SEE-CHANGE
COMMUNITIES CREATING A SUSTAINABLE CANBERRA

Nature in our City - Short Opening Statement
Submission No 50

- Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on behalf of SEE-Change
- As highlighted in our submission SEE-Change members have been involved in a number of nature based projects throughout Canberra. The most recent project, Birdscaping Canberra, was made possible by an ACT Environment Grant of $43,000.

We've made two key recommendations:

1. Canberra join the international biophilic cities network by becoming a partner city (16 cities are members, including Fremantle; Wellington, New Zealand and Portland, United States). This would provide Canberra the opportunity to be part of growing global community

   "committed to planning & designing cities with abundant nature, where citizens have rich contact with the flourishing natural world …"
   www.biophiliccities.org

2. The ACT Government work in partnership with community groups like SEE-Change and the Lyneham Commons to **streamline** the approval process for community groups to plant either edible or wildlife plants in urban open space. A precedent has been set by City of Bayswater Council, Perth to cut the red tape. See ABC Perth news report. It would be worthwhile to bring in a 3rd party facilitator to mediate this process.

Edwina Robinson
Executive Officer