



Australian Government
National Capital Authority



Dr Hanna Jaireth
Committee Secretary
Legislative Assembly
Standing Committee on Planning and Environment
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

 A.C.T. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE OFFICE	
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Dear Dr Jaireth

Thank you for the invitation to comment on Draft Territory Plan Variation No. 231 – East Gungahlin Suburbs of Kennedy and Throsby and Goorooyarroo Nature Reserve (DV 231).

In July 2004 the National Capital Authority (NCA) was invited by the ACT Planning and Land Authority to comment on DV231. A copy of the NCA's reply is attached for the information of the Committee.

In summary the General Policy Plan – Metropolitan Canberra (Figure 1 in the National Capital Plan) shows the general interface between the Urban Area and Hills Ridges and Buffer Spaces land use policies for this area. The Principles and Policies in the National Capital Plan provide that final definition of the interface, where boundaries are not already computed, is possible by the Territory planning authority where certified by the Authority that the boundaries are not inconsistent with the National Capital Plan. The advice in the NCA's letter of 30 August 2004 is that DV231 is not inconsistent with the National Capital Plan.

The NCA notes that the Committee is considering planning principles for a sustainable Canberra as part of its broader inquiry. An important issue pertaining to the sustainability of Canberra is the pressure being placed on land outside identified urban growth areas as a result of environmental protection measures being applied within growth areas. While it is important to take an environmentally responsible approach to development within areas set aside for urban growth, the broader sustainability implications of directing growth elsewhere also need to be considered. These implications not only have the potential to impact upon biodiversity, water quality and water use, but also can impact on resource consumption associated with the need to supplement infrastructure and the diminishing transport efficiencies associated with further dispersal of low density urban development.

Yours sincerely

James Larmour-Reid
Managing Director
Planning and Urban Design
14 June 2005

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T 02 6271 2888 | F 02 6273 4427 | www.nationalcapital.gov.au | email natcap@natcap.gov.au

Couriers & deliveries: Treasury Building, King Edward Terrace, Parkes ACT 2600 | **Mailing:** GPO Box 373 Canberra ACT 2601

ABN 75 149 374 427