



MEDIA RELEASE:

NATIONAL TRUST SLAMS REJECTION OF NATIONAL HERITAGE LISTING of CANBERRA

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PATRON: The Hon Margaret Reid AO

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The National Trust (ACT) is bitterly disappointed that the Federal Government has rejected the proposed National Heritage listing of Canberra.

Trust President, Gary Kent, said that the decision, a decade after the original nomination, was an affront to a number of Canberra citizens, such as Ed Wensing, who put huge time and effort into preparing the nomination.

The Commonwealth has missed a golden opportunity to demonstrate to the rest of Australia and the world that we have a truly magnificent national capital worthy of protection and promotion, Mr Kent said.

‘The stated reason for the rejection of the nomination, that the ACT Government chose not to express a view, is simply unacceptable.

‘The ACT Government has not participated in this process in a transparent and reasonable manner’.

‘No wonder many Canberra citizens are cynical about national capital planning processes: we have all been taken for mugs’, said Mr Kent.

‘Many great cities and places of the world such as Rome, and the Seine River in Paris have World Heritage Listing.

‘A successful World Heritage nomination would put Canberra on the same heritage footing as those cities.

‘For heaven’s sake, Broken Hill has been given national heritage status but Canberra is seen as a poor cousin.

On a more positive note, Mr Kent said the Trust welcomes the Federal Government’s decision to add Lake Burley Griffin and Adjacent Lands to the Commonwealth Heritage List.

This provides an additional level of protection for this unique *part of Central Canberra*.

But it in no way makes up for the rejection of National Heritage listing of Canberra, Mr Kent said.

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