



Mr Simon Corbell, MLA  
Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development  
GPO Box 1020  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Minister Corbell

I write to you regarding the grazing of cattle on the property known as 'North Kama'.

North Kama is located on the southern side of Belconnen between The Pinnacle Nature Reserve and William Hovell Drive, and is managed by the ACT Parks and Conservation Service. The Friends of the Pinnacle (fotpin) understand that the grazing of cattle at North Kama is in accordance with the ACT's Strategy Bushfire Management Plan, for the purpose of reducing fire risk to adjacent suburbs.

Fotpin has reviewed the scientific evidence and considers that the grazing of cattle offers negligible benefit in reducing fire risk, and that the detrimental environmental impacts far outweigh the reduction in fire risk.

Grazing by livestock is known to have major impacts on biodiversity, including the decline of trees across rural landscapes by preventing natural tree regeneration. Our position is detailed on our website ([www.fotpin.org.au/advocacy.html#cattle2012](http://www.fotpin.org.au/advocacy.html#cattle2012)).

Along with degrading the property's natural values, the grazing of cattle is frustrating the implementation of the ACT Government's Woodlands Restoration Plan in the Belconnen Hills. This is as a result of selecting sub-optimal revegetation sites in order to maintain grazing patterns.

Fotpin urges the ACT Government to discontinue the grazing of cattle at North Kama. We suggest implementing fire hazard reduction treatments with less impact on the natural values of this important link in the biodiversity corridor between the Belconnen Hills reserves and the Molonglo and Murrumbidgee rivers.

Members of our group would be happy to explore with officers from your Directorate more appropriate strategies to achieve ecological and asset protection outcomes.

Yours sincerely

John Brannan  
Convenor  
[www.fotpin.org.au](http://www.fotpin.org.au)

30 July 2012