



National Parks Association of the ACT Inc.

conservation education protection

11 October 2024

NPA Submission on the Minor Amendment Regarding Bluetts Block Striking the Balance

The National Parks Association of the ACT (NPA ACT) is a community-based conservation organisation with more than 60-years of experience in helping to protect the natural environment through an active program of walks and outings, work parties, participation in Parkcare activities, publications, public meetings and conferences, advocacy, and support for scientific research.

The NPA ACT appreciates the opportunity to comment on the “Minor Amendment to the Territory Plan 2024-m (MA2024-m) Extending nature reserve overlay (Stromlo Block 403 and Denman Prospect part block 12 section 2); and Rezoning (Denman Prospect part block 12 section 2) under future urban area.

Comments

The NPA ACT notes that the minor amendment proposes to change the Territory Plan Map to:

- add the public land overlay ‘Pc – a nature reserve’ to Stromlo rural block 403 and part of Denman Prospect section 2 block 12; and
- rezone part of Denman Prospect section 2 block 12 from residential RZ1 suburban to non-urban NUZ3 Hills, Ridges and Buffer.
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The areas being amended contain valuable ecosystems and threatened species. They provide a significant link in the connectivity of the natural environment between the north and south of the ACT.

The NPA ACT **strongly supports** the recommendation that Blocks 403 and Block 12 (Section 2) become part of an extended nature reserve overlay.

The NPA ACT is, however, concerned that the long term viability of the proposed new nature reserve is compromised by its narrowness and the high ratio of boundary to reserved area. Such features contribute to the ability of external pressures to undermine a reserve’s natural values. The NPA ACT is also concerned that not all of Block 403 has been included in the proposed, resulting an area not managed for conservation purposes between the northern section of Block 403 and the Molonglo River Reserve.

To address these concerns the NPA ACT **strongly recommends** that

- that all of Block 12 and the northern section of Block 403 be included in the proposed nature reserve; and
- Block 402 also be included as part of the proposed nature reserve.

Yours sincerely,

Rosemary Hollow

President

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