



## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

### SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Meredith Hunter MLA (Deputy Chair)

Jeremy Hanson CSC MLA, John Hargreaves MLA, Caroline Le Couteur MLA

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### COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVE GROUPS SURVEY

1. Name of organisation National Parks Association of the ACT
2. Name of contact person & telephone and email contact details Rod Griffiths.
3. Please list, in order of priority, your three main areas of concern regarding the ACT 2011-2012 Budget?
  1. The level of funding for routine management of the conservation reserve estate
  2. The need to improve the accountability indicators in respect to funding of the nature conservation reserve estate
  3. The level of funding for recreation design for the Molonglo River Urban Park

Comment

4. Did you provide a budget submission to the Government?  
 Yes (go to question five)  No (go to question six)
5. Do you think that the Budget has addressed the issues raised in your submission?  
 Yes  No Comment
6. What are your views on the Budget in relation to your priority areas listed in question three?  
Comment The budget does have some welcome initiatives in it especially for work on the the protection of woodlands, the creation of a specialist woodlands ranger and the promotion of conservation corridors. However, there is no commitment to increase the already stretched non-specialist conservation ranger numbers and the level of funding for weed and pest management will be unlikely to adequately address the threats posed from these areas.
7. Are there any particular issues you would like to bring to the Committee's attention?  
 Yes  No
8. Please provide a brief outline of the issue/s, in order of priority. 1. The level of funding for the nature conservation reserve estate has not kept up with increases in the size of the estate and increasing pressures on the estate. Insufficient funding has: contributed to large areas of the Namadgi and other reserves being unsupervised at peak usage times; lead to a deterioration of walking safety; reduced the visibility of reserve staff which contributes to the potential for illegal activities and vandalism to occur. Key areas of concern are level maintenance of staffing , the management of weeds and pests and addressing the increased recreational pressures facing the ACT's reserve system

9. 2. Inadequate accountability indicators provide little critical assessment of the effectiveness of the funding. Accountability indicators should be designed to ultimately facilitate a "state of the parks" reporting system.
10. 3. Funding of \$1.8m has been allocated to the design of recreation opportunities in the the Molonglo River Corridor. This is an significant amount of money compared to the \$500,000 for weed control over the next three years especially as it is only for design and not construction. The level of funding required for this task needs to be reviewed and the excess reallocated to critical on-ground nature conservation activities.
11. (A copy of the NPA ACT's budget submission is attached)

[Please append your organisation's budget analysis if available]

12. Does your organisation want to attend a hearing on 13May 2011?

Yes

No

If you have indicated yes, the Committee Office will contact you by COB Tuesday 10 May to confirm details. (Please note however, that the Committee may not be able to hear from all groups).

**Please return by 12.00 noon, Monday 9 May 2011**

Thank you

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