



CONSERVATION COUNCIL
ACT REGION

Ms. Meredith Hunter, MLA,
Chair, Standing Committee on Climate Change, Environment and Water,
ACT Legislative Assembly,
GPO Box 1020, ACT 2601

Dear Meredith,

Re: Inquiry into Ecological Carrying Capacity of the ACT and Region

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into this important and wide-ranging inquiry. The Conservation Council ACT Region represents 35 member groups with interests ranging from national parks to ornithology, and from grassland conservation and management to environmental sustainability.

We commend to you the submissions tendered by the Canberra Ornithologists Group and the Friends of Grasslands as they cover many of the key issues that we believe this Inquiry should address.

We note that the timing of this Inquiry overlaps the process for formulating the next Canberra Spatial Plan and we would urge the Assembly to consider at least any interim findings from the Inquiry during their deliberations on the draft Spatial Plan when it reaches the Assembly. This Council has been an active participant in the Vision 2030 process and in particular in relating the form and content of the Spatial Plan to our twin objectives of reducing the ACT's ecological footprint and improving the retention and restoration of biodiversity and landscape functioning across the Territory. In particular, we believe it is critical to view the ACT not solely in jurisdictional isolation but as part of a wider biogeographical region and we fully support your terms of reference in this regard.

We have attached some recent submissions to other Government inquiries/consultations to provide you with a broader appreciation of the aspirations of our members for a more ecologically sustainable ACT.

I would be most willing to provide more detailed specialist and scientific inputs at the appropriate time in your Inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'John Hibberd'.

John Hibberd
Executive Director
Conservation Council ACT Region Inc.