

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

***DRAFT VARIATION TO THE TERRITORY PLAN
RELATING TO
THE URAMBI HILLS NATURE PARK (PART BLOCK 1466 IN THE
DISTRICT OF TUGGERANONG)***

**REPORT NO.34 OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING,
DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

NOVEMBER 1994

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

On 27 March 1992 (at the commencement of the Second Assembly) the Legislative Assembly established a Standing Committee on Planning, Development and Infrastructure to inquire into and report on matters referred to it by the Assembly or matters that are considered by the committee to be of concern to the community relating to planning, land management, transport, economic development, commercial development, industrial and residential development, infrastructure and capital works, science and technology.

The Assembly also authorised the Committee to send its report to the Speaker, or in the absence of the Speaker, to the Deputy Speaker, who is authorised to give directions for its printing and circulation, if the Assembly is not sitting when the Committee completes consideration of a report on draft Plan variations referred pursuant to Section 25 of the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991* or draft Plans of Management referred pursuant to Section 204 of the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991*.

Committee Membership

Mr Wayne Berry (Chairman)

Mr Tony De Domenico (Deputy Chairman)

Mr Greg Cornwell

Ms Annette Ellis

Ms Helen Szuty

Secretary: Mr Rod Power

Background

1. Sections 25 and 26 of the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991* require the Executive to refer draft Variations to the Territory Plan to an appropriate committee of the Legislative Assembly for report, and for the Executive to then have regard to the committee's recommendations before approving any Variation. The Standing Committee on Planning, Development and Infrastructure is the appropriate committee to consider such draft Variations.

2. On 17 November 1994 the Minister for the Environment, Land and Planning, Mr Bill Wood MLA, referred the draft Variation and background papers relating to the Urambi Hills Nature Park (Part Block 1466 in the District Of Tuggeranong) to the Committee. The purpose of the Variation is to retain the current Land Use Policy (which is "Hills, Ridges and Buffer Areas") but to change the overlay from a "Subject to Review" overlay to "Public Land (Nature Reserve)". This will entail the preparation of a Management Plan for the area by the Conservation and Wildlife Section of Environment, Culture and Sport. When finalised, this Plan would become a statutory document.

Consideration by the Committee

3. The Committee was briefed on the draft Variation on 25 November 1994 by the Chief Planner (Mr Tomlins).

4. The Committee noted that the draft Variation has been prepared following a recommendation to this effect by the Conservator of Wildlife, who noted that:

The area currently links significant remnant woodland along the Murrumbidgee River Corridor (within the Bullen Range Nature Reserve) with more modified woodland and grassland within the Urambi Hills management unit of Canberra Nature Park.

5. The draft Variation papers note that the ACT Rural Lessees Association:

raised concerns regarding the future management of the area covered by the proposed variation. The Association is particularly concerned with the management of the phalaris and the possible fire risk associated with tall pasture grasses.

6. The Committee noted that the local Park Care group 'Friends of Urambi Hills' supports the draft Variation, while also drawing attention to the need to control phalaris and to provide appropriate fire prevention and control measures.

Recommendation

7. *That the committee endorse the draft Variation for the Urambi Hills Nature Park (Part Block 1466 in the District of Tuggeranong). Further, the Committee recommends that immediate steps be taken to prepare the Management Plan for the area, which should deal with the management issue of fire prevention and control - as called for by the ACT Rural Lessees' Association and the Friends of Urambi Hills (the local Park Care group).*

Postscript

8. The *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991* requires the ACT Executive to have regard to the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Planning, Development and Infrastructure before approving any draft Variation to the Territory Plan.

9. A Variation, together with the background papers and other documents, must be tabled in the Legislative Assembly within five sitting days of approval by the Executive. A further five sitting days is then provided for any Member of the Assembly to move that the Variation be rejected in whole or in part. Any such motion must be dealt with by the Assembly within five sitting days.

10. If a Variation is not rejected by the Assembly, the ACT Planning Authority will publish a notice in the *Gazette* specifying the date of commencement of the Variation.

Wayne Berry MLA
Chairman

25 November 1994