



friends of the pinnacle

FOTPIN input to Woodlands Roundtable Discussion 5 November 2010.

The Friends of the Pinnacle is a parkcare group committed to protecting and enhancing the Pinnacle Nature Reserve (PNR). To this end the group also has an interest in biodiversity outcomes throughout the Lower Molonglo Valley.

Our group welcomes the ACT Government's proposal to develop and implement a woodlands restoration plan. By way of early input, the group believes the plan is more likely to achieve its goal if it:

- 1. is implemented collaboratively with stakeholders**, through a transparent process, that sets shared priorities and timelines, and guides the limited resources to maximum effect;
- 2. restores native understorey** as well as woodlands. Woodland restoration by replanting and reducing grazing pressure is supported, however methods for converting largely exotic understorey to native are not available, and need to be developed;
- 3. identifies and addresses key knowledge gaps** up front, and reliably and transparently incorporates those learnings into plan implementation through active adaptive management processes. Learning how to effectively restore woodlands should be one of the plan's core objectives;
- 4. includes a strategy** that sets out the what, who, where and when for plan implementation, with a clearly related, adequate and dedicated out-year budget. Those monies may need to be in a trust fund that permits the rollover of monies to subsequent FYs;
- 5. is implemented through property plans** to give practical meaning to the plan's implementation. Those plans underpin collaborative local action - including longer term activity - and will be vehicles for community engagement and co-investment;
- 6. recognises erosion, recreation and fuel reduction practices** as key threatening processes, in addition to weed and pest control, and grazing pressure; and
- 7. builds local capacity and awareness** by piloting a community-government partnership with several motivated and better resourced parkcare groups. The ACT Government could empower these groups as community agents. Furnished with modest resources such management arrangements may be the most efficient and enduring way to achieve the plan's restoration goals.

FOTPIN intends to prepare a PNR restoration plan. The Plan will identify the grassland and woodland plant species and communities for segments of the reserve, and adjacent areas, to meet a range of ecological and biodiversity outcomes.

The proposed PNR plan will also point to key connectivities through the Belconnen Hills to the Lower Molonglo and Murrumbidgee River corridors, and propose management objectives and strategies. The plan could in this way be part of a platform for implementing the proposed woodlands restoration plan across this landscape.

Vaughn Cox
Convenor