

Significance grant in a nutshell: 26/09/2012 7:26 AM. Grant is \$4400 paid November 1 with a nominal finish date for the project at 1 November 2013.

1. We are able to decline the grant without much problem before we receive the money, ie November 1. After that it would be difficult.
2. There cannot be major changes to the specification of the scope of the process as set out in our application.
3. NLA would prefer us not to decline the grant. The paperwork has been done and the year's program is in train. Also, for us, time is pressing: another year's delay might not improve the present situation, whereas if we get a significance assessment we may be able to improve our collection without this kind of delay.
4. If we decline the grant we will have to apply again next year with no guarantee of success.
5. We have to submit a progress report in next April, and if it was apparent that we are having great difficulties NLA would agree to an extension of the time period. The current completion date is 1 November 2013.
6. From NLA: *'the assessment should be done by someone with experience in writing significance assessments and in applying the principles of Significance 2.0. A significance assessment created by someone with little experience in writing one may not assist you when applying for future grants for items such as a Preservation Needs Assessment, conservation treatment or archival storage materials.*
7. Ian Debenham will not do the job and I have tried everything to get him to do so/
8. NLA staff suggest that the move should be used as a valuable opportunity to reorganise the collection and establish it on a more sustainable basis

From Tom: (assuming that the decision not to proceed is not final)

- I have been working hard on this project for some time and the following opinions are well set.
- The task of doing the assessment well if we begin now is very difficult.
- The task of doing the assessment well if we begin after we move is absolutely impossible, and if we are going to do that I cannot be involved.
- We need to make space now, by such things as
  - Clearing a room eg B2 to put stuff in that is ready to go (if necessary hiring a furniture removalist labourer to do the heavy work)
  - Dumping stuff that has definitely no significance. (put it in a pile of plastic bags to be dumped when the current buildings are bulldozed?)
  - Preparing subcollections so that they can easily be assessed by the assessor when appointed
  - We may have to spend money to properly package these, eg Butler collection: we may need folders, sleeves, boxes etc

If we may still go ahead with the assessment I propose we work up a timetable and procedure and that this come to another meeting on Wed 10 November, be modified as necessary to a final plan on 24 November and we decide then if to go ahead.