

To: The Secretary of the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories

From: Cotter Road Landcare Group (Incorporated)
1283 Cotter Road
Weston Creek
ACT 2611

Date: 25/9/2003

Re: Role of the National Capital Authority (NCA)

Submission No: 48
Date Received: 26 Sept 03
Secretary:

Background: Our Landcare Group represents 12 Land Managers to the West of Canberra, on properties on the Cotter Road from the Mt Stromlo turnoff to Casuarina Sands. This includes sheep and cattle farming, as well as horse agistment, equestrian centres, and community groups (eg Scouts).

Submission:

We support the NCA's power to restrain the excesses of local government, for the higher good of retaining our distinctive National Capital.

We believe that the NCA has an important role in protecting the uniqueness of the bush setting of the National Capital in the face of the economic and political interests of the ACT local government. We are concerned that commercial Property Developers may at times have undue influence over the ACT Government. If unchecked market forces and local government are allowed to rule the ACT's planning process, we can expect Canberra's landscape to come to resemble that of every other Australian city.

In our particular area (part of Tourist Drive 5) we oppose "hobby farms" and urban development along the Murrumbidgee corridor, as they would destroy the rural setting for the Western side of Canberra. We support the existing clear transition between urban and rural areas, as part of the National Capital Plan. We believe that the vista of the Murrumbidgee scenic corridor as viewed from the Cotter Road is an essential ingredient of Canberra as the "bush Capital". We support the NCA's role in enforcing this element of the National Capital Plan.

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