



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

Dear Chief Minister

I wrote to you on 23 December 2010 regarding the "Bottom Pinnacle", and our group's interest in protecting and restoring that parcel of land. This letter regards managing an adjacent land parcel known as North Kama.

North Kama is located between The Pinnacle Nature Reserve, William Hovell Drive and the Bottom Pinnacle. Combined, these three areas cover some 280ha, and play a key role connecting the Belconnen Hills to the Molonglo and Murrumbidgee Rivers.

I note North Kama is zoned 'rural' under the *Territory Plan*, is not designated under the National Capital Plan, and its development is not proposed under the Molonglo and North Weston Structure Plan.

I have discussed general ideas for the use of North Kama with fotpin Committee members, and Mary Porter encouraged me to put those ideas to you.

Fotpin's concern with North Kama is that this land be put to a purpose sympathetic to conserving and protecting The Pinnacle and Kama Nature Reserves. That use should also meet the needs of the future community in the Molonglo Valley. These objectives could be achieved by using the land and its infrastructure for a number of related purposes, including establishing a ranger station, undertaking ecological restoration research and developing a focal point for conservation and environmental education activities in the Lower Molonglo Valley.

We believe there is the need for a local Park's ranger station. A growing local population, increased recreational use of high conservation areas, and more contact between people and wildlife will see the need for a prompt and reliable ranger presence in the Valley. The residence and buildings on the Kama property may be useful assets for establishing a local ranger presence.

The natural values that dissect and surround the new suburbs in Molonglo will attract residents to the new centre, and they and many others will come to appreciate those values through a range of recreational opportunities. Fotpin have the context for creating significant conservation activity, as well as a sense of belonging, by building a community of interest that protects those local natural values.

We believe community conservation in the Valley would be enhanced if a focal point was established locally, on and adjacent to reserved land. North Kama is an ideal location for that focal point. It has space, infrastructure, fabulous views across and along the Molonglo Valley, and easy access to reserves north and south of William Hovell Drive.

As a minimum, the focal point would be the centre of joint community and Government activity on local conservation projects from where people can borrow and repair equipment, receive herbicides, share learnings and together plan landscape scale conservation works.

Our group has received funds from the ACT and Federal Governments and the Canberra Labor Club to implement a native grass restoration project, with several experimental plots located on North Kama. We believe there are opportunities to test a wider range of land management strategies, informing restoration science, and guiding the repair of degraded lands in the Valley. To this end North Kama could also be a community-government research station.

As a ranger station, a focal point for community conservation and a research station, the facility could be used as an outdoor environmental education centre for schools in Belconnen and Molonglo. Education programs could be designed to see students engaged in research activities, and learn about species, ecological communities and explore high conservation areas from the Valley's hills to its river corridor.

North Kama is uniquely placed to support this set of complementary roles. From North Kama one can readily access the Belconnen Hills, and through the Kama Nature Reserve, the lower slopes of the Molonglo Valley and the river corridor itself.

North Kama's location clearly separates its purpose from that of Stromlo Forest Park. Establishing a focal point for conservation activity north of the river corridor will also balance the purpose and activity "over at Stromlo", and help bring together the Belconnen and Molonglo communities.

I would be very happy to meet with you or your staff to explore these ideas, and this would of course be more enjoyable and focussed if it involved a site visit.

Thank you very much.

Yours sincerely

✓  11/01/2011

Vaughn Cox

cc. Mary Porter AM MLA