



Chris Steel MLA

Treasurer

Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development

Minister for Heritage

Minister for Transport

Member for Murrumbidgee

Ms Jo Clay MLA
Chair
Standing Committee on Environment and Planning
LACommitteeEnvironment@parliament.act.gov.au

Our ref: 25/0437805

Dear Ms Clay *Jo*

Thank you for your letter dated 6 November 2025 regarding the Conservation Council's comments on the proposed removal of an area of land from the existing nature reserve near Harold White Avenue and Annabelle View in Coombs, proposed as a part of Draft Major Plan Amendment 05 (DPA-05).

As outlined in the consultation report, the areas proposed to be removed from the reserve contain minimal conservation values. Further to this, I can advise that ecologists from the Office of the Conservator of Flora and Fauna re-inspected the area on Monday 10 November 2025. The Office confirmed this position and supports the area being removed from the reserve network as it is satisfied that there are no ecological concerns.

The area is dominated by exotic species, primarily African Lovegrass, and does not form a recognisable native plant community type. The area only contains marginal habitat value for threatened species in the form of low-quality Pink-tailed Worm-lizard habitat and connectivity in the form of planted shrubs (Green Wattle) and small trees (River She-oak). There are some very small (approximately 2x2m) areas supporting native grassland values; however, these areas do not meet criteria for listing as a threatened ecological community and are unlikely to provide meaningful habitat value to threatened species.

While the consultation report mentions the underground services located within this parcel of land, it is not the primary reason that the area is proposed to be excluded from the nature reserve. The primary reason that it is being excluded, as indicated above, is the poor ecological condition of the land.

Further, the Conservator has reviewed DPA-05 and the consultation report and has supported the removal of this area from the nature reserve.

DPA-05 does not propose to change the zoning of this area of land, which includes Non-Urban Zone 4 – River Corridor (NUZ4) and Parks and Recreation Zone 1 – Urban Open Space (PRZ1) zoned land. Under the Territory Plan, the policy outcomes and assessment outcomes for both these zones contain express requirements related to ecological sustainability, including biodiversity connectivity and retention, which any future development proposal would need to be assessed against. This includes future proposals for the bridge and shared path referenced in the consultation report.

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I trust this information assists the committee in determining whether it wishes to undertake an inquiry into DPA-05.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Steel', is positioned below the closing 'Yours sincerely'.

Chris Steel MLA
Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development
12 November 2025

