



Friends of Grasslands

supporting native grassy ecosystems

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Dr Hanna Jaireth
Secretary
Standing Committee on Planning and Environment
ACT Legislative Assembly

27 July 2005

Dear Hanna

Inquiry into urban revegetation, wildlife corridors and integration of biodiversity conservation into land use planning in the ACT

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the issues outlined in your email of 19 May 2005. Friends of Grasslands (FOG) was represented in the decision-making process that resulted in the submission by the Conservation Council of the South East Region and Canberra (CCSERAC) to the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment Legislation. FOG endorses this submission but would also like to emphasise and/or include the following points.

Combined complex of Goorooyaroo Nature Reserve and Mulligan's Flat

FOG supports the comments made by CCSERAC in its submission in relation to Goorooyaroo and Mulligan's flat as well as the potential capacity to restore and connect patches of high and lower quality vegetation (both grassland and woodland) in East Gungahlin. FOG believes that is important to highlight the fact that while the area contains the largest woodland complex of its type left in public hands, it also needs to be emphasised that only a small percentage of Yellow Box-Red Gum community still exists in the Murrumbidgee region and the ACT. This is one of the last big stands remaining and its continued existence is essential to maintaining biodiversity of the community and its species for the whole region.

Fire management and biodiversity value

FOG would like to point out the need for integration of fire management theory and practice with biodiversity conservation so there can be a win-win outcome in managing fire hazards without damaging the biodiversity value of the area. This would be assisted by allowing an ecological input in all burning management decisions.

Interrelationships of legislation

FOG would like to draw attention to the lack of alignment between legislation for vegetation protection and legislation covering endangered species. A review needs to be made of current legislation to remove inconsistencies and overlaps and to ensure that it covers the field and meets the Government's biodiversity aims and objectives.

Yours faithfully

Geoff Hope
Vice President