

## **Albert Hall management plan will guide stewardship of popular landmark**

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Strong community involvement has helped the Government prepare a clear management plan for one of the ACT's oldest and most loved buildings, said Minister for Planning and Land Management, Mick Gentleman.

"A Plan of Management for Albert Hall has been developed over a number of years with extensive community consultation which has included a standing committee inquiry," Minister Gentleman said.

The standing committee's Inquiry into the draft Plan of Management for the Albert Hall identified eight recommendations for consideration. These have been considered in the Government's response.

"The Government has agreed to six of the recommended improvements and noted the other two. It has also decided a permanent cafe will not be established on the site during the 10 year term of the plan," Minister Gentleman said.

The plan will be finalised by the Minister soon; it details the strategic plan and framework for management of the Albert Hall over the next 10 years.

"The plan commits to the development of action plans to address operational matters, and establishes a Management Reference Group to provide input into the management of the Hall," Minister Gentleman said.

A series of action plans will be developed over the first four years of the Plan of Management to address operational issues including: Management; Hiring Arrangements; Building and Grounds; Marketing and promotion; and Heritage matters.

"The ACT Government, in consultation with the Management Reference Group, will review, refine and add to this list over time, as well as assigning timelines and responsibilities to actions," Minister Gentleman said.

"While it is a significant heritage site in the ACT, the Hall is also a unique and valued venue for individual, community and commercial events. The plan recognises the need to balance the heritage of the Hall with ensuring it can continue to be hired by a range of people in the ACT community.

The ACT Government offers a discounted Community rate and made affordable public liability insurance coverage available to private hirers to make it easier for the community to hire Albert Hall since 2012.

“The primary uses envisaged for Albert Hall include cultural events such as dances, concerts and theatrical performances. The venue is also well suited to exhibitions, film screenings, book launches, public meetings, awards ceremonies, fundraising dinners, graduations and school concerts, fairs, sales and auctions.

“The Plan of Management will embody and promote the ACT Governments commitment to a connected and collaborative community detailed in the Canberra Social Plan 2011,” Minister Gentleman concluded.

**- Statement ends -**