



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND URBAN SERVICES

REPORT NO. 82 AUGUST 2001

**DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE LOWER MOLONGLO
RIVER CORRIDOR**

RECOMMENDATION

The committee recommends that the Draft Management Plan be endorsed.

In doing so, the committee draws particular attention to three key points. One, that it is not the role of this committee to become involved in detailed issues relating to the valuation/monetary outcomes of land affected by Management Plans. Two, that it is essential sufficient funds are allocated to permit Management Plans to be implemented successfully. Three, that where Management Plans affect areas on (or bordering) rural leases, it is important to maintain close consultation with those lessees so that a collaborative partnership is achieved.

Notes:

The *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991* requires Plans of Management to be prepared for 'Public Land' in the ACT. On 20 December 1999, the Minister for Urban Services referred the *Final Draft Management Plan for the Lower Molonglo River Corridor* to the committee for its consideration. The committee, in February 2000, placed advertisements in the local press inviting public comment. In July 2000 the committee conducted a public hearing attended by representatives of Environment ACT, the ACT Sustainable Rural Lands Group Inc, the Conservation Council and National Parks Association [NPA]. Environment ACT undertook to revise the Management Plan in light of the careful and detailed submission by the Conservation Council/NPA.

In February 2001 the committee conducted a further public hearing to facilitate discussions between Environment ACT and a rural leaseholder whose property was affected both by Variation No.89 and the Draft Management Plan. On 28 June 2001 the committee received the *amended* Management Plan from Environment ACT. A public hearing was held on 3 August 2001 attended by representatives of Environment ACT and the ACT Sustainable Rural Lands Group Inc. Another public hearing took place on 24 August 2001 in order for the Conservator of Flora and Fauna, and PALM, to respond to some outstanding concerns.

THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND URBAN SERVICES

The Standing Committee on Planning and Urban Services was established on 28/4/98 to inquire into and report on planning and lease management, road and transport services, infrastructure and asset management and public utilities purchasing, electricity industry and regulation, construction industry policy, parks and forests, private sector employment inspectorate, building services, environment, heritage and municipal services and any other related matter (*resolution of appointment, as amended on 25/11/99, 7/2/00 and 15/2/01*).

Committee members: Mr Harold Hird MLA (Chair), Mr Dave Rugendyke MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Simon Corbell MLA

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The committee notes that the amended Management Plan was the subject of comment by the Conservation Council and NPA along with the Nature Conservation and Namadgi sub-committee.¹ It was not, however, the subject of comment by the ACT Sustainable Rural Lands Group Inc.² The committee notes the concern of that Group about this lack of consultation and details of the amended Management Plan itself.³ In relation to the matter of valuing a portion of one specific rural lease which is being withdrawn in line with Variation No.89, the committee notes the developments that have taken place this year on this matter—and states its view that this is not a matter for this committee itself to deal with.

Given the length of time taken to get a management plan to the stage now reached, the committee considers that there is no benefit to anyone in having this matter roll over into the next Assembly. Accordingly, the committee has made the recommendation set out at the head of this report.

Harold Hird MLA
Chair

24 August 2001

¹ Correspondence from Environment ACT dated 28/6/01

² Correspondence from the ACT Sustainable Rural Lands Group dated 5/8/01 and 23/8/01

³ Correspondence from the ACT Sustainable Rural Lands Group dated 23/8/01