



Secretary
Standing Committee on Climate Change, Environment and Water
ACT Legislative Assembly
GPO Box 1020
Canberra City ACT 2601



Dear Committee Secretary

Reference: Inquiry into the ecological carrying capacity of the ACT and Region

The Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Coordinating Committee (UMCCC) thanks you for allowing an extension of time to make a submission to the Inquiry.

UMCCC is a community-based organisation representing many of the community sectors that live in, plus other organisations also responsible for natural resource management in the upper Murrumbidgee catchment. Its members include rural land managers, local governments, conservation groups, utility agencies, community Landcare groups and representatives of both NSW and ACT government agencies.

The UMCCC provides a forum through which the Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment community can work to ensure that its natural resources are managed on an ecologically sustainable basis. Other aims include encouraging the development and dissemination of best available information supporting the management of natural resources, and facilitating education, public awareness and communication of catchment management and natural resource management issues.

UMCCC notes that the Inquiry will address issues which contribute towards this region's capacity to stand on a more sustainable footing into the future. Our major concerns include the following issues:

- Issues associated with increased pressures on rural and rural residential areas around the ACT by greater demand from the ACT workforce for 'country living'. These issues include road and infrastructure maintenance, weed invasion and control, water shortages, increased number of 'farm dams', 'work miles' and general pressure on NSW Government agencies and Councils to provide additional services.
- considered planning for a sustained and sustainable future for primary production within the ACT.
- the ACT and NCA response to (and action to prevent) problems such as cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) in Lake Burley Griffin which reflect catchment management issues upstream of the ACT

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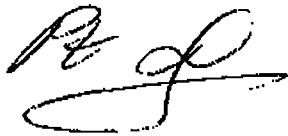
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- the value of Canberra's nature parks to the ACT and regional community, noting the current investigation by the ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and Environment.

We note with some concern the absence of any reference in the Inquiry's discussion paper to *Bush Capital Legacy*, the current ACT Natural Resource Management (NRM) Plan for the ACT. The first target in the NRM Plan concerns the *Ecological Footprint* of the ACT. The target quantifies desirable and achievable reduction in the ACT's footprint both in the medium and long term. We recommend that any examination of the ecological carrying capacity of this region should pay close attention to the NRM Plan, its targets and the work behind them.

UMCCC would be happy to expand on any issue raised herein if the Committee sees value in such discussion.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Duffy', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter Duffy
Chair

17 November 2010.