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5 June 2006

ACT Legislative Assembly
Standing Committee on Planning and Environment
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

INQUIRY INTO THE ACT AS A UNESCO BIOSPHERE RESERVE

We support the principle of nomination of the ACT as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve but wish to stress the need to include the ACT Cultural landscape as an integral part of the submission.

UNESCO Biosphere Reserves have three inter connected functions:

- Conservation: Landscape, ecosystems, species and generic variation.
- Development: Economic, human and culturally adapted.
- Logistic Support: Research, monitoring, environmental education and training.

(UNESCO Website)

It is also noted that the Mornington Peninsula and Western Port Biosphere project referred to in your letter dated 24 March 2006 also includes parts of Casey and Frankston cities.

The ACT National Trust believes that the ACT Cultural Landscape including urban conservation areas, natural conservation areas and the planned open space system are an interrelated and integral part of the heritage value of the ACT and worthy of wider recognition.

The recognition can come through nomination and hopefully listing as an UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

In support of this we refer you to the Heritage of the ACT edited by Rodney Garnett and Danielle Hydnes and in particular:

Page xx – xxii	Cultural Landscapes
Page 1 – 4	National Landscapes
Page 5 – 16	Namadgi National Park
Page 17 – 22	Significant Trees
Page 23 – 26	Habitats of Rare and Endangered Species
Page 27 – 32	Geological Sites
Page 67 – 70	Canberra Setting
Page 71 – 91	The Federal Capital Period Urban Conservation Areas in this Section

The above places are classified by the ACT National Trust and considered to be part of the ACT Heritage. Together these cultural heritage aspects support the nomination to UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in a very strong way.

Recognition through UNESCO Biosphere Reserve will enable the preservation of important landscapes, eco systems, species and will offer the opportunity to foster sustainable economic and human development without destroying cultural heritage values and also support a stronger educational promotion of the significance of Canberra generally.

Yours faithfully

Eric J Martin
President