



Katy Gallagher MLA

CHIEF MINISTER

MINISTER FOR HEALTH

MINISTER FOR TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES

MEMBER FOR MOLONGLO

Mr John Brannan
Convenor
Friends of the Pinnacle
john.brannan@netspeed.com.au

Dear Mr Brannan

Thank you for your letter of 30 July 2012 to Mr Simon Corbell MLA about fire fuel hazard reduction grazing in North Kama. I am responding as this matter falls within my Territory and Municipal Services portfolio.

Grazing is an accepted fire fuel management activity in the ACT which effectively reduces fuel levels by physically removing fuel and compacting the remaining vegetation. In addition, grazing can improve the likelihood of successful suppression operations by increasing ground visibility and hence the ability for crews to undertake direct attack on a fire.

Part of the old North Kama property is classed as Outer Asset Protection Zone (OAPZ) under the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan Version 2 (SBMP), whilst the remainder is classed as a Strategic Firefighting Advantage Zone (SFAZ).

The purpose of the OAPZ is to reduce the likelihood and consequences of fires impacting on assets and to provide a defensible space, consistent with the core principles of fire fighter and public safety. The SFAZ is established to provide strategic areas for breaking the continuity of fire paths, as well as providing opportunities for direct and indirect attack in the event of larger bushfires.

As you would be aware, the considerable natural and cultural values of the Pinnacle Nature Reserve require careful management to ensure that processes such as high intensity fire are adequately managed.

Ecologists from the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate have reviewed this grazing activity along with numerous other activities in the Bushfire Operational Plan (BOP), and have provided valuable advice about how to minimise the potential for environmental impacts associated with grazing on this site. It should also be noted that the grazing licence stipulates that no fertilising or exotic species sowing is permitted and that an average grass height of 200mm be maintained. The site is closely monitored by district rangers and staff from the fire management section of the ACT Parks and Conservation Service within the Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) Directorate.

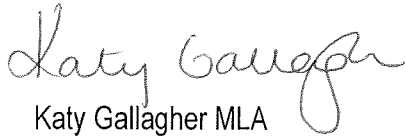
ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601 GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601
Phone (02) 6205 0840 Fax (02) 6205 3030 Email: gallagher@act.gov.au

I do, however, note the views of the Friends of the Pinnacle and I am keen to ensure they are carefully considered. To this end, I have asked officers from TAMS to meet with you to consider the pros and cons of cattle grazing.

Thank you for raising this matter. I trust that this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katy Gallagher".

Katy Gallagher MLA
Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

31 AUG 2012