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Standing Committee on Planning and Environment
ACT Legislative Assembly
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NSW
NATIONAL
PARKS AND
WILDLIFE
SERVICE

ABN 30 841 387 271

Dear Dr Jaireth

I refer to correspondence from Mr Mick Gentleman MLA of 24 March 2006, to the Minister for the Environment, the Hon Bob Debus MP, inviting comment on the proposed nomination of the ACT as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. The letter was referred to the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) and I am replying on the Minister's behalf.

You may be aware that Kosciuszko National Park adjoins the ACT and is listed as a biosphere reserve. Biosphere reserves generally include one or more protected areas and surrounding lands that are managed to combine both conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, or ecologically sustainable development.

The NSW Government and DEC are willing to discuss a joint approach to the management of the Kosciuszko National Park and ACT as a major biosphere that may better meet the stated aims of the *Seville Strategy for Biosphere Reserves*.

You may also be aware that both DEC and the ACT already participate in the Australian Alps Liaison Committee, aiding consistent management of the Alps parks. This cooperative approach could be applied to the Biosphere proposal.

Should you wish to discuss this proposal further, please contact me on 6298 0322.

Yours sincerely

ALISTAIR HENCHMAN
Director Southern
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