



Manager, Conservation Research
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate
GPO Box 158
Canberra ACT 2601-plan

Submission: Draft ACT Aquatic and Riparian Conservation Strategy and Action Plans

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the draft ACT Aquatic and Riparian Conservation Strategy (the Strategy) and Action Plans (the Plans). The National Parks Association of the ACT ("NPA ACT") is a community-based conservation organisation with more than fifty years of working to protect our natural environment through an active outings and work party program; participation in Parkcare activities; an extensive publication program; public meetings and conferences and engagement with government policies and programs.

The NPA ACT would like to compliment the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate on the production of a Strategy and Action Plans that are of high quality. The documents covers very thoroughly all aspects of riparian conservation, protection, threat reduction management, monitoring and research, as well as engagement with the community.

The NPA ACT notes and supports the proposed actions to limit the effects of climate change, a significant threat to aquatic and riparian ecosystems. In particular the development and protection of refuges will be a vital component in reducing the impact of climate change. Interaction of the Strategy with the ACT's Climate Action Plan is also vital.

The NPA ACT also notes the importance of the management of carp and the concerning disease epizootic haematopoietic necrosis virus (or EHNV) as well as achieving a balance between increasing connectivity of species while also reducing the impact of introduced species that could arise from increased connectivity.

Finally, the NPA ACT would raise the importance of mitigating the impact of urban activities particularly in that stretch of the Molonglo covered by the Strategy. The close proximity of urban developments to the Molonglo represents a significant pressure on these aquatic and riparian zones. Those actions identified in the Strategy to mitigate these pressures need to be rigorously implemented to prevent further degradation of the Molonglo.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact the NPA ACT office, attention of Mr Rod Griffiths, convener, NPA ACT Environment Sub-committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Esther M Gallant".

Esther Gallant
President
National Parks Association of the ACT

11 March 2018