



NATIONAL TRUST

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PATRON: The Hon Margaret Reid AO

6 February 2019

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

Attention: gentleman@parliament.act.gov.au

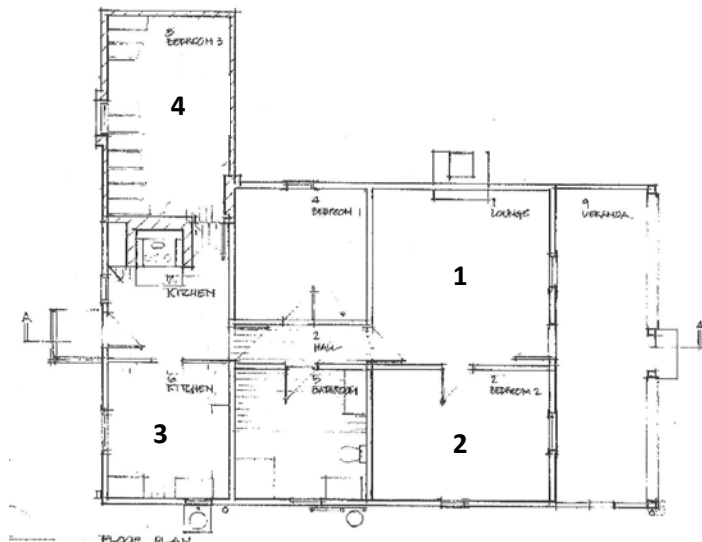
ROBERTSONS' COTTAGE OAKS ESTATE

There is an urgent need for some action at Robertsons' Cottage in Oaks Estate.

An opportunity to visit the cottage in late January revealed some concerning details.

A MAIN HOUSE

- Room 1 One floor board sags noticeably under foot and is unsound.
- Room 2 One floor board appears to be eaten out by borers from the sound made when treading lightly on it .
- Room 3 One board has collapsed due to a visitor treading on it in the past.
- Room 4 The floor has been removed as it was borer affected and unsafe.



The fact that some of the floor boards are now unsafe would indicate ongoing deterioration that needs attention.

Paint to windows is in poor condition externally and flaking off.

B LAUNDRY

- Laundry The ceiling in the laundry is collapsing and the window smashed permitting weather to enter and deteriorate fabric.
- Store Room The west wall has been severely damaged but there has been no effort made to stabilize the west wall (props at the south end assist the south wall) or make it weatherproof hence it continues to collapse and original fabric exposed to the weather is deteriorating.



C GARAGE

The window glazing is cracked, the building leans and the sheeting is rusty and uneven but is in fair condition.

The citation identifies features intrinsic to the heritage significance and the house and outbuildings are identified but these are under threat as mentioned above.

The conservation objective in the citation also requires conservation therefore the work above needs to occur.

We also note that the 2020-21 Land Release Program indicates that the whole of the heritage listed site is intended for land release. We are very concerned about this and ask that the listed site be withdrawn from the land release program and the site be conserved.

We would appreciate your advice on this.

Yours faithfully

Eric Martin, AM

Cc *ACT Heritage Council*