

Mr Tom Duncan  
Clerk  
ACT Legislative Assembly  
London Circuit  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Our ref: 25/577

Dear Mr Duncan

Tom

Thank you for your letter concerning petition E-PET 033-25, lodged by Mr Thomas Emerson MLA regarding the future use of the building located at 91A Wakefield Gardens, Ainslie, ACT 2602, block 10 section 27.

The ACT Government initiated community consultations on the future use of the site on 15 September 2025, closing on 7 November. I appreciate the engagement and enthusiasm of the Ainslie community to drive the rejuvenation of the site to continue serving the community. A Listening Report, capturing key themes and insights from the consultation, will be published on the YourSay website in early December.

On 19 August 2025, the vacant building at 91A Wakefield Gardens was illegally accessed and severely damaged by fire. Following advice from independent engineers and a loss assessor that the building structure should be removed, Infrastructure Canberra is progressing the demolition of the existing building. This includes undertaking relevant planning and heritage approval processes. A Development Application is being prepared and will be lodged for the demolition in early 2026. Subject to approvals, the demolition of the structure will be completed by mid-2026.

The longer-term use of the site is being considered by the ACT government in context of the community's feedback and will be subject to future budget decisions.

Once again, I think the local community for its engagement on the future of this important site and I hope this information is helpful to the Assembly.

Yours sincerely



Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA

**28** November 2025

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