

From: Hill, Diana
Sent: Friday, 29 July 2005 9:47 AM
To: Committees
Cc: 'Michael Reeves'
Subject: Standing Committee on Planning and Environment Submission
Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Planning and Environment
Legislative Assembly for the ACT
GPO Box 1020
Canberra ACT 2601

The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) ACT Chapter wish to bring the following comments to the attention of the Standing Committee members.

Attached is the Final Report "Wildlife Corridors and Landscape Restoration : Principles and Strategies for Urban Nature Conservation" undertaken by Enviro Links for CUPP in 1998. We believe that this report is pertinent to the Committee's investigations and provide it for consideration

This report is still current and should be considered by the Committee as part of AILA ACT's submission.

AILA ACT would also seek that Environment ACT when processing applications for tree removal, that consideration be given and a review undertaken as to the tree's habitat provision in context with the ecology of the area. An AILA ACT member's experience is that a tree that had a substantial Magpie family nest within it was removed as part of a Development Application for a residential extension. The result of removing this one tree is that, with the Magpie family displaced, the avifauna balance of the suburb has changed. Currawongs have moved in and are predating all the smaller species such as Fairy Wrens and Silver Eyes. Previously the presence of the Magpie family kept the Currawongs out and the Fairy Wrens and Silver Eyes population was increasing. Removing this one tree with the Magpie nest has substantially altered the avifauna composition of the suburb of Torrens.

AILA ACT provide comment regarding lands management adjacent to residential areas and the contribution that weed species provide to avifauna as food and shelter. Removal of the weeds provides weed-free landscapes without consideration of habitat. Staged replacement of weed species with non-weed species that provide similar food and shelter requirements for the avifauna prior to weed removal is recommended.

Regards

Diana Hill
President AILA ACT



final report.rtf