



Friends of the Aranda Bushland Inc

to conserve and rehabilitate the bush

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The Committee Secretary,
Standing Committee on Planning and Environment,
ACT Legislative Assembly,
GPO Box 1020,
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July 27th 2005

In response to your invitation for submissions to your enquiry into the integration of biodiversity conservation in land use in the ACT we advocate the following:-

1. Principles

- a. Paramount is to recognise that Canberra Nature Park reserves are a precious asset, entrusted to us to preserve for all time.
They not only endow Canberra with its unique “Bush Capital” character, they have real conservation value because of the particular ecological qualities and biodiversity values they possess.
Fauna and flora corridors are an important part of the system to maintain the health of Canberra Nature Park.
- b. These areas are vulnerable to both institutional and public neglect, abuse and over exposure because
 - i. it is easier and more profitable for developers to use CNP land than land designated for urban development so definite inalienable protective measures need to be established.
 - ii. The CNP land should be protected from roads, busways and other urban infrastructure development.
 - iii. The proximity of CNP to urban development puts it constantly under threat from urban pressures, including appreciative users and depredation by pets.

2.To achieve the necessary protection:-

a. General

- i. the concept of conservation for perpetuity should be enshrined in legislation
- ii. the provision of fauna and flora corridors be an integral part of urban planning
- iii. the measures to prevent loss of biodiversity, erosion, invasion by non-native plants and animals should be enshrined in legislation.
- iv. the fire control zones should be located primarily outside the CNP

b. Particular

- i. new suburbs be planned to locate fire fuel abatement zones outside the reserves.
- ii. legislate to control pets which endanger native fauna.
- iii. build appropriate tracks within the CNP taking into account function, location and expected amount of use.
- iv. undertake measures to discourage
 - a). straying from designated tracks by use of definite and limited entries, track markers etc. and
 - b). dumping, including garden refuse and unwanted pets.
- v. encourage the local community to form Parkcare groups, and support them to care for CNP and report on abuse of their adopted territory
- vi. give Park Rangers authority to deal with transgressors, as at present they are powerless.

Thanking you for your consideration

Yours faithfully

Mary E. Falconer, Convenor.