



The Hon Jon Stanhope MLA
Chief Minister
ACT Legislative Assembly
GPO BOX 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Chief Minister

I write to you with a proposal to increase the extent of the Pinnacle Nature Reserve, a component of the Canberra Nature Park located south of the suburbs of Weetangera and Hawker.

The Pinnacle Nature Reserve covers some 126 hectares. It is bounded by Springvale Drive, the suburb of Hawker and three properties; North Kama, an area referred to as the "Bottom Pinnacle", and horse-paddocks leased by Mr and Mrs Tully. North Kama and the Bottom Pinnacle are no-longer under leasehold, and are managed by the ACT's Parks and Conservation Service.

The Friends of the Pinnacle believe the Bottom Pinnacle and an adjacent fenced paddock in North Kama should be included in the Reserve. We believe there are sound ecological, aesthetic and land use grounds for doing so.

Firstly, these land parcels are important ecological corridors connecting the Lower Molonglo River to the Belconnen Hills. Key corridor features follow Deep Creek and woodlands in Kama Nature Reserve – located on the opposite side of William Hovell Drive. In general, vegetation communities in these land parcels are of similar or better condition to that in the Pinnacle Nature Reserve, and will improve with active restoration and conservation management.

As Molonglo's suburbs establish, its new residents will explore the Valley's public lands, along the river corridor and between the hilltops, and the Pinnacle will be increasingly visited and valued.

The views from the Bottom Pinnacle are magnificent, providing a clear perspective of the new suburbs in the context of the West Basin, Woden, the Brindabellas and the gorges of the Lower Molonglo. Wise planning could underpin an interpretation trail through and across the Valley to connect people to the natural and social contexts of Weston, Molonglo and Belconnen.

There should be few barriers to changing the tenure of these land parcels to 'nature reserve' under the *Territory Plan*. The Bottom Pinnacle and the paddock in North Kama are designated land under the National Capital Plan (NCP), precluding intensive development and use. In the event the NCP was amended to allow for development here I expect extreme site costs and poor planning outcomes would be barriers to developing this land.

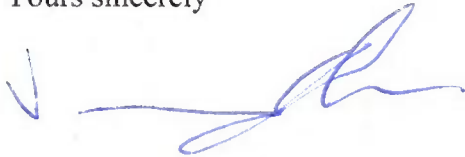
The need to manage the Pinnacle environment as a whole has seen our group already active in these adjacent land parcels, in partnership with the ACT Government.

Our group has worked with the Parks and Conservation Service to map and describe rabbit warrens across these lands for treatment. The majority of the experimental plots for our native grass restoration project* are located in the Bottom Pinnacle and North Kama as that is the most suitable place for them, and we will soon begin targeted weed control activities in these adjoining lands.

I can assure you that if these lands were included in The Pinnacle Nature Reserve our group would further embrace their management, giving them greater priority in our planning and management activities.

I hope you will look favourably upon our proposal. We would be very pleased if you could join us for a walk through the Bottom Pinnacle and North Kama properties, to share with you their beauty, and our goals and strategies for protecting and restoring this cherished component of the Canberra Nature Park.

Yours sincerely



Vaughn Cox

23/12/2010

cc. Mary Porter MLA

* Funded by the ACT Environment Program, Caring for Our Country Community Action Grant and Canberra Labor Club (www.fotpin.org.au/supporters.html).