirms that the conservation of and integration of the external fabric of the former building has been well handled and implemented. The central space has retained the essential concept although modified/adapted in detail.

However the National Trust is disappointed that none of the original court fitout was retained and the current design, while it may meet current court requirements, plays no respect to the original design or heritage fitout which represented the states with relevant timbers. It is noted that some timbers have been reused in furniture in public spaces and there will be some interpretation of the original courts but this is not the best outcome that could have been achieved. The process of no consultation from the concept in 2015 to nearing completion in 2018 is extremely disappointing.

Future ACT Government projects should improve this process to achieve better heritage outcomes.

Yours faithfully

Eric J Martin, AM