



MEDIA RELEASE:

NATIONAL TRUST WELCOMES HERITAGE COMMITMENT IN LABOR-GREENS AGREEMENT

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PATRON: The Hon Margaret Reid AO

Date: 3 Nov 2020 For Immediate Release

The ACT National Trust (the Trust) has welcomed the heritage commitments in the ALP-Greens Parliamentary & Governing Agreement.

Trust President, Gary Kent, said that the two parties had obviously listened carefully to the Trust's call before the election for more government action to promote the long-term conservation and viability of the Territory's priceless heritage assets, and more support for key heritage stakeholders.

Key heritage initiatives in the Agreement include:

- ongoing and secure funding for the National Trust ACT;
- funding for the Heritage Council to upgrade the Heritage database and website;
- investigation of options for a single 'hub' site for heritage groups, including storage space;
- a planning review process that will include a "community compact" process to find ways to encourage affordable housing while protecting our trees, green space and heritage;
- work with Federal Government on co-ordinated national/ACT heritage protection of the central national area, lake and inner hills to protect Canberra's character while meeting community needs for housing and transport;
- better protection of remnant grasslands, woodlands and key waterways as nature reserves or similar protective zoning; and,
- increased funding to manage Canberra Nature Park and Namadgi National Park.

Mr Kent said he was delighted that the Agreement recognised that the Trust had a key role to play in working with the Government, other kindred heritage organisations and the community to safeguard ACT heritage.

'We look forward to developing a strong working relationship with the incoming Heritage Minister in support of this objective', he said.

Mr Kent said that the Agreement did not include all of the Trust's priorities, and the Trust was disappointed that there was no funding commitment to clear the enormous backlog of heritage assessments, or a halt to the West Basin development.

'Nevertheless, through this Agreement the Government has clearly demonstrated its heritage credentials and we look forward to working constructively in areas where we disagree', Mr Kent said.

For further information contact Gary Kent: 0419 854 211 or president@nationaltrustact.org.au