

Mick Gentleman MLA  
Minister for the Environment and Heritage  
Minister for Lands and Planning  
[gentleman@act.gov.au](mailto:gentleman@act.gov.au)

26 September 2018

Dear Minister Gentleman

### Canberra Nature Park Management

We, the undersigned Park Care groups, are writing to you about the management of Canberra Nature Park (CNP) and to request a meeting between yourself and a delegation of Park Care volunteers.

We are concerned that the draft Canberra Nature Park Management Plan (CNPMP) has not yet been released for public comment. This plan has been under preparation for many years and is needed to provide a contemporary policy framework for CNP. We are also concerned that other strategies have been released in the ACT without reference to the CNPMP which could impact on the values of the Canberra Nature Park, including the 'Nature-based Tourism Strategy' and the 'Cycle Tourism Strategy'.

We would also like draw to your attention to the effect on Ranger workloads arising from administration of the Urban Wildlife program. The number of call-outs has been exacerbated by the drought and reached a crisis point in the current season with an increase of 400% in injured/dead animals. This leaves CNP Rangers with limited capacity for land management which is the core business of the Parks Service. We believe that administration and responsibility for this program should be shared across Government given it involves animal welfare and road safety issues as well as wildlife management. Even without the drought, call-outs have been increasing every year with continued urban development, habitat loss and change around Canberra. It is an ideal time to review the program and also consider the impact on ACT Wildlife volunteers who receive very limited funding support from government.

In 2019, we celebrate 30 years of Park Care in the ACT, our unique community partnership with the Parks and Conservation Service (PCS). We are grateful that the 2012 Parliamentary Agreement between ACT Labor and the ACT Greens led to the appointment in 2013 of a dedicated Park Care Ranger. We are mindful however of the challenges for that one Ranger supporting 14 CNP Park Care groups and over 100 active volunteers. These groups contributed over 80% of total reported volunteer hours across PCS and City Services in the ACT in 2014. The 30 year Park Care anniversary presents an opportunity to not only celebrate the on-ground achievements of the program but for Government to acknowledge the value of this extraordinary partnership by appointing a second Park Care Ranger for CNP. An additional Ranger will provide greater capacity for Parks to support our on-ground efforts, build and maintain relationships and improve coordination with the Districts. The working relationship between Park Care volunteers and Rangers over the years has been a critical factor in the success and endurance of the Program.

In closing, we would like to acknowledge the ACT Government's decision to provide some funding to the ACT Catchment groups in 2018-2019. The Catchment groups are integral to community governance in the ACT providing professional, administrative and grants support as well as a shared communication network for the Care and Waterwatch volunteers and our rural landholders.

We look forward to meeting with you on these important matters. Please contact Kathy Eyles Mt Taylor Park Care to arrange this meeting, 0407 899 698, [mttaylorparkcaregroup@gmail.com](mailto:mttaylorparkcaregroup@gmail.com).

Yours sincerely



Kathy Eyles for CNP Park Care Convenors and volunteers  
Farrer Ridge Park Care - Isaacs Ridge Mugga Mugga Park Care - Red Hill Regenerators –  
Mt Taylor Park Care - Friends of Black Mountain - Friends of Aranda Bushland - Friends of Mt Painter  
Friends of the Pinnacle - Mt Ainslie Weeders - Friends of Mt Majura - Friends of Mulligans Flat

c.c. Daniel Iglesias  
Chairs, Landcare ACT, Southern ACT, Ginninderra and Molonglo Catchment Groups  
Caroline le Couteur MLA