
From: Colin Samundsett

Sent: Wednesday, 10 November 2010 3:45 PM

To: Committees

Subject: Personal submission to Inquiry into Ecological Carrying Capacity of the ACT and Region

Submission to

Inquiry into Ecological Carrying Capacity of the ACT and Region

Under ***Terms of Reference 1) j)*** (Any other relevant matter):

Carrying Capacity is ephemeral, not static. Every changed circumstance will cause it to vary.

The ***T of R*** do not refer to a time frame over which carrying capacity is to be contemplated.

Nor does the ***T of R*** refer to the purpose for which the principal city, Canberra, is undergoing planning.

Under the above constraints, any meaningful engagement with the fundamental concept of carrying capacity is difficult.

To date all State of the Environment Reports for ACT and Region have indicated deficiencies, with the exception of air quality, in relation to the indicators upon which carrying capacity might be measured. Therefore, we are currently living beyond the ACT and Region's Carrying Capacity.

The population of the ACT currently grows at 1.7 per cent, a rate which will double present numbers by 2050, and double again in a further 40 years. Are factors impinging upon carrying capacity to be considered within, or beyond, these time frames and similar growth rate?

The purpose of the city of Canberra had its inception as the Nation's Capital. That element has diminished as a proportion of purpose since it was fulfilled, completely, by 1974. The fostering of growth of property-related industry and business has emerged as the keystone of the edifice of Canberra's purpose. This imposes fundamental problems upon any attempt to consider carrying capacity for the ACT and Region.

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