

# Nature Conservation (Review of Canberra Nature Park Management Plan 1999) Public Consultation Notice 2019

Notifiable instrument NI2019—651

made under the

Nature Conservation Act 2014, s 189 (Reserve management plan—review) and s179 (Draft reserve management plan- public consultation)

---

## 1 Name of instrument

This instrument is the *Nature Conservation (Review of Canberra Nature Park Management Plan 1999) Public Consultation Notice 2019*.

## 2 Commencement

This instrument commences on the day after its notification day.

## 3 Reserve management plan review

I have reviewed the Canberra Nature Park Management Plan 1999. The *Review of the Canberra Nature Park Management Plan 1999* (the reserve management plan review) is at Schedule 1 to this instrument.

## 4 Public consultation period

- (1) I invite written submissions from anyone about the reserve management plan review. Submissions may be sent to:

Director, Parks Planning and Policy  
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate  
GPO Box 158  
CANBERRA ACT 2601  
Email: [environment@act.gov.au](mailto:environment@act.gov.au)

- (2) Submissions may only be given during the public consultation period. The public consultation period begins on the notification day of this instrument and ends at close of business, 16 December 2019.

(3) The reserve management plan review is available for inspection during business hours at:

Ground Floor South, Dame Pattie Menzies House, 16 Challis Street, Dickson.

(4) The review can also be viewed:

online at <http://www.environment.act.gov.au> and

on the YourSay website at <http://www.yoursay.act.gov.au>.

Ian Walker  
Executive Group Manager, Environment  
Custodian  
24 September 2019

**Schedule 1**  
(See section 3)



**ACT**  
Government



# REVIEW OF THE CANBERRA NATURE PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN 1999

September 2019



# YOUR SAY

The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate welcomes your comments on this review of the Canberra Nature Park Management Plan 1999.

## YOU CAN MAKE COMMENTS BY:

Visiting: [www.yoursay.act.gov.au](http://www.yoursay.act.gov.au)

Email: [epsddcomms@act.gov.au](mailto:epsddcomms@act.gov.au)

Post: Director, Parks Planning and Policy  
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate  
GPO Box 158, Canberra ACT 2601

## COMMENTS CAN BE MADE UNTIL COB MONDAY 16 DECEMBER 2019

© Australian Capital Territory, Canberra 2019

### Accessibility

The ACT Government is committed to making its information, services, events and venues as accessible as possible.

If you have difficulty reading a standard printed document and would like to receive this publication in an alternative format, such as large print, please phone Access Canberra on 13 22 81 or email the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate at [epsddcomms@act.gov.au](mailto:epsddcomms@act.gov.au)

If English is not your first language and you require a translating and interpreting service, please phone 13 14 50.

If you are deaf, or have a speech or hearing impairment, and need the teletypewriter service, please phone 13 36 77 and ask for Access Canberra on 13 22 81.

For speak and listen users, please phone 1300 555 727 and ask for Access Canberra on 13 22 81.

For more information on these services visit [www.relayservice.com.au](http://www.relayservice.com.au)

### Privacy

Before making a submission to this discussion paper, please review the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate's privacy policy and annex at [www.environment.act.gov.au/about/privacy](http://www.environment.act.gov.au/about/privacy). Any personal information received in the course of your submission will be used only for the purposes of this community engagement process. All or part of any submissions may be published on the [www.environment.act.gov.au](http://www.environment.act.gov.au) website or in any subsequent consultation report. However, while names of organisations may be included, all individuals will be de-identified unless prior approval is gained.

### Copyright

This work is copyright. Apart from any use as permitted under the Copyright Act 1968, no part may be reproduced by any process without written permission from: Director-General, Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate, ACT Government, GPO Box 158, Canberra ACT 2601.

Telephone: 02 6207 1923      Website: [www.environment.act.gov.au](http://www.environment.act.gov.au)

# CONTENTS

<b>Review of the Canberra Nature Park Management Plan 1999</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Background</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Summary assessment of the Management Plan 1999</b>	<b>1</b>
Strengths	1
Limitations	1
<b>Review of Canberra Nature Park (CNP) Management Plan 1999</b>	<b>2</b>
Chapter 1: Introduction – Areas managed as CNP	2
Chapter 2: Management Zones	3
Chapter 3: Management of Natural Resources	4
Chapter 4: Management of Cultural Resources	6
Chapter 5: Management for Protection of the Environment	6
Chapter 6: Promotion and Management of Visitor Use	8
Chapter 7: Community Awareness and Participation	9
Chapter 8: Uses Requiring Approval	10
Chapter 9: Urban Related Issues	12
<b>Canberra Nature Park Draft Reserve Management Plan 2019</b>	<b>13</b>



# REVIEW OF THE CANBERRA NATURE PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN 1999



Under the Nature Conservation Act 2014 (s. 189) the custodian of a reserve must review a reserve management plan:

- a) every 10 years after the plan commences; and
- b) at any other time at the Minister's request.

This review of the 1999 Canberra Nature Park Management Plan has been undertaken by the custodian, the ACT Parks and Conservation Service (ACTPCS). The Minister for the Environment and Heritage has extended the time for conducting this review to 30 June 2020.

## BACKGROUND

The Canberra Nature Park Management Plan 1999 came into effect in July 1999 and was the first management plan prepared for the nature reserves within Canberra Nature Park. The decade-long process to prepare the plan (commencing in 1989) substantially increased the Canberra community's knowledge that Canberra Nature Park nature reserves have important ecological, cultural, and recreational values. The 1999 plan is available at: [www.legislation.act.gov.au/di/1999-163/19990729-8381/pdf/1999-163.pdf](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/di/1999-163/19990729-8381/pdf/1999-163.pdf)

## SUMMARY ASSESSMENT OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN 1999

### Strengths

The plan included:

- » a long term vision and overall management objectives for key values
- » maps for each nature reserve, including access tracks
- » an outline of relevant legislation and land use policies
- » zone overlays
  - Zone 1 Multiple use
  - Zone 2 Intensive recreation and tourism
  - Zone 3 Facilities
  - Zone 4 Urban edge buffer

- » descriptions of natural and cultural values, providing more information than previously publicly available
- » potential threats to reserve values and management approaches and actions to protect the values
- » guidance to promote visitor use and limit access for some recreational activities e.g. dog walking and horse riding
- » information to promote the importance of community awareness and participation
- » support for ParkCare and volunteer involvement
- » identification of urban related issues e.g. number and variety of neighbours.

### Limitations

The plan provided only limited information on:

- » zone overlays for individual nature reserves
- » management direction for individual nature reserves
- » Aboriginal and historic cultural heritage
- » policies to guide future infrastructure development away from high value and sensitive areas.

This review identifies progress made against the management objectives in the 1999 plan. Where relevant, brief information is provided on what has been included in the Canberra Nature Park Draft Reserve Management Plan 2019.



# REVIEW OF CANBERRA NATURE PARK (CNP) MANAGEMENT PLAN 1999

## CHAPTER 1: Introduction – Areas managed as CNP

The 1999 management plan identified the following nature reserves as part of CNP:

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| » Aranda Bushland   | » Mount Majura      |
| » Black Mountain  | » Mount Mugga Mugga |
| » Bruce Ridge   | » Mount Painter     |
| » Cooleman Ridge  | » Mount Pleasant    |
| » Dunlop Grasslands   | » Mount Taylor      |
| » Farrer Ridge  | » Mulligans Flat    |
| » Gossan Hill   | » Oakey Hill        |
| » Gungahlin Hill<br>(now in Gungaderra)                       | » O'Connor Ridge    |
| » Gungahlin Grasslands<br>(Crace, Mulanggari &<br>Gungaderra) | » Red Hill          |
| » Isaacs Ridge  | » Rob Roy           |
| » McQuoids Hill   | » The Pinnacle      |
| » Mount Ainslie   | » Tuggeranong Hill  |
|   | » Urambi Hills      |
|   | » Wanniasa Hills    |

### REVIEW

Since finalisation of the 1999 management plan, Callum Brae, Goorooyarroo, Jarramlee/West MacGregor, Jerrabomberra West Grasslands, Justice Robert Hope Park, Kinlyside and Percival Hill nature reserves have been added to CNP.

The **CNP Draft Reserve Management Plan 2019** includes Kowen Escarpment, Melrose and Molonglo Gorge nature reserves which were previously managed under other arrangements.

The total number of nature reserves addressed in the 2019 management plan is 37.

Additional areas are expected to be added to Canberra Nature Park as environmental offsets in the next few years.

## CHAPTER 2: Management Zones

### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE

- » Implement a zoning system to identify particular management strategies including the provision of a variety of settings for recreational and tourism activities, education and scientific research in keeping with area management objectives.

### REVIEW

The 1999 management plan introduced management zones of: Multiple use, Intensive recreation and tourism, Facilities, and Urban edge buffer. However, spatial illustration of the management zones was not included in the plan.

The zones were used to guide on ground management decisions regarding the construction of utility infrastructure, development of formal tracks and approval of recreational activities.

More detailed information on ecosystems values, threatened species, fire history, etc., was also provided to guide management decisions.

The **CNP Draft Reserve Management Plan 2019** proposes a new spatial management zoning system for each reserve based on the distribution of natural and cultural values and on the sensitivity of the values to disturbance. The zones are:

- » Zone 1: Core Conservation – areas with sensitive values that are most likely to be impacted from physical disturbance.
- » Zone 2: Conservation and landscape (general protection) – areas where the conservation values are less likely to be impacted, and are more robust to disturbance.

Management zoning aims to ensure that any impacts from activities such as the construction of recreational or utility infrastructure, or other disturbances, are directed outside reserves or into the more robust parts of CNP (Zone 2), where conservation values are less likely to be compromised.

Management zones will be one of a number of considerations in approving large recreation group events. For example, it may only be appropriate to conduct a group event in Zone 1 when woodland birds are not nesting.

### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE

- » Participate in the development and implementation of mechanisms to charge for services, accept funds and realise financial advantages to the Service in Canberra Nature Park consistent with other management objectives.

### REVIEW

An ACT Parks and Conservation Service (ACTPCS) wide approach to charging for services was developed in the late 1990s, and fees for ranger guided activities introduced along with an entrance fee to Tidbinbilla.

While there are no fees for entry to CNP, fees apply at Mulligans Flat Sanctuary and Jerrabomberra Wetlands for some educational and interpretive activities. Fees are also charged for other activities within CNP e.g. booked group events.

The **CNP Draft Reserve Management Plan 2019** highlights the Mulligans Flat Sanctuary and Jerrabomberra Wetlands as locations for interpretation and environmental education.





## CHAPTER 3: Management of Natural Resources

### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE

- » Conserve, rehabilitate and encourage rehabilitation of ecosystems to promote the long term survival of fauna and flora abundance and diversity, with particular emphasis on threatened species and communities.
- » Provide informal opportunities for viewing geological features and native fauna and flora in their natural habitat.

### REVIEW

Since the 1999 management plan was released, there have been many activities supporting conservation and rehabilitation of ecosystems.

The ACT Lowland Woodland Conservation Strategy (Action Plan 27) was released in 2004, the ACT Nature Conservation Strategy in 2013, the ACT Native Grassland Conservation Strategy and Action Plans in 2017, the ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019–25 in 2019, and numerous action plans prepared for threatened species.

Monitoring and research has been conducted on threatened species: Golden Sun Moth (*Synemon plana*), Grassland Earless Dragon (*Tympanocryptis pinquicollis*), Striped Legless Lizard (*Delma impar*), Pink-tailed Worm Lizard (*Aprasia parapulchella*), Perunga Grasshopper (*Perunga ochracea*), Superb Parrot (*Polytelis swainsonii*), Canberra Raspy Cricket (*Cooraboorama canberrae*), Button Wrinklewort (*Rutidosia leptorhynchoides*), Canberra Spider Orchid (*Arachnorchis actensis*) and Small Purple Pea (*Swainsona recta*).

Other activities include:

- » Vegetation mapping of all CNP reserves.
- » Woodland restoration. The ACT and Australian governments have contributed \$3.1 million for the ACT woodlands restoration project as part of a larger program to consolidate and connect 60,000 hectares of the largest remaining areas of Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum woodland in Australia.
- » Grassland restoration to improve and expand habitat for threatened grassland species in several CNP reserves. Includes reinstating surface rock as habitat and managed disturbance e.g. grazing, fire and slashing, to increase habitat heterogeneity.
- » Research partnership in Mulligans Flat and Goorooyarroo reserves (ACT Government, Australian National University and CSIRO) including: construction of a perimeter predator-proof fence to create a wildlife sanctuary, fire regime trials, replenishing fallen timber habitat, removing introduced predators, eradication of rabbits and reintroducing locally extinct fauna.
- » Connectivity modelling to identify key habitat linkages across the ACT including CNP (ACT Government and ANU).
- » Canberra Nature Map website.
- » On ground projects undertaken by the ACT Parks and Conservation Service, ParkCare and other volunteers.

- » Strategic Environmental Assessments (e.g. Molonglo and Gungahlin) which assessed the environmental benefits and impacts of development on an area and its suitability for future development (under the ACT Planning and Development Act 2007).
- » Environmental offsets have been introduced to compensate for impacts of development on matters of national environmental significance (MNES). Environmental offsets are generally additional areas that will be protected from future development and managed to maintain or enhance the MNES in accordance with the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

The **CNP Draft Reserve Management Plan 2019** continues the long term objectives for management of natural resources in CNP. Knowledge about CNP ecosystems and rehabilitation has greatly increased, and the the ACTPCS is implementing a Conservation Effectiveness Monitoring Program (CEMP) to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of management activities on the condition of ecosystems within the reserve system.

The 2019 draft plan includes a short profile for each reserve and indicates long term management objectives and key actions.

All CNP reserves have been identified under the Nature Conservation Act as IUCN Category IV: Habitat/species management area, and the plan's objectives are consistent with this category.

## MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE

- » Minimise human related damage to sites of geological and geomorphological significance.
- » Identify, protect and enhance the landscape qualities of Canberra Nature Park.

## REVIEW

The landscape qualities of Canberra Nature Park continue to be protected from development.

The National Capital Open Space System (NCOSS) protects the nationally significant landscape framework, visual backdrop and setting for the National Capital. The hills, ridges and buffer spaces are to remain substantially undeveloped in order to protect the Australian landscape character.

Over half of Canberra Nature Park reserves are Designated Areas under the National Capital Plan. Works conducted within Designated Areas require approval from the National Capital Authority.





## Chapter 4: Management of Cultural Resources

### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE

- » Conserve and protect cultural heritage places and objects in Canberra Nature Park.
- » Promote awareness and appreciation of Aboriginal culture and cultural heritage places.

### REVIEW

Since the 1999 management plan, cultural surveys (mostly associated with suburban development and the establishment of new reserves) have identified additional Aboriginal sites e.g. stone artefacts scatters, and pastoral historic sites e.g. ploughlands, remnants of cottages, and border survey markers.

There has been substantial growth in ACTPCS engagement with the local Aboriginal community e.g. ACTPCS establishment of Murrumbung Rangers, including interpretation on Ngannawal living cultural landscape within CNP.

A conservation management plan has been prepared for the Duntroon Dairy.

The **CNP Draft Reserve Management Plan 2019** sets out a strategic approach to support continuing Aboriginal Connection to Country and the protection, management and interpretation of Aboriginal and historic heritage. The plan notes that ACTPCS is proposing to increase the involvement of Traditional Custodians and other Aboriginal groups in management of the Territory's conservation estate. There is a commitment in the plan that the naming of reserves and places will consider past land uses, including the adoption of a Ngannawal language name identified through consultation with Traditional Custodians and Representative Aboriginal Organisations.

## Chapter 5: Management for Protection of the Environment

### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE

#### Fire management

- » Protect life and property from fire while not compromising the values of Canberra Nature Park.
- » Protect the natural and cultural resources of Canberra Nature Park and adjacent areas from inappropriate fire regimes, including ecological burns and fire suppression activities while promoting natural processes.

### REVIEW

Since the 1999 plan and 2003 bushfires, there has been a greater focus on fire fuel management within the ACT reserve system.

The Strategic Bushfire Management Plan (SBMP), Regional Fire Management Plans and annual Bushfire Operational Plans (BOP) are required under the Emergencies Act 2004.

The **CNP Draft Reserve Management Plan 2019** notes that detailed information on fire fuel management is provided in the SBMP and associated documents, including ecological guidelines.

The plan also notes that fire is applied in CNP to promote ecological values e.g. to encourage regeneration or germination of particular species and mosaic burns to improve habitat, and to connect the Aboriginal community to Country through the application of cultural burning practices.

#### Pollution control

- » Identify and implement strategies and standards for managing pollutants and wastes which may impact on Canberra Nature Park.

### REVIEW

Protection against pollution remains unchanged since the 1999 plan. ACTPCS undertakes operations to avoid pollution from its own activities and refers any observed occurrence to the Environment Protection Unit.

The **CNP Draft Reserve Management Plan 2019** includes information on water and air quality, waste management, chemicals and hazardous materials, resource extraction and contaminated sites.

## Soil conservation

- » Ensure that all developments, including tracks, trails and facilities, are designed and maintained to minimise soil erosion.
- » Identify and rehabilitate degraded areas

## REVIEW

ACT wide legislation applies for all developments in the ACT. Environmental assessment requirements are contained in the ACT Planning and Development Act 2007. Schedule 4 of the Act lists development proposals which trigger the requirement for environmental impact assessment (Par 4.3), and which of those activities might allow the Conservator of Flora and Fauna to provide an Environmental Significance Opinion (ESO) if a proposal is not likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact.

Proposed works in Designated Areas within CNP must be approved by the National Capital Authority.

An ACT Soil Landscapes dataset has been established and is available on ACTmapi. This has enhanced knowledge of soils, landscapes, and physical and chemical constraints to land use in the urban, conservation and rural environments in the ACT. Fifty-five soil landscape map units have been described, allowing major soil and landscape qualities and constraints to be identified.

An ACT Hydrogeological Landscape (HGL) has been prepared. Associated datasets and reports are designed to help land managers better understand salinity hazards, erosion hazards, land and soil capability, wetland classification, and wetland vulnerability to climate change in the ACT.

## Grazing

- » Manage grazing to ensure it does not compromise natural ecosystems, recreational and cultural values.
- » Manage grazing to achieve specifically defined conservation and fire fuel objectives.

## REVIEW

The ACT Kangaroo Management Plan (KMP) was released in 2010 and has guided the culling of Eastern Grey Kangaroos (EGK) in several CNP reserves to achieve conservation goals. The KMP has been updated by the Eastern Grey Kangaroo: Controlled Native Species Management Plan and EGKs are now managed in accordance with both plans.

Rabbits also exert heavy grazing pressure in some reserves and are managed under the ACT Pest Animal Management Strategy 2012-2022 to a level where any rabbit impacts are considered acceptable.

Conservation grazing plans have been implemented in the Gungahlin grasslands and annual bushfire operational plans identify grazing management in asset protection zones for fire fuel objectives.

The **CNP Draft Reserve Management Plan 2019** notes that grazing management is a key activity in CNP and an important tool for maintaining heterogeneity to provide habitat for a range of species. The Kangaroo Management Plan and Pest Animal Management Strategy 2012-2022 remain key drivers of activities in CNP.

## Management of pest species

- » Manage exotic animal species of actual or potential environmental concern.
- » Control priority pest plants using environmentally sensitive methods.
- » Minimise the introduction, establishment and spread of exotic plant species.

## REVIEW

The ACT Pest Animal Management Strategy 2012-2022 and ACT Weeds Strategy 2009-2019, and associated annual operations plans, prioritise and direct activities in CNP. A cat containment policy has been developed and applies to a number of suburbs located near reserves in order to protect threatened species.

The **CNP Draft Reserve Management Plan 2019** notes the ACT wide strategies and includes specific actions to control rabbits, coordinate cat control, and destroy European Wasps within reserves.





## Chapter 6: Promotion and Management of Visitor Use

### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE

- » Provide and maintain appropriate access and facilities to enhance visitor experiences that are in keeping with the settings of Canberra Nature Park.
- » Provide appropriate access and facilities for people with disabilities.
- » Promote and encourage safe visitor behaviour, and protect visitors from unreasonable hazards.
- » Minimise damage to the natural and cultural environment as a result of inappropriate visitor behaviour.
- » Educate the community on appropriate behaviour in Canberra Nature Park.
- » Provide for a range of recreational opportunities in natural settings and promote appropriate recreational use of Canberra Nature Park.
- » Balance recreation with conservation and minimise the impact of recreation on other values and recreational user conflicts.
- » Manage recreation including development and monitoring of indicators of recreational impact over time to enable establishment of strategies for remedial works and controls.
- » Encourage opportunities for tourists in Canberra Nature Park that are compatible with, and sympathetic to, conservation objectives.
- » Identify opportunities, within the context of a broader marketing framework, in which environmentally responsible commercial tourism ventures (concessions) can be pursued.
- » Enforce relevant legislation and liaise as necessary with the Australian Federal Police.

### REVIEW

Recreational use of many CNP reserves continues to be an important value for the Canberra community.

A database of approvals for the use of public land for group events was introduced in 2009. This has increased knowledge about the activities undertaken, the most popular reserves, and the numbers of people recreating in CNP.

The Centenary Trail (multi-use track) has now been established and passes through many CNP reserves. Bruce Ridge and Isaacs Ridge nature reserves have multi-use tracks which focus on mountain bike use.

Activities Declarations (under the Nature Conservation Act 2014) have been prepared for most CNP reserves, identifying what and where activities are permitted, and strengthening the enforcement abilities of rangers.

ACTPCS is developing a recreation and tourism strategy (based on a landscape classification system) to provide direction and priorities for visitor facilities and recreation management.

The **CNP Draft Reserve Management Plan 2019** aims to address some of the issues associated with recreational use of reserves by the introduction of a zoning system based on the distribution of natural and cultural values and the sensitivity of values to disturbance.

The zones will assist ACTPCS decisions in providing (or closing) recreational facilities such as tracks and boardwalks, in approving group activities, and allowing for some activities.

The 2019 draft plan includes actions to improve monitoring and management of types and levels of recreational use and to review tracks (including informal tracks) using the criteria outlined in the Trails ACT Planning and Management Guidelines 2015–2025.

# Chapter 7: Community Awareness and Participation

## MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE

- » Promote the resource significance, values and low impact recreational opportunities in Canberra Nature Park.
- » Develop greater understanding of Canberra Nature Park by agencies with facilities on reserves, or agencies involved in planning or works related to Canberra Nature Park.
- » Provide adequate, appropriate and accessible information to visitors and potential visitors of Canberra Nature Park, including on-site information and information leaflets.
- » Provide opportunities for the community, particularly children, to gain positive direct experiences in their local environment.
- » Provide opportunities for environmental education which identify values, attitudes and behaviour towards the environment and support conservation of the environment in Canberra Nature Park.
- » Provide opportunities and support for community volunteer participation in the management of CNP such as through ParkCare groups.
- » Evaluate effectiveness of community awareness and participation opportunities.

## REVIEW

There is a significant contribution from community groups to management of CNP. Interested community groups include ParkCare groups, Catchment Groups, ACT Recreation Users Group, the Woodlands and Wetlands Trust, Canberra Ornithologists Group, Frogwatch and Murrumbung Ranger's activities with the local Aboriginal community.

A number of community groups, in particular ParkCare, have contributed to CNP information and education through the preparation of interpretative brochures and signs and conducting interpretation activities. There is also a significant and growing interest in the value of citizen science activities such as Canberra Nature Map.

The ACTPCS website includes information on CNP reserves, and most reserves now have interpretation signs noting values. <https://www.environment.act.gov.au/ACT-parks-conservation>.

The Nature Conservation Act 2014 allows for the Conservator to propose a Management Agreement with any public utility agency that supplies gas, electricity, water or sewerage services, or entity responsible for the construction, repair and maintenance of navigation serving beacons and telecommunications within CNP. The agreement will outline standards and conditions to avoid or minimise any conflict with management objectives for a reserve. An agreement has been developed with Icon Water.

ACTPCS maintenance works within reserves are subject to relevant approved code/s of practice and require works plans to be prepared.

The **CNP Draft Reserve Management Plan 2019** supports the development of a stronger relationship with Aboriginal groups to facilitate more opportunities for Traditional Custodians and their families, and other local Aboriginal groups, to obtain greater access to Country and to have more opportunity to be involved in land management and cultural activities.

Community involvement through ParkCare and other community groups will continue to be supported.

Additional interpretative signage is now in place on reserves to highlight reserve values and show what is, and is not, allowed on each reserve as part of the Activities Declaration process under the Nature Conservation ACT 2014.



## Chapter 8: Uses Requiring Approval

### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE

- » Develop an information base and monitoring system for the environment within CNP to enhance the Service's understanding and capacity to manage.
- » Identify and prioritise research needs to achieve CNP management objectives and ensure research results are transferred promptly into management practice where appropriate.
- » Minimise or avoid negative environmental impacts on natural, cultural, recreational and landscape resource values.
- » Provide opportunities for research into aspects of the environmental values of CNP in order to assist in the development of community knowledge and skills.

### REVIEW

Since the 1999 management plan was released, data management has become a major ACT Government-wide activity managed through the ACT Land Information Group.

Data on the plant and animal species within CNP is now extensive, for example, with research conducted by the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate's Conservation Research unit, the Australian National University and the University of Canberra.

ACT Government staff have access to detailed information and data to support on-ground management decisions e.g. establishing a new suburb, construction of utility infrastructure, approval of a large group event. A subset of the information is also made available to the public on ACTmapi.

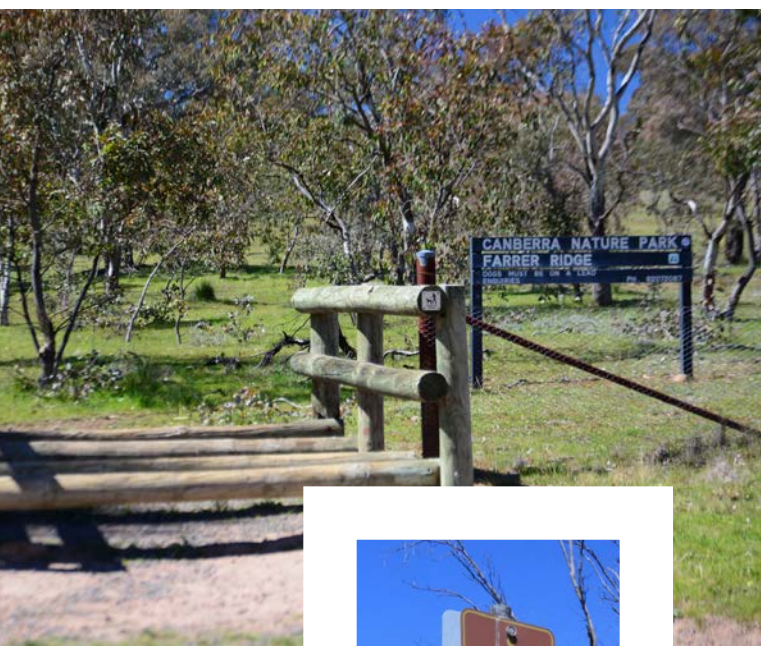
ACTPCS staff utilise mobile technology with customised apps to collect field data and record management actions.

A Conservation Effectiveness Monitoring Program has been developed to provide a framework for monitoring and evaluating the condition of nature reserves, and the effectiveness of management activities on improving the condition of ecosystems in the reserve system.

#### The **CNP Draft Reserve Management Plan 2019**

commits to continued collaborative research partnerships with universities and other institutions and outlines priority areas for future research areas such as:

- » ecology and population genetics of threatened or declining species
- » processes driving the abundance, distribution and condition of reserve ecological values
- » vegetation and wildlife response to fire regimes
- » developing effective restoration/management techniques for threatened communities and species habitat
- » the desirability and feasibility of reintroducing locally-extinct native animal species
- » the implications of climate change for the biota of the region
- » developing a better understanding of the types, levels and impacts of recreation and visitor use
- » supporting the Mulligans Flat-Goorooyaroo Woodlands Experiment, Mulligans Flat Woodlands Sanctuary and Woodlands and Wetlands Trust.





## MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE

- » Allow opportunities for the provision of appropriate services to visitors, via concessions, consistent with overall management objectives.
- » Manage non-concessionable commercial and related activities to protect the values of CNP.

## REVIEW

Currently there are few commercial nature-based tourism operations in the ACT.

A major new initiative in CNP has been the development of the Woodlands and Wetlands Trust, a partnership between the community, government and private sector, which is raising funds to support improved ecosystem restoration through educational and eco-tourism opportunities and innovative management activities at Mulligans Flat Woodlands Sanctuary and Jerrabomberra Wetlands.

The **CNP Draft Reserve Management Plan 2019** supports the operation of the Woodlands and Wetlands Trust and notes that access for commercial operators is provided in accordance with the ACTPCS licensing system (under development). Preparation of an environmental management plan may be required.

## MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE

- » Ensure that agencies with facilities and installations within CNP are aware of management objectives for CNP through education and liaison, to facilitate agency operation in sympathy with such objectives.
- » Pursue leases or licences for facilities and installations, and/or establish management agreements between service agencies and the Service addressing the planning, cost recovery, construction and maintenance of facilities and installations.

## REVIEW

The Conservator of Flora and Fauna may propose a Management Agreement with any public utility agency that supplies gas, electricity, water or sewerage services, or entity responsible for the construction, repair and maintenance of navigation serving beacons and telecommunications within CNP (under the Nature Conservation Act 2014). The Management Agreement will outline standards and conditions to avoid or minimise any conflict with management objectives for a reserve and the conditions will also apply to contractors undertaking work for public utility providers.



# Chapter 9: Urban Related Issues

## MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE

- » Minimise impacts of adjoining land uses on CNP, and of CNP on adjoining land uses.
- » Ensure that new suburbs and other edge developments are planned and constructed to provide for future management including fire management, drainage and reserve security, and that the values of CNP are not degraded by further fragmentation and loss of edge buffers.
- » Provide mechanisms for recovery of costs incurred by the Service in management activities associated with adjoining lands.

## REVIEW

A whole of government approach is undertaken in the development of new suburbs, with the strategic planning process undertaken over many years. Strategic Environmental Assessments (e.g. Molonglo and Gungahlin) are now undertaken at the planning stage for new development areas (under the ACT Planning and Development Act 2007).

New suburbs are designed and developed to better protect values within CNP including fencing, edge boundary roads, drainage etc., and intensive fire fuel management zones outside the CNP boundary.

CNP staff liaise with neighbouring landholders whose boundaries adjoin CNP regarding issues such as weed, fire and access management.

## MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE

- » Promote an appreciation and tolerance of wildlife in the community, and a realistic attitude to its management.

## REVIEW

ACTPCS has undertaken many education activities including on urban wildlife issues, with brochures, information on the ACTPCS website and more recently on social media and video.



# CANBERRA NATURE PARK DRAFT RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2019

In recent years, several new reserves have been added to Canberra Nature Park, new information on reserve values has become available, and significant changes have occurred in the legislative and policy context, such as the introduction of the Nature Conservation Act 2014 and the development of a number of conservation strategies for the ACT.

In the light of these changes, and the findings of this review, a new draft reserve management plan is being prepared for Canberra Nature Park.

The 2019 Canberra Nature Park Draft Reserve Management Plan builds on the achievements of the 1999 plan with long term goals focusing on the viability of ecosystems, providing appropriate recreational opportunities within nature reserves, protecting the special character of Canberra as the 'city in the landscape', encouraging Aboriginal connection to Country and conserving historic heritage.

The 2019 draft plan includes:

- » management zones based on the distribution of natural and cultural values, and their sensitivity to disturbance
- » policies for management zones relating to walking tracks, multi-use tracks, utility infrastructure, etc.
- » maps showing vegetation and landscape connectivity
- » 'complexes' where reserves with similar natural characteristics, management priorities and/or geographical proximity are grouped into complexes for landscape scale management of ecosystems
- » reserve profiles which provide summary information of each reserve including the long-term aims for management and overarching key actions
- » maps of each nature reserve indicating natural values, management zones, restricted areas, and other information



- » IUCN Protected Area Category IV: Habitat/species management area objectives
- » public access restrictions to rural lease areas within Canberra Nature Park
- » trialling of additional horse riding tracks in a small number of Canberra Nature Park nature reserves.

The draft plan is based on the extensive survey work on natural values conducted over the past 30 years, and much more data is now publicly available.

The draft plan has also taken into account recommendations from two ACT Commissioner for the Environment reports: Report on ACT Lowland Native Grassland Investigation (March 2009) and Report on Canberra Nature Park (nature reserves); Molonglo River Corridor (nature reserves) and Googong Foreshores Investigation (July 2011).

The Canberra Nature Park Draft Reserve Management Plan 2019 is available for comment at [www.yoursay.act.gov.au](http://www.yoursay.act.gov.au)







