



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY  
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Leanne Castley MLA

## Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into Environmental Volunteerism in the ACT

**Submission Number: 11**

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**From:** [J & L Pugh](#)  
**To:** [LA Committee - ECCB](#)  
**Cc:** [John Pugh](#)  
**Subject:** Inquiry into Environmental Volunteerism  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 2, 2022 3:33:32 PM

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am the convenor of the Jarramlee Park Landcare Group in Dunlop, ACT and we operate within the Ginninderra Catchment Group corridor. Our area of operation is nominated in <https://ginninderralandcare.org.au/jarramlee-park-landcare-dunlop/> Although at the edge of the city we are surrounded by natural reserves and we spend much time ensuring places like Jarramlee Pond is presentable as a parkland for use by the general public. The parkland is home to a wide range of plant species which provide a great display during the year and essentially is a small botanic park on the outskirts of the city. This in conjunction with the wide array of birdlife from grasslands, woodland and water has made the area well used by ornithologists from other parts of Canberra.

**Use of small machine tools:**

Our main problem is how to maintain the many planting sites and it is obvious to the group without access to machine tools to cut back the grass and weeds we are working with one hand tied behind our backs. Although we are not the only group in this situation we are being told that volunteers cannot use powered tools like brush cutters.

I do understand that anyone using this type of equipment need to act responsibly and we would welcome an opportunity to undertake regular training and certification. I believe the issues may be not being covered by indemnity insurance during use, possibly the lack of funding available to equip landcare groups with the machine tools and cost to supply the necessary personal protective equipment. Most equipment can be battery powered nowadays so on-going fuel costs are not like they were with petrol powered tooling once the cost for batteries and chargers are covered. Charging cost being absorbed by the group as most of our group has solar panels with excess supply.

**Use of chemical weed killers:**

Volunteers are allowed to use Glyphosate weed killer after they have undertaken a course on handling a wide range of industrial weed killers and are certified competent in weed killer handling and use. The allowance does not extend to stronger weedkillers and there are many forms of flora which cannot be combatted with Glyphosate. The ACT weed control gangs are allowed to use the stronger weed killers but they cannot cover everything during growing

seasons to ensure the weeds are properly managed.

The weedkiller course nominates various chemicals, their use and how they need to be stored but does not fully cover environmental restrictions where the chemicals can or cannot be used. Storage is an issue where many chemicals are not conducive to being stored in homes. It may be better if the Ginninderra Catchment Group handled the secure storage issue and allows their member groups to use chemicals after training and ensuring the correct environmental and public safety measures are in place along with use by certified personnel of relevant personal protective equipment.

For any clarifications please contact the undersigned.

Your Sincerely,

John Pugh

Convenor

Jarramlee Park Landcare Group

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