



Positive Outcome for Uriarra Residents

Committee now set to examine Pierces Creek

Federal Parliament's National Capital Committee has welcomed the news that all statutory processes have now been completed for Amendment 34 of the National Capital Plan, which paves the way for Uriarra residents who were affected by the devastating bushfires of January 2003 to return to the settlement. The Amendment has been approved by the Minister for Territories.

Amendment 34 alters the land use policy for the site of the Uriarra Forestry Settlement from "Mountains and Bushland" to "Rural", thereby enabling the ACT Government to consider a variety of land management options for the residential settlement to continue.

The ACT Government has indicated its plans to re-establish the former settlement with some increase in the size of the settlement, after a sustainability study into Uriarra Village by the Shaping Our Territory Working Group found that it would not be feasible economically to merely restore the village as it was.

In light of this good news for the residents of Uriarra, the Committee has resolved to examine the possibility of similar redevelopment at the Pierces Creek settlement.

The Committee's inquiry will examine the role of the Authority in determining the extent of redevelopment of the Pierces Creek settlement, and follows the Committee's recently tabled report of its inquiry into the role of the National Capital Authority: *A National Capital, A Place to Live*.

The Committee will therefore be inviting representatives of the National Capital Authority and the ACT Government, as well as residents of Pierces Creek, to appear at a public hearing, on Friday 13 August.

WHO:	National Capital Authority, ACT Government and residents to be questioned by National Capital Committee
WHAT:	Public hearing into redevelopment of the Pierces Creek settlement
WHERE:	Committee Room 2S3, Parliament House, Canberra
WHEN:	Friday 13 August 2004, 9.30am

For media comment:

Contact Committee Chairman, Senator Ross Lightfoot, on tel: (02) 6277 3626.

For further information:

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