

**CULTURAL FACILITIES CORPORATION**  
**Additional Responsibilities Policy**

**A policy to guide the assessment of any proposals for the  
CFC to take on additional responsibilities**

Authorised by :



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**DOCUMENT PROPERTIES**

**Schedule of Amendments**

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## BACKGROUND

The Cultural Facilities Corporation (CFC) was established by the *Cultural Facilities Corporation Act 1997* (the CFC Act), which sets out its functions and responsibilities.

These include, under Section 6 of the CFC Act : to manage, develop, present, coordinate and promote cultural activities at **designated locations** and other places in the ACT.

The **designated locations** are identified in Schedule 1 of the CFC Act as :

1. Canberra Theatre Centre
2. Canberra Museum and Gallery
3. Lanyon Historic Property
4. Calthorpes' House
5. Nolan Gallery
6. Mugga-Mugga

For the CFC to take on additional responsibilities by increasing the number of **designated locations**, under Section 4 of the CFC Act the Minister would need to declare a location to be a designated location through a disallowable instrument under the *Legislation Act 2001*.

This policy sets out the criteria adopted by the CFC Board to guide the assessment of any proposals for the CFC to take on additional responsibilities through increasing the number of **designated locations**.

## CRITERIA

The CFC has developed a preferred rationale for any expansion of its responsibilities, by defining criteria for identifying which additional cultural entities would be appropriate to come under its control.

It has determined that the following questions should be addressed in an affirmative or satisfactory manner before the CFC takes responsibility for any additional cultural entity as a new **designated location**.

1. Is the cultural entity in question primarily focused on a **built facility**?
  - This would exclude, for example, arts organisations such as orchestras and theatre companies.
2. Is the facility of **Territorial or ACT regional status** and importance?
  - This would exclude, for example, facilities that serve specific town centres or regions of Canberra.
3. Is the facility **accessible to the community** or at least community-focused?

- This would exclude organisations that are primarily practitioner/membership focused or those focused mainly on research, education etc.
  - In the case of historic places, if managed by the CFC these should be presented as historic site museums (not privately rented out etc.)
4. Is the facility one for which the managing organisation **curates, creates or programs a significant part of the product or experience** i.e. is the role of managing, developing, presenting, coordinating and promoting cultural activities a key aspect of its charter (in keeping with Section 6 of the CFC Act), as opposed to being simply a passive venue hire facility?
  5. Could the facility **sit within a statutory authority context** and do the benefits of this outweigh the costs?
    - There is a need to look at issues such as the employment of staff as public servants, procurement requirements, financial management and audit requirements.
  6. Does the facility represent a **good functional “fit”** with the CFC i.e. does the role of the facility fit with the CFC's statutory role?
  7. Can the facility be run on a **professional** basis in terms of core staff, perhaps with some volunteer support?
  8. Does the facility bring **appropriate funding** i.e. is the funding attached to it sufficient for the CFC to run it effectively (accepting, however, there may be some economies of scale in increasing the number of facilities run by the CFC)?
  9. Can the CFC **add value** (1) to the facility itself and (2) to the cultural life of the community, by running it?
  10. Would placing the facility under the CFC contribute to the **Government’s broader policy objectives** for the arts and culture?
  11. In the case of determining the suitability of an historic property as an additional historic site museum, would the property allow the CFC to **extend its ability to tell the stories of Canberra** by representing different periods of history, different aspects of Canberra’s history, and/or different geographical areas of Canberra, from the historic properties already managed by the CFC?
  12. In terms of the priority for identifying an additional historic site museum, **would the property meet the following additional eligibility criteria**, and could the following additional considerations also be addressed in a satisfactory manner?

Eligibility criteria :

- the property dates from the post war to self-government period of Canberra's development;
- the property has a powerful story associated with the development of Canberra and is relevant to the wider community;
- the property (dwelling and garden) is intact enough to enable the fabric of the place to tell the story; and
- the property can be made accessible to the public to visit;

Other considerations to be taken into account :

- is there a funding stream or "dowry" available to contribute to the costs of making the property publicly accessible?
- are moveable heritage items provenanced to the property available?
- is the property associated with people who are significant, or representative, of the post war period of Canberra's development?