



Conservation Council
OF THE SOUTH EAST REGION & CANBERRA



Dr Hanna Jaireth
Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Planning and Environment
GPO Box 1020
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Dr Jaireth

RE VARIATION TO THE TERRITORY PLAN NO 165 - OPEN SPACE NETWORK PROJECT JULY 2005

Thank you for the invitation dated 16 September 2005, to provide comments on this Variation.

The Conservation Council of the South East Region and Canberra is Canberra's peak non-government environment organisation. As an umbrella organisation the council represents the interests of community and conservation organisations in the ACT and Australian Capital Region as well as the broader environmental interests of all the citizens of the ACT. The Council's mission is to achieve the highest quality environment for Canberra and the surrounding region.

The Conservation Council recognises the importance of the open space network for recreation, sporting and community activities for ACT residents. We also recognise as urban consolidation proceeds, the value people place on this open space network can be expected to rise. We are not able to comment in detail on individual blocks/areas, however we would like to mention a broader issue relating to the protection of wildlife corridors in the ACT within the Territory Plan, which potentially could incorporate some areas in the open space network.

The Conservation Council is promoting the protection of wildlife corridors, through a biodiversity overlay in the Territory Plan. This would identify the key wildlife corridors with the aim of better protection from development for the areas within the Zone. The Zone could include important woodlands and grasslands identified in ACT Action Plans for threatened ecological communities and species (AP 27 and 28), areas of Canberra Nature Park, and other parkland areas which provide key linkages for the movement of wildlife. For example, Fisher Parkland facilitates a corridor into Mt Taylor and beyond. We would be happy to discuss this matter further with the committee.

Yours sincerely

Trish Harrup
Director
14 October 2005

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