



OUR ALBERT HALL

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MEDIA RELEASE

PROMISES NO PIPEDREAMS

Last year's election promise of a federal contribution to conservation work at Canberra's historic Albert Hall hasn't been forgotten – not by Friends of Albert Hall at least.

Welcoming the ACT Budget vote of \$2.723 m for the new financial year, President of Friends of the Albert Hall, Mr Peter Lundy RFD, said 'We're delighted that at last work will be scheduled. Along with the hundreds of organisations who use the Hall, we're looking forward to the re-emergence of this elegant and historic building.'

Last year the federal Labor Opposition, as well as the ACT Government, heard the deep community concern about the state of a building that is among the most important of the national capital's heritage treasures.

But while Friends of Albert Hall applaud the ACT Budget vote, all eyes were on Tuesday's federal budget. 'The \$0.5 million promised last year by the new federal Labor Government is essential to achieving a full and thorough implementation of the works recommended in the Albert Hall Conservation Management Plan.' Mr Lundy pointed out, 'Adequate funds are required not only for the refurbishment, but for comprehensive annual maintenance, to ensure this important heritage asset is properly maintained over the long term as a legacy for future generations'.

Thousands signed last year's petition for the Albert Hall – and all of them would have been eager to check that this electoral promise was kept. The Budget did indeed allocate those funds. The Friends and the Canberra community are well pleased.

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14 May 2008