

Lindenmayer.txt

Subject: FW: Request for comment on DV231

From: David Lindenmayer [mailto:davidl@cres10.anu.edu.au]

Sent: Friday, 9 September 2005 2:15 PM

To: Jaireth, Hanna

Cc: Shorthouse, David

Subject: Re: Request for comment on DV231

Dear Dr. Jaireth,

Thankyou for your email. I read the document and have consulted with my post-doc - Adrian Manning who will be working full time at Mulligans Flat, Goroo in a month's time. I have discussed the issues associated with the narrow neck between the 2 reserves and I am most concerned about this. My real concern is that for many species (although certainly not all) the link between the two reserves will be too narrow to ensure that the two areas can actually function as a single large and significantly more viable reserve. I fear that the viability of the two reserves will be further compromised if urban encroachment is very close by. The significance of this issue should not be under-estimated. Some of the vegetation types that characterise Mulligans Flat/Goroo (e.g. Yellow Box/Red Gum woodland) are recognised under the EPBC Act and this area is now the most substantial remaining one left in public ownership - anywhere. The ACT Government and associated planning authorities therefore have a massive custodial role in ensuring the maintenance of the viability of the reserve and the biota that it supports. There are also significant legislative requirements to ensure that this occurs.

There are a number of other key issues for me. First, we are about to embark on a major series of experiments on how to best manage the woodlands estate at Mulligan's Flat/Goroo in close collaboration with Env. Act and other parts of the ACT Government. The work receives considerable funding from the ACT Government and the Australian Research Council (exceeding \$1million) and given the works status as some of the best of its kind in the world (words used in the project review process by external examiners), I am anxious to ensure that factors such as urban encroachment do not compromise the quality and applied value of the research. Indeed, I believe that the partnership that has been forged between ANU, ACT Govt and many community groups is a rare and very important one that has the potential to highlight the ACT's true leadership in best practice woodland management. Second, and very significantly, there are plans that are well advanced to construct a predator-proof fence around the Mulligans Flat, Goroo reserves - the Chief Minister made very enthusiastic statements about this in his speech to launch my new book on woodlands yesterday (8 September at Mt. Ainslie). I am aware that Maxine Cooper is now preparing a budget request for such an infrastructure initiative. Giving the significant chance of future fencing and the massive biodiversity benefits of such a wonderful initiative, a wide link between the two reserves is needed to allow some buffering between the location of the fence, the location of woodland trees (to avoid limbs falling on the fence) and neighboring urban areas.

In summary, a widened neck will be extremely important for several reasons including the viability of the two reserves and populations of the fauna that they support, the ongoing quality of the research that we are conducting to assist the ACT Government with managing its highly significant woodland estate, and the need for suitable buffering for the establishment of a predator proof fence.

I hope this email will be received favourably and please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further details on the points I have raised.

Yours Sincerely,

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