



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND URBAN SERVICES

REPORT NO.70 MAY 2001

DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT FOR CANBERRA'S URBAN LAKES
AND PONDS

RECOMMENDATION

1. *The committee recommends that the Plan of Management for Canberra's Urban Lakes and Ponds be endorsed.*

Background—On 23/4/01 the Minister for Urban Services referred the Plan of Management for Canberra's Urban Lakes and Ponds to the committee. This report is the result of the committee's consideration of the Plan of Management.

The Plan of Management—The Plan of Management 'describes the way in which Canberra's Urban Lakes and Ponds are to be managed to provide for public and community use and environmental values and protection'.¹ The Plan excludes Lake Burley Griffin (which is managed by the NCA) and the Jerrabomberra Wetlands (which are managed by Environment ACT under its own Plan of Management).² The Plan of Management identifies the six government agencies with some responsibility for Canberra's lakes and ponds.³ Three distinct water management zones are identified in the Plan.⁴ Strategies for meeting the Territory Plan's management objectives are itemised;⁵ and the Plan contains a detailed list of activities which are permitted (or not permitted) on each lake or pond.⁶

Conduct of the inquiry—On 11/5/01 the committee conducted a public hearing attended by officers of Canberra Urban Parks and Places.

Conclusion—The committee considers the Plan of Management meets statutory requirements and provides useful information for all users of Canberra's lakes and ponds. In particular, the committee compliments DUS [Canberra Urban Parks and Places] on the following aspects of the Plan:

- ❖ providing information about how the Plan relates to other planning and management systems;⁷
- ❖ recognising that the Plan needs to draw attention to the need for appropriate 'asset management strategies' to be developed.⁸ [In an earlier report by this committee on a tree management strategy for the ACT, the committee drew attention to the need to develop

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

Secretary—Mr Rod Power; Office secretary—Ms Judy Moutia; for further information please contact the secretary on ph: 02 6205-0435 or fax: 02 6205-0432 or email: committees@act.gov.au

appropriate strategies to preserve Canberra's street trees and trees on other public land.⁹ The same point applies to public assets like ponds and lakes.]

- ❖ providing detailed information about each pond and lake;¹⁰
- ❖ listing the performance measures;¹¹ and
- ❖ providing a succinct, comprehensive range of information in the Appendices about the meaning of terms used in the Plan [Appendix a], relevant legislation [Appendix b], management agencies and administrative arrangements [Appendix c], management guidelines [Appendix d], points of contact (including phone numbers) [Appendix e], and a bibliography [Appendix f].

What happens next—Following tabling of the committee's report in the parliament, the government - having regard to this report - may approve the Plan of Management with or without amendment. The government will table the Plan of Management that it has approved. Members of the Assembly have five sitting days to reject all, or part, of the Plan of Management tabled by the government.

Mr Hird MLA
Chair
29 May 2001

¹ *Plan of Management for Canberra's Urban Lakes and Ponds*, preface by Mr Smyth MLA (Minister for Urban Services) p.v

² *Plan of Management for Canberra's Urban Lakes and Ponds* p.3

³ Ditto p.8 and (in greater detail) p.26

⁴ Ditto p.19-20

⁵ Ditto pp.22-23

⁶ Ditto pp.29-30 and 32-59

⁷ Ditto p.24

⁸ Ditto

⁹ *An Appropriate Tree Management and Protection Policy for the ACT* Standing Committee on Planning and Urban Services, tabled in the Assembly on 9/5/00

¹⁰ *Plan of Management for Canberra's Urban Lakes and Ponds* pp.32-59

¹¹ Ditto pp.60-64