

Office of the Commissioner for
Sustainability and the Environment

**Investigation into Canberra Nature Park
(nature reserves); the Molonglo River
Corridor (nature reserves);
and Googong Foreshores**

**Community Consultation Forums
May 2010**

Final Report



Office of the Commissioner for
Sustainability and the Environment



Contents

1.	INTRODUCTION-----	3
2.	FORUM PROCESS-----	4
3.	FORUM OUTCOMES -----	6
4.	CONCLUSION-----	8
	ATTACHMENT A – TERMS OF REFERENCE-----	9
	ATTACHMENT B – PUBLIC NOTICE -----	10
	ATTACHMENT C - PARTICIPANTS-----	11
	ATTACHMENT D - AGENDA -----	13
	ATTACHMENT E – PARTICIPANT NOTES -----	14

1. INTRODUCTION

The Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment is undertaking an investigation into the Canberra Nature Park (nature reserves), Molonglo River Corridor (nature reserves) and Googong Foreshores. The investigation is known as the Investigation into the Canberra Nature Park.

Overall the purpose of the investigation is to assess their condition, review programs and practices, identify knowledge gaps, identify ways to improve stakeholder engagement and identify actions to protect and enhance the areas. See the terms of reference of the investigation at Attachment A.

The reserves under investigation are managed by ACT Parks, Conservation and Lands. The primary role of the reserves is to conserve the natural environment and, secondly, to provide for public use. The Googong Foreshores differ slightly from the other two as it is situated in NSW and is subject to a lease arrangement between the Commonwealth and ACT Governments.

As part of the Commissioner's investigation she invited written submissions. To date 32 have been received. The Commissioner recognises that not all stakeholders are comfortable with the submission process or have the time to write submissions and therefore provided an opportunity for stakeholders to participate in community consultation forums. The primary purpose of the forums was to provide the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment with information for the investigation.

During May 2010 three forums were held in the evenings from 5:30pm to 8:30pm in the three ACT catchment areas:

- Wednesday 19 May at the Burns Club of Canberra, 8 Kett St Kambah
- Monday 24 May at the Belconnen Library, 12 Chandler St Belconnen
- Wednesday 26 May at the Ainslie Football Club, 52 Wakefield Ave Ainslie

The forums were advertised in local newspapers and at specific sites in the Canberra Nature Park. A copy of the notice is at Attachment B.

The forums were well attended with an average of 25 participants at each. A list of participants is at Attachment C.

2. FORUM PROCESS

All three forums were facilitated following the same process and using the same agenda. The agenda is at Attachment D. Following is an outline of the process used.

The Commissioner, Dr Maxine Cooper, welcomed participants and acknowledged the Traditional Owners, the Ngunnawal people. She invited people to participate fully in the forum, putting forward their ideas to inform her investigation. Dr Cooper confirmed that although the date for written submissions had closed she was happy to receive further submissions from participants.

Setting the scene

To set the scene two presentations were provided:

- The Big Picture: a brief history of the Canberra Nature Park – Dr Sarah Ryan
- the investigation and progress to date – Mrs Narelle Sargent.

Dr Ryan is Chair, ACT NRM Council, Visiting Fellow CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems and a member of the Expert Panel supporting the Commissioner in her investigation into the Canberra Nature Park. Key points from Dr Ryan's talk were:

- history is important
- natural values are not static
- when considering the future it's important to look at and understand past conditions
- the nature park and vegetation generally in the ACT have undergone many changes over last 200 years.

Mrs Sargent, Senior Manager, Office of the Commissioner of Sustainability and Environment provided participants with an overview of the:

- role of the Commissioner
- investigations currently being undertaken by the Commissioner
- expert panel assisting the Commissioner into her investigation into Canberra Nature Park
- progress to date on the investigation
 - Sarah Sharp is undertaking an assessment of the condition of the nature reserves using the Landscape Function Analysis technique
 - community engagement
 - 32 submissions so far
 - joint bird forum for two current investigations
 - meetings with stakeholders
 - three forums of which this is one
 - issues identified so far
 - overgrazing by rabbits and kangaroos
 - lack of resources
 - lack of information, communication & coordination
 - weeds
 - inappropriate activities.

Information for the Commissioner

At each forum participants were invited to put forward their ideas for the Commissioner for her investigation. Given that it was important to integrate and balance the different interests of participants, they considered their ideas in terms of the following five cross cutting themes:

- communication
- connectivity between reserves
- integration of uses and activities on reserves
- key management issues on reserves
- resourcing.

Participants worked in mixed groups and considered the theme allocated to them. Groups worked through the following questions:

- what facts are you aware of?
- what helps the current situation?
- what hinders the current situation?
- what ideas do you have for future policies and actions?
- reflecting on your ideas what is your number one priority?
- briefly describe your vision for the Canberra Nature Park, the Molonglo Corridor and Googong Foreshores.

They reported back key priorities and their vision for the Canberra Nature Park. Participants were then given an opportunity to read the detailed work conducted by other groups and make any additional comments.

Next Steps

Each forum finished with concluding remarks by the Commissioner and an opportunity for participants to contribute any final comments.

3. FORUM OUTCOMES

Forum participants discussed the five cross cutting themes: communication; connectivity between reserves; integration of uses and activities on reserves; key management issues on reserves; and resourcing. Particularly they analysed the current situation by taking stock of the facts and what was helping and hindering. From this they identified ideas for future policies and actions. Their consideration culminated in the identification of a number one priority against each theme and overall theme for the Canberra Nature Park. Detailed notes taken during their discussions are at Attachment E.

Priorities

The following priority ideas were reported at each of the three forums.

1. Kambah (Wednesday 19 May 2010)

- Communication
 - publicity, education and information
 - campaign TV (short segments on each area)
 - local free papers
- Connectivity between reserves
 - maintain Burley Griffin vision of bush capital
- Integration of uses and activities on reserves
 - ensure boundaries of reserves are not reduced which will involve better defining the boundaries
 - integration of park care and land care activities to support biodiversity and recreation activities
- Key management issues on reserves
 - quantify qualitative values of CNP including opportunity cost
 - define Canberra Nature Park boundaries and incorporate other green spaces
- Resourcing
 - maintain integrity of CNP by ensuring supply of adequate resources for protection and recreation

2. Belconnen (Monday 24 May 2010)

- Communication
 - improved signage to communicate recreation use policy
- Connectivity between reserves
 - protection of green spaces plus connectivity corridors to enhance biodiversity (flora and fauna) plus provide all recreational users with safe enjoyable passage between parks in a sustainable manner
- Integration of uses and activities on reserves
 - establish a User's Group (for whole nature park) to share all activities and, when issues arise, work collaboratively to share information, problem solve and give people a voice
- Key management issues on reserves
 - increased community awareness and involvement leading to pressures for increased resourcing for conservation and sustainable management for multiple use
- Resourcing
 - Government puts a higher priority on values of nature park so that funding matches multi-use concept for safe recreational areas

3. Ainslie (Wednesday 26 May 2010)

- Communication
 - find ways to get different users to meet
 - communicating with under 30's
- Connectivity between reserves
 - integration of development and natural resource management
- Integration of uses and activities
 - improve coordination and planning by creating a team of experts to coordinate work of rangers and volunteers and help train volunteers/rangers
- Key management of issues
 - connecting individual reserves and improving resources
- Resourcing
 - sufficient on-ground actions in the reserve system in a coordinated/integrated manner

Vision

The following visions for the Canberra Nature Park were suggested:

- Maintain a sense of pride in our bush capital
- All parks be equally attractive
- Recreational corridor for all uses of Canberra Nature Park be maintained for future
- A recreation facility that is available to a variety of user groups, where all users respect each other's right to use the facility as specified by CNP policy
- Maintain/ reinforce the bush capital
- Enjoyment for all users of the NP in a sustainable way
- Inclusion of the under 30's cohort
- Retain as much as possible of what we have – not for suburban infill
- Enhance the connectivity through trails, nature not just another Stromlo "Theme park"
- Better signage on trails
- Western/Stromlo housing a problem, must not cut off access from south to west
- Acknowledgement of role of reserves as habitat for wildlife
- CNP is essential to maintaining the characters of Canberra. Protect and enhance for future- not just next five years
- Generous provisions for open green space linked sensibly for maximum recreational pleasure and environmental protection
- Enhanced biodiversity by controlling weeds, erosion and urban sprawl
- Plenty of native vegetation for native animals in suburbs
- Maintain landscape values of Canberra as a city with the ambiance of the Australian bush, maximum open space
- Roadside verges managed for their conservational value
- Connected national reserves
- Human population living in connected landscape
- CNP – as the asset that sustains us as a liveable city
 - Keep what we have
 - Improve biodiversity and protection of threatened endangered species
 - Maintain recreational value of reserves
 - Improve education in community of value of reserves
 - That they be protected forever from urban development and resourced appropriately as a valuable multiuse natural asset for Canberra
- That we as a community find enough resources to look after these spaces properly, so that future generations still have these areas for enjoyment
- Establish a balance between the various users
- Maintain and improve CNP – maintain total area

- Including conservation, education, recreation and scientific study, aesthetics
- Continue to expand the area of reserves
 - Protection in perpetuity of the above at their present extent for multiple use and for adequately resourced conservation ensuring sustainable ecosystems.
- To see individual parks connected by natural bushland – connectivity maintained.
- Negative vision – losing natives, gaining introduced species – can't see how it can improve.
- Some parts of reserves with limited access purely for conservation and others for more intensified recreational use.
 - Canberra NP will stay same as today
 - Greater protection of natural values in the nature reserves
 - ACT community to realise the value of the green spaces and fund accordingly
 - CNP using effective resources with sheep to maintain area and reduce risk to people
 - Ensure new developments incorporate CNPs into planning
- Create an expanded multi-use/multipurpose safe recreational area with more public involvement in its management
- Awareness campaign to publicise the parks
- Emphasis on the bush capital
- Enhance and maintain our reserves for human enjoyment and ecological protection and preservation

4. CONCLUSION

The forums were well attended and members of the Canberra community participated constructively and optimistically.

The following comment was provided by one participant at the Belconnen forum on Monday 24 May 2010 and expresses a sentiment held by many at the forums.

I'm a horse rider – and, by the end of this meeting, I will also be able to say I'm part of Landcare. I moved from Melbourne to Canberra for the Canberra Nature Park. I can't imagine another city that offers the lifestyle that Canberra does – and the CNP is a huge part of that. I go to work in a city and yet I come home through a Nature reserve. I run, I walk, I ride my horse and I picnic in the CNP. It's one of the most incredible multi-user facilities I've ever come across and central to my existence in Canberra. For the Canberra Nature Park to survive for decades into the future it cannot be the domain of environmentalists only. As I ride my horse through the Park and connecting corridors, I meet a diverse representation of the vibrant ACT community. From bike riding families to serious mountain bike competitors, from walkers to bird watchers, from Sunday runners to marathon men, from picnic goers to horse riders, from children to their grandparents, from land care workers to Indigenous elders – we all want to see a sustainable and accessible future for the CNP. Being able to enjoy the surrounds of the CNP in all these forms engenders a sense of community and a sense of appreciation of our natural environment. The time when community groups are pitted against each other over the CNP has passed. Polarised views are not sustainable if we want to see the future of the CNP be a good one. Horse riders, bike riders and other recreational users cannot expect unlimited access to environmentally sensitive areas and environmentalists cannot expect recreational users to be locked out. Balances need to be made and involve consultation with all users of the CNP. After all, we want the same thing – to preserve the future of CNP and to be able to enjoy the diverse opportunities it offers.

ATTACHMENT A – Terms of Reference

An investigation will be undertaken into Canberra Nature Park (nature reserves); Molonglo River Corridor (nature reserves) and Googong Foreshores that:

1. assesses the condition of the forests, woodlands and grassy woodlands in these areas, including the effects of grazing by stock and/or kangaroos, vertebrate, pests and weeds;
2. identifies actions to protect and enhance these areas, including land use or boundary changes while taking into account their purpose, values, and location and the status of indigenous species and communities protected in the nature reserve system;
3. reviews existing land management programs and practices for these areas and areas that adjoin them. This is to include but not be limited to agistment, leasing, culling arrangements, Land Management Agreements or plans of management which may apply;
4. identifies any urgent actions and longer-term changes that are needed to improve the management of these areas. This is to include identifying successful management measures that should be retained;
5. identifies knowledge gaps, research or survey needs, and compliance and monitoring requirements that may be necessary to support improved management programs and practices while taking into account the context of the areas and effects of climate variability;
6. identifies ways for ensuring effective communication and involvement of stakeholders, including Aboriginal people, whose actions potentially, indirectly or directly, affect these areas;
7. identifies potential biodiversity offset management actions or sites; and
8. identifies the evidence justifying the need for managing grazing pressure in the context of sound reserve management practices.

In undertaking the investigation, the Commissioner is to consult with all relevant experts and key stakeholders, including staff in TAMS and in the Department of the Environment, Climate Change, Energy and water.

Note: The management of grassland nature reserves in Canberra Nature Park was recently reviewed as part of the Commissioners inquiry into Lowland Grasslands of the ACT and will not be included in this study.

ATTACHMENT B – Public Notice



SHARE YOUR VIEWS ON THE CANBERRA NATURE PARK

The Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment is undertaking an investigation into the Canberra Nature Park (nature reserves); the Molonglo River Corridor (nature reserves) and Googong Foreshores.

Wednesday May 19, 5.30-8.30pm
Burns Club of Canberra
8 Kett St, Kambah

Or

Monday May 24, 5.30-8.30pm
Belconnen Library
12 Chandler St, Belconnen

Or

Wednesday May 26, 5.30-8.30pm
Ainslie Football Club
52 Wakefield Ave, Ainslie

Terms of reference are at: www.envcomm.act.gov.au

Everyone is welcome to attend
RSVP: 6207 2626 or envcomm@act.gov.au for catering purposes

PO Box 356 Dickson ACT 2602
ABN: 14 520 930 507

T: (02) 6207 2626 F: (02) 6207 2630 E: envcomm@act.gov.au W: www.envcomm.act.gov.au

This Office is independent of, but funded by, the ACT Government.



ATTACHMENT C - Participants**Wednesday 19 May at the Burns Club of Canberra,
8 Kett St Kambah**

Name	Organisation
Federico Davila	ANU
Alan Ford	
Lynne Duckham	
Michael Beolingfield	F.O.G.
Julie Lindner	
Michael Sim	IRMMM Parkcare
Jeanne Mansbridge	
Judy Hickson	
Syd Comfort	NPA
Philip Duke	
Meg Depel	
Roz Edmunds	
Jenny Costin	Bicentennial National Trail
Fia Hasko-Stewart	ACT Endurance Rides Ass.
Jame Hedges	Govt Paddock Users Group
Richard Bunson	
Geoff Pryor	CROWK
Geoff Wood	
Glenys Patulny	SACT CG
Nora Preston	Wildlife Carers group
Ross Bennett	
Barbara and Peter Hamburger	
Sally Chmur	

**Monday 24 May at the Belconnen Library,
12 Chandler St Belconnen**

Name	Organisation
Beth Stone	ACT Equestrian Association
Jean Geue	Friends Aranda Bushland
Charles Tambiah	ANU
Virginia Dodson	ACTERA
Cathy Richards	Friend
Anna Messenger	Friend
Grahame Muller	NPA
Marian Heard	FOMP
Sarah Hnatiuk	Friends of Mt Painter
Bronwyn Barnard	ACT Equestrian Association
Graeme Small	ACT CCC
Cate Mabey	ACT Cook
Lyne Hinds	CSIRO
Scott Yates	ACT Cross Country Club
Dave Hobson	ACT Cross Country Club
Ashlyn Farelly	Hillview
David Flannery	University of Canberra
James Elsbury	Duntroon Horse Paddocks
Chris Malouf	Hillview Cook
Dick Roe	FOMP
Rosemary Blemings	
Lee-Anne Shepherd	Hillview Stables
Lin Enright	Hillview Stables
Tracy Deven	Hillview Stables
Rose Deven	Parkwood Paddocks
Bridi Rice	ACT Endurance Riders Assoc/ Pine Ridge Paddocks

**Wednesday 26 May at the Ainslie Football Club,
52 Wakefield Ave Ainslie**

Name	Organisation
Jean Geue	Friends of Aranda Bushland
Waltraud Pix	Friend of Mt Majura
Peter Osmay	Friends of Aranda Bushland
Richard Reilly	
Ian Falconer	Friends of Aranda Bushland
Adam Muyt	Resident
Sarah Sharp	
Margaret Nuy	FOG
Jane Scott	
Jim Arnold	MCG
Joch	NCCC
Beth Stone	ACT Equestrian Association
Mary Falconer	Friends of Aranda Bushland
Linda Muldoon	ACT Walking for Pleasure
Isobel Crawford	LstPG
Geoff Robertson	FOG
Brenda Batho	ACT FT
Charles Thomas	Belconnen Community
Diane Johnson	Mt Ainslie Weeders
Bernard Rohan	NSF
Shane Rattenbury	ACT Greens
Peter Batho	CRFA
Carmen McIntosh	The Chronicle
Chris Erett	Oakey Hill Parkcare

ATTACHMENT D - Agenda



Office of the Commissioner for
Sustainability and the Environment

Investigation into Canberra Nature Park (nature reserves); the Molonglo River Corridor (nature reserves); and Googong Foreshores

Community Consultation Forums May 2010

Wednesday 19 May, Monday 24 May or Wednesday 26 May 2010

5:30-8:30pm

Purpose

To provide the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment with information for her investigation into the Canberra Nature Park (nature reserves); the Molonglo River Corridor (nature reserves); and Googong Foreshores

Agenda

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Setting the scene
 - The Big Picture
 - The investigation and progress to date
3. Information for the Commissioner
 - Communication
 - Connectivity between reserves
 - Integration of uses and activities on reserves
 - Key management issues on reserves
 - Resourcing
4. Next steps

ATTACHMENT E – Participant Notes

NOTES TAKEN BY PARTICIPANTS DURING THEIR DISCUSSIONS ON CROSS CUTTING THEMES

Theme: Communication		Forum: Wednesday 19 May	
What facts are you aware of?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equestrian trail pamphlet not available • Outdated communication boards • Reserves provide protection to native flora, fauna 			
What helps the current situation?		What hinders the current situation?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library (pamphlet, maps) • Ranger presence • Well organised community groups • Have better communication with government 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCL website hard to use, lacks information • Staff turnover in TAMS • Lack of continuity (corporate memory) 	
What ideas do you have for future policies and actions?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for small community groups to engage effectively • Publicity campaign – promoting use in different parks via TV, newsletters, local free papers eg chronicle feature, promoting eg friend of nature parks • Better PCL website 			
Reflecting on your ideas what is your number one priority?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publicity, information – education 			
Briefly describe your vision for the Canberra Nature Park, the Molonglo Corridor and Googong Foreshores			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a sense of pride in our bush capital • All parks be equally attractive • Recreational corridor for all uses of Canberra Nature Park be maintained for future 			
Additional comments			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain bush capital and bushland • Create excitement about reserves 			

NOTES TAKEN BY PARTICIPANTS DURING THEIR DISCUSSIONS ON CROSS CUTTING THEMES

Theme: Communication	Forum: Monday 24 May
<p>What facts are you aware of?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of signage • Communication with local users at local scale • Communications from Department (resourcing) • Pinnacle and Mt Painter are multi-use reserves 	
<p>What helps the current situation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved signage • Signs for multi use • Develop signage consistent with Stromlo Forest Park 	<p>What hinders the current situation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of communication in community
<p>What ideas do you have for future policies and actions?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain resources for parks, conservation and lands • Recreation users forum • Improved communications with local users at the local scale. Identify key local people 	
<p>Reflecting on your ideas what is your number one priority?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved signage in park areas to communicate recreation use policy 	
<p>Briefly describe your vision for the Canberra Nature Park, the Molonglo Corridor and Googong Foreshores</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A recreation facility that is available to a variety of user groups where all users respect each other's right to use the facility as specified by CNP policy 	
<p>Additional comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better advertising for these community forums 	

NOTES TAKEN BY PARTICIPANTS DURING THEIR DISCUSSIONS ON CROSS CUTTING THEMES

Theme: Communication	Forum: Wednesday 26 May
<p>What facts are you aware of?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little knowledge of all the different groups and users • Lack of communication between different management/government agencies (ACT Government and NCA) eg listed weeds are still planted beside lakes and along streets 	
<p>What helps the current situation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of users, but who is caring for NR? • Forums • Education • Code of conduct between land managers and agencies 	<p>What hinders the current situation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of resources – eg rangers overwhelmed by work • How to communicate with all the groups eg young, old, teenagers • Lack of management plans for site and activities on site
<p>What ideas do you have for future policies and actions?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train staff/management with communication skills to communicate with volunteers and other users • Feedback on all other users concerns • Management/action plans – transparent for all users 	
<p>Reflecting on your ideas what is your number one priority?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding ways to get the disparate groups to meet – through forums/parties • Overgrazing, rabbits, hares, kangaroos 	
<p>Briefly describe your vision for the Canberra Nature Park, the Molonglo Corridor and Googong Foreshores</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain/reinforcing the bush capital • Enjoyment for all users of the NP in a sustainable way • Inclusion of the under 30's cohort 	
<p>Additional comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage people to appreciate nature rather than watch it on TV. Education and communication are vital • More communication with younger people and possible integration of using the nature reserves into ACT schools • Education of young people really important, encourage them to appreciate nature parks • That the vision for the future of the A.C.T into coming generations be of a community that values being in contact with the bush 	

NOTES TAKEN BY PARTICIPANTS DURING THEIR DISCUSSIONS ON CROSS CUTTING THEMES

Theme: Connectivity between reserves	Forum: Wednesday 19 May
<p>What facts are you aware of?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bicentennial National Trail, bike paths under parkway from Tuggeranong to Oakey Hill, then to Curtin, eg Parkes west to Stromlo, east trails also to Stromlo, Linleys in Belconnen. No connectivity between north – east reserves and western trails. 	
<p>What helps the current situation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Underpasses underway or roads Bike paths and SNT Green patches behind and around suburbs Agistment paddlocks 	<p>What hinders the current situation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major roads without underpasses – eg Athlon drive Plans to abolish open spaces, wildlife corridors Development of new suburbs/infill Discrimination against horse riders in access to some reserves
<p>What ideas do you have for future policies and actions?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More resources to maintain trails and improve interaction between CNP and housing, so people can have nature at the back gate All current green spaces linking reserves to be recognised as a part of CNP network Review of access to different parts of reserve – walkers, bikers, horses, dogs Listen to what users want – eg if they really want a trail up Mount Taylor, why not make one? While recognising special areas eg fragile environment More flexibility on multi uses – more special purpose areas for mountain bikers/BMX More community involvement in planning and managing local reserves Limit Canberra population 	
<p>Reflecting on your ideas what is your number one priority?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain Burley Griffin's vision of a Bush Capital where families in all suburbs have easy access to natural bush not just sporting venues/ arboretum, via network of trails 	
<p>Briefly describe your vision for the Canberra Nature Park, the Molonglo Corridor and Googong Foreshores</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain as much as possible of what we have – not for suburban infill. Enhance the connectivity through trails. Nature, not just another Stromlo "Theme park". Better signage on trails. Western/Stromlo housing a problem, must not cut off access from south to west. Acknowledgement of role of reserves as habitat for wild life. CNP is essential to maintaining the character of Canberra. Protect and enhance for future - not just next five years. 	
<p>Additional comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green belt connections between parks to be maintained 	

NOTES TAKEN BY PARTICIPANTS DURING THEIR DISCUSSIONS ON CROSS CUTTING THEMES

Theme: Connectivity between reserves		Forum: Monday 24 May	
<p>What facts are you aware of?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike paths are great, bike lanes on roads are dangerous and put people off • In some places there are underpasses, cavaletti are not always the same which can stress horses (especially if boggy) they are plastic bag catchers! • Connectivity for wildlife is restricted – wildlife relies on vegetation in suburbs, wildlife road toll due to poor connectivity for possums, roos etc • Major concern about losing green spaces and horse paddocks to urban development • Loss of wildlife due to urban sprawl 			
<p>What helps the current situation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike paths, wide verges are wonderful • Underpasses • Signage • Noticeboards are very good 		<p>What hinders the current situation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any maps? Poor communication • Lack of signage and other information on where paths connect • Current Government massive development focus and urban sprawl • Poor road planning 	
<p>What ideas do you have for future policies and actions?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More reserves to link parks would be wonderful! • Better management of trails for accommodating all users (runners, walkers, bike riders, horse riders) • Build new suburbs with open green spaces providing connectivity • Clear rules for sharing paths eg rules in Canada • Spraying for weeds – often more weeds on Government land beside horse paddocks • No more campaigns to increase Canberra population • Mounting blocks at gates please • Involve land owners in pest animal eradication. Bunnies from the Pinnacle just run down the hill • Indian Myna eradication • Land owners near native parks would help with pest animal eradication if they were invited to be involved • Wildlife corridors 			
<p>Reflecting on your ideas what is your number one priority?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of our green spaces plus connectivity corridors to enhance biodiversity (flora and fauna) plus provide all recreational users a safe and enjoyable passage between parks in a sustainable manner 			
<p>Briefly describe your vision for the Canberra Nature Park, the Molonglo Corridor and Googong Foreshores</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generous provisions for open green space linked sensibly for maximum recreational pleasure and environmental protection. Enhanced biodiversity by controlling weeds, erosion and urban sprawl. Plenty of native vegetation for native animals in suburbs. Maintain landscape values of Canberra as a city with the ambiance of the Australian bush, maximum open space. Roadside verges managed for their conservational value 			

NOTES TAKEN BY PARTICIPANTS DURING THEIR DISCUSSIONS ON CROSS CUTTING THEMES

<p>Theme: Connectivity between reserves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecosystems and habitats • Biodiversity and carrying capacity • Community/Government/volunteers 	<p>Forum: Wednesday 26 May</p>
<p>What facts are you aware of?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No overall connectivity • Existence of woodland connectivity plan • Conservation council developing conservation layer for territory plan • Isolated grassland reserves • Problem of defining connectivity • Interconnectedness between the question of connectivity and question of development 	
<p>What helps the current situation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design of city • Conservation consciousness knowledge base and expertise • Community and volunteer involvement • Changing attitudes • Evolving political situations and awareness • Reflecting changes in community attitudes 	<p>What hinders the current situation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design of city has assisted destruction • Development of driver, transport policies • Past attitudes and land management practices • Ignorance about conservation needs and their relationship to climate change • Disinterest • Non-engagement • Chronically underfunded and understaffed land managers and small pool of volunteers
<p>What ideas do you have for future policies and actions?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bush management approach (expert multi disciplinary teams) • Greater volunteer effort, career path, professionalisation and integration • Sustained and appropriate funding for management (levy?) • Make nature reserves into integral part of developing sustainable city • Integrate smart development (energy, transport, density, orientation) with ecosystem health • Stop encroachment immediately 	
<p>Reflecting on your ideas what is your number one priority?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resourcing • Integration of DGV and National Resource Management 	

Theme: Connectivity between reserves <i>(continued)</i>	Forum: Wednesday 26 May <i>(continued)</i>
Briefly describe your vision for the Canberra Nature Park, the Molonglo Corridor and Googong Foreshores <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Connected national reserves• Human population living in connected landscape• CNP – as the asset that sustains us as a liveable city	
Additional comments <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vision – a strong, well managed system able to withstand the stresses of Climate Change<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ through connectivity between individual reserves• Human health considerations to be factored into planning/management (including psychological health)• That any/all development in the A.C.T. integrates NRM/nature parks from the beginning of the process (including public transport, dwelling orientation etc)• Connectivity between areas of Canberra Nature Park so that walks would be possible across Canberra with minimal ‘suburbia’ en-route• Easy access to a well connected Nature Reserve system i.e. access to the Murrumbidgee River from the suburbs between grazing properties• a wide wildlife corridor (300m wide) from the Murrumbidgee River to Black Mountain• Social/cultural values to be considered as an essential part of planning/development• Connectivity – to have a ring of nature reserves all around Canberra• That there be a linking of all nature reserves in the A.C.T. (and surrounding area)	

NOTES TAKEN BY PARTICIPANTS DURING THEIR DISCUSSIONS ON CROSS CUTTING THEMES

Theme: Integration of uses and activities on reserves		Forum: Wednesday 19 May	
What facts are you aware of?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses: protection of Biodiversity, endangered plants and ecological communities and connectivity corridors for birds and insects • Uses: infrastructure – reservoirs, electrical substations, biodiversity, healthy environment – healthy population of people (open spaces) • Activity – recreation – walking, cycling, bird watching, dog walking, park care, horse riding, illegal activities – motor cycles, BMX • Over population of kangaroos and rabbits • Some people are concerned about bushfires in reserves and possible damages to houses 			
What helps the current situation?		What hinders the current situation?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manmade trails • Designated line trails vs built trails • Park care/land care groups 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of education in community and in schools • Lack of financial resources etc in CNP management • Lack of good signs • Too many weeds 	
What ideas do you have for future policies and actions?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kangaroo proof fence near Tuggeranong Parkway or Mount Taylor • Confinement of cats to protect biodiversity • Improve signage • Better education in community • Education in schools about CNP reserves nearby 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rangers need greater powers of enforcement in legislation • Reserve boundaries should not change to retain size of reserves • Walking trail from Hall to Tharwa • Improve resourcing to CNP • More money (\$\$\$) 	
Reflecting on your ideas what is your number one priority?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not reduce size of reserve and integration of park care/land care group activities to support biodiversity as well as recreational activities 			
Briefly describe your vision for the Canberra Nature Park, the Molonglo Corridor and Googong Foreshores			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep what we have • Improve biodiversity and protection of threat endangered species. • Maintain recreational values of reserves • Improve education in community of value of reserves 			
Additional comments			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review access to different parts of CNP eg locking horses out of fire trails is unnecessary 			

NOTES TAKEN BY PARTICIPANTS DURING THEIR DISCUSSIONS ON CROSS CUTTING THEMES

Theme: Integration of uses and activities on reserves		Forum: Monday 24 May	
What facts are you aware of?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Canberra Nature Park is used by many different recreational users including runners, horse riders, walkers, dog walkers, cyclists, bird watchers • The extent to which these activities are integrated varies from park to park • Many activities co-exist happily now eg Pinnacle, Mt Painter 			
What helps the current situation?		What hinders the current situation?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure such as car parking, signage, toilets, bitumen walking tracks 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of infrastructure eg signage • Lack of connectivity between reserves • Lack of maintenance eg mowing grass, maintaining tracks and paths • Lack of communication between the various user groups 	
What ideas do you have for future policies and actions?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring access for all groups eg low mobility, older users • Connect/integrate the reserves and have toilets/benches every hour (walking) or so • Need to establish a 'users' group similar to NCA Lakes Users group as a 'peak body' to consult with users and manage various activities • Improve infrastructure eg car parking 			
Reflecting on your ideas what is your number one priority?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a user's group to hear community views and manage collaboratively, continue to be available for ongoing use 			
Briefly describe your vision for the Canberra Nature Park, the Molonglo Corridor and Googong Foreshores			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That they be protected forever from urban development and resourced appropriately as a valuable multiuse natural asset for Canberra 			
Additional comments			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'd like to see an overall focus which includes urban open spaces as some have good biodiversity and all could relieve the recreation pressure on actually designated nature reserves • Supporting the idea mentioned here of an enlarged, more effective, system for communication among, and input from, all users 			

NOTES TAKEN BY PARTICIPANTS DURING THEIR DISCUSSIONS ON CROSS CUTTING THEMES

Theme: Integration of uses and activities on reserves		Forum: Wednesday 26 May	
What facts are you aware of?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We know that these spaces are used for walking, horse-riding, cycling and BMX bikes, agistment, rural leases, walking dogs, running, orienteering, education, angling, bird watching, observing native wildlife, parkcare and weeding, revegetation, pram walking, cleaning up rubbish, erosion control, track maintenance, elimination of feral animals, 4 wheel driving (illegally), utilities 			
What helps the current situation?		What hinders the current situation?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Availability of volunteers Community awareness of Canberra Nature Park and environmental issues Rangers keeping watch on things Volunteer involvement creates a sense of ownership 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of accessibility at some locations Insufficient rangers Lack of training and certification for volunteers Liability and insurance worries Overuse of some areas No new park care groups being established 	
What ideas do you have for future policies and actions?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop codes of conduct for different uses Create adequate recreation opportunities while preserving 'native' environments in sensitive areas 			
Reflecting on your ideas what is your number one priority?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a team of independent experts to coordinate the work of rangers and volunteers – and help train volunteers and rangers Improve accessibility to some locations Improve coordination and planning 			
Briefly describe your vision for the Canberra Nature Park, the Molonglo Corridor and Googong Foreshores			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That we as a community find enough resources to look after these spaces properly, so that future generations still have these areas for enjoyment Establish a balance between the various users 			
Additional comments			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disallowing volunteer action (eg rabbit control) 			

NOTES TAKEN BY PARTICIPANTS DURING THEIR DISCUSSIONS ON CROSS CUTTING THEMES

Theme: Key management issues on reserves		Forum: Wednesday 19 May	
<p>What facts are you aware of?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plans of various formats have been enacted for CNP • Some reserves have "Friends of.." groups • Limited and declining resources to manage the reserves 			
<p>What helps the current situation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who are passionate about the area • Increased community knowledge • More use and more awareness 		<p>What hinders the current situation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of corporate image for Parks, Conservation and Lands • Lack of public awareness and communication • Lack of corporate knowledge • Political process – short term view • Limits of economic theory • Lack of unified land management 	
<p>What ideas do you have for future policies and actions?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and communicate what the natural ecology of the CNP should be • Maintain the integrity of the hills, ridges and buffers of CNP • Promote "Healthy Places, Healthy Faces" – Health plan – to include CNP • Kangaroo management • Fire management • Seek out and identify possible champions in support of CNP • Expand supportive networks • Quantify the value of the many different uses of CNP 			
<p>Reflecting on your ideas what is your number one priority?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quantify the qualitative values of CNP including opportunity costs 			
<p>Briefly describe your vision for the Canberra Nature Park, the Molonglo Corridor and Googong Foreshores</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and improve CNP – maintain total area • Including conservation, education, recreation and scientific study, aesthetics • Continue to expand the area of reserves 			

Theme: Key management issues on reserves <i>(continued)</i>	Forum: Wednesday 19 May <i>(continued)</i>
Additional comments <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve the noise barriers between main roads and residential areas which used to [be] buffered by CNP but damaged with loss of trees from bushfires (ie noise from Tuggeranong Parkway and Melrose drive increased in Chifley homes backing onto mount Taylor.)• Get better structures for balancing recreational and conservation values and uses so that decisions are made between them.• Future policies and actions<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Increase horse riding access to CNP especially along the new fire trails that have been constructed since 2003○ Signage that disallows horse riding from steep and sensitive areas• Build and/or strengthen relationships with adjacent suburban communities• Communication management interconnectivity• Define Canberra Nature Park boundaries and incorporate other green spaces	

NOTES TAKEN BY PARTICIPANTS DURING THEIR DISCUSSIONS ON CROSS CUTTING THEMES

Theme: Key management issues on reserves		Forum: Monday 24 May	
<p>What facts are you aware of?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1999 Canberra Nature Park Management Plan – how much implementation has occurred? • No management plans for individual reserves • Lack of funds for efficient weed management, vertebrate pest control, recreational use maintenance, on ground presence by rangers • Most reserves are not being managed sustainably because of eg overgrazing leading to soil erosion, weed invasion and loss of biodiversity 			
<p>What helps the current situation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parkcare/landcare groups • Catchment management groups • PCL's volunteer coordinator 		<p>What hinders the current situation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turnover of PCL staff • \$\$\$ - lack of 	
<p>What ideas do you have for future policies and actions?</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated reserve bush management team to provide advice, education and training • Raising awareness and increasing community involvement in use and care 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring open consultation for all interest groups, including recreational users, on all aspects of CNP management with a view to clarifying allowable multiple uses • Identify more areas suitable for specific uses eg dogs, BMX, horse riders 	
<p>Reflecting on your ideas what is your number one priority?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased community awareness and involvement leading to pressures for increased resourcing for conservation and sustainable management for multiple use 			
<p>Briefly describe your vision for the Canberra Nature Park, the Molonglo Corridor and Googong Foreshores</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection in perpetuity of the above at their present extent for multiple use and for adequately resourced conservation ensuring sustainable ecosystems. 			
<p>Additional comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional dog exercise areas and land set aside close to suburbs for youth to build BMX tracks though. Both would take unwarranted pressure off CNP • Any proposed changes in resource use policy needs to be informed by the collection of long term data that is made publicly available • Education and communication on usage, species and ecosystems. Maps, media, history of park development website 			

NOTES TAKEN BY PARTICIPANTS DURING THEIR DISCUSSIONS ON CROSS CUTTING THEMES

Theme: Key management issues on reserves		Forum: Wednesday 26 May	
<p>What facts are you aware of?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Cap plan informs Territory plan which informs Parks, Conservation and Lands. • Legislation – Nature Conservation Act • Dedicated staff but under resourced • PCL manages day to day – use outside contractors for work • Resources – species lists • ACTEW must have access • 15 Park Care Groups – involved in on-ground management • Reserves and parks misused (mountain bikes) 			
<p>What helps the current situation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary groups • Dedicated rangers • Adequate management plans • Increased liaison between PCL and the public through Parkcare groups • PCL community programs (walks and talks) 		<p>What hinders the current situation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCL uses outside contractors and ACTEW contractors – non experts • Lack of resources for Park Care Groups • Turnover of PCL staff • Lack of connectivity • Drought • Poor enforcement/apprehension of misuser (insufficient power) 	
<p>What ideas do you have for future policies and actions?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual operational management plans for each reserve • Long term contracts for PCL staff – stability, skills build up and long term outlook/goals • A mechanism for public consultation/information dissemination • Specialised bush care group employed by PCL with experience in the area • Control public use to limit environmental damage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ we need greater clarity on the purpose of the reserves – conservation or recreation? • Increased community awareness of parks and programs in schools 			
<p>Reflecting on your ideas what is your number one priority?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connectivity and improving resourcing 			

Theme: Key management issues on reserves <i>(continued)</i>	Forum: Wednesday 26 May <i>(continued)</i>
Briefly describe your vision for the Canberra Nature Park, the Molonglo Corridor and Googong Foreshores <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To see individual parks connected by natural bushland – connectivity maintained2. Negative vision – losing natives, gaining introduced species – can't see how it can improve3. Some parts of reserves with limited access purely for conservation and others for more intensified recreational use	
Additional comments <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Killing kangaroos in 'nature reserves' sets a terrible example for children of disrespect and cruelty to Australia's icon species• All 'management' activities have to be transparent and accountable. Taxpayer's money is being used so there should be no secrecy• Control/manage public use eg walking dogs, this comes down to resources• A vision – a rabbit (and hare) free environment. Seriously consider over grazing as the second biggest issue/threat after development encroaching on CNP• Pest management to be ongoing and integrated, on and off adhoc is a waste of time and money• Rabbit control!	

NOTES TAKEN BY PARTICIPANTS DURING THEIR DISCUSSIONS ON CROSS CUTTING THEMES

Theme: Resourcing		Forum: Wednesday 19 May	
What facts are you aware of?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No mowing – lack of funding for mowing CNP Resourcing to access trails but by whom Lack of staff Mulligan’s flat – reintroducing native animals – getting resources 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General management – PCL Can get environment groups - department CCW Volunteer groups – in kind \$30 per hour – one of biggest resources Caring for Country grants, no commercial sponsorship 	
What helps the current situation?		What hinders the current situation?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers – organisations/land care GPS Public forum – info/education A nature park should not need much attention 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of rangers/staff when needed (application of entry fees) Lack of maintenance (urban) Budgetary constraints Perceived threat bush fires CN boundaries Continued development of buildings into parks – turning into buffer zone – eg Watson extra demand for reserves to repair damage 	
What ideas do you have for future policies and actions?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow buffer zone to be in new developments – not taking over park (not unanimous agenda) Levy as % of rates to maintain CNP Improve education of public to respect parks – start in school Encourage schools and others to adopt a park 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase volunteers, get sponsors to support organisational activities Need to increase resident interest in CNP, but young families time poor Sponsor/organisation through school sponsors to identify/adopt a park 	
Reflecting on your ideas what is your number one priority?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain the integrity of CNP by ensuring supply of adequate resources to conservation and recreation The more Canberra develops – the more we need the nature parks 			
Briefly describe your vision for the Canberra Nature Park, the Molonglo Corridor and Googong Foreshores			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canberra NP will stay same as today Greater protection of natural values in the nature reserves ACT community to realise the value of the green spaces and fund accordingly 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CNP using effective resources with sheep to maintain area and reduce risk to people Ensure new developments incorporate CNPs into planning 	
Additional comments			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Problem with sheep – grazing destroys ground cover and biodiversity Establish a foundation as a financial vehicle, without diminishing government responsibility or over reliance on volunteering Disagree with animals (sheep, cattle) on the nature reserves 			

NOTES TAKEN BY PARTICIPANTS DURING THEIR DISCUSSIONS ON CROSS CUTTING THEMES

Theme: Resourcing		Forum: Monday 24 May	
What facts are you aware of?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insurance cover • Fee free use • ACT Government funded 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer grants • What do rangers provide? • Weed contractors cost 	
What helps the current situation?		What hinders the current situation?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers • Recreational users 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political priorities – too lower priorities • Bush capital disappearing • Lack of rubbish bins/setting time to clear grass/dumping • Red tape • Creeping development – paddocks being converted • Why Canberra is developing - more pressure on parks • Inaction with law/regulation breached 	
What ideas do you have for future policies and actions?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event to raise funds? User fees? • Corporate sponsorship (with choices of sources conditional) • Signage – corporate sponsorship • 'In memory of' seats 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities (running costs)/drinking water (tap) • Gates (access and horses) • Working out the indirect costs of recreational use • Prioritise the area – don't encroach on open spaces 	
Reflecting on your ideas what is your number one priority?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocate funding to make it multiuse/multipurpose and a safe recreational area 			
Briefly describe your vision for the Canberra Nature Park, the Molonglo Corridor and Googong Foreshores			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an expanded multi-use/multipurpose safe recreational area with more public involvement in its management • Awareness campaign to publicise the parks • Emphasis on the bush capital 			
Additional comments			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource allocation – in relation to Mt Painter in particular, it receives few resources because it is the most recently declared nature park and is badly degraded because of overgrazing by stock in the park. Whereas it requires a larger allocation of resources to control pests and eradicate weeds to bring it up to a reasonable standard • More resources devoted to vertebrate pests (rabbit and kangaroo) management and control • Consider a lottery for raising funds 			

NOTES TAKEN BY PARTICIPANTS DURING THEIR DISCUSSIONS ON CROSS CUTTING THEMES

Theme: Resourcing	Forum: Wednesday 26 May
<p>What facts are you aware of?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little coordination/communication between different agencies (especially fire/ecology) • Some areas don't have park care to lobby/maintain • Rangers are short staffed • Priorities downgrade ecology 	
<p>What helps the current situation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedication and expertise of volunteers 	<p>What hinders the current situation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ad hoc management, Government doesn't take responsibility • Rangers are short staffed
<p>What ideas do you have for future policies and actions?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinating body • More resources (needs on-ground action based funding model) • Environmental levy (on public and developers) Environmental trust (donations) 	
<p>Reflecting on your ideas what is your number one priority?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On ground action and resources in a coordinated manner 	
<p>Briefly describe your vision for the Canberra Nature Park, the Molonglo Corridor and Googong Foreshores</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance and maintain our reserves for human enjoyment and ecological protection and preservation 	
<p>Additional comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More reserves for training volunteers • Real incentives provided for integrating volunteers and professional development especially for young people • Employ education officers to spread the word about the joys of nature parks • Developing an awareness of the value and importance of CNP so that adequate resources and staff are made available 	