



National Parks Association of the ACT Inc.

conservation education protection

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Comments on Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary Draft Strategy 2020 -2045

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the *Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary Draft Strategy 2020-45* ('the Strategy').

As you are aware, the National Parks Association of the ACT ("NPA ACT") is a community-based conservation organisation with more than 60 years of experience in helping to protect our natural environment. We have an active interest in the management of all of the ACT's conservation reserves and value Mulligan's Flat and Gorooyaroo as important woodland reserves providing significant research outcomes.

The NPA ACT would like to compliment the Strategy on:

- the length of the time period covered. A forty-five year timeframe allows for long-term planning and provides a perspective often missing from strategic documents;
- the detail of its vision and the articulation of its principles. The Strategy provides a detailed and long-term vision of the objectives for the Mulligan's Flat Woodland Sanctuary (the Sanctuary) and clearly states the principles upon which these objectives are founded;
- its strong indigenous focus. It provides a good summary of Ngunnawal people's aspirations for a restored environment where these traditional custodians can practice culture and learn about the natural woodland environment.

The Strategy would be strengthened by:

- avoiding contradictions in the area being addressed in the Strategy. The Strategy states that the "Sanctuary comprises the Mulligans Flat and Gorooyaroo Nature Reserves". However, the content of the Strategy appears deals with the workings of the area within the predator proof fence. While that area does make up the majority of the two reserves there are still significant ecological and heritage assets in the two reserves outside of the predator proof fence. Therefore, the Strategy should articulate its vision for the other areas in the two reserves or make a clear statement that the Sanctuary only forms part of the two reserves.
- identifying how the Strategy works with the Canberra Nature Park (CNP) Plan of Management given that the Sanctuary and Mulligans Flat and Gorooyaroo Reserves are part of CNP.

- Including much greater detail on how the vision will be implemented. Readers and users of the Strategy are advised that “subsequent 5-year implementation plans will provide guidance for decision-making, on-ground action, and adaptive management. The implementation plans will set out real actions and indicators that move us towards achieving (sic) our shared future”. The Strategy is therefore reduced to a vision document, albeit a very good one. How the community will be involved in the next important stage of implementation is not addressed in the Strategy.

In addition, the Strategy lacks detail in:

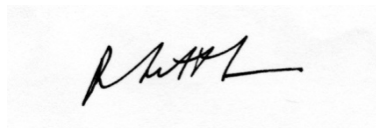
- the timelines of introductions and population increases for the introduced species;
- projections of expected population sizes of introduced animals;
- the introductions that have failed with a brief history and analysis of the failures;
- population sizes of existing animals, especially grey kangaroos, wallabies, possums, echidnas and trends in these species population sizes;
- proposed management actions when these population sizes of both introduced and existing animals are exceeded;
- significant impacts of the predator excluding fence;
- proposed introductions of ‘missing’ plants (if any) i.e. those known to have been lost by past grazing or other impacts; and
- proposed fire management.

Should you require any further information on our comments or our organisation, please do not hesitate to contact the NPA ACT office, attention of Mr Rod Griffiths, convener, NPA ACT Environment Sub-committee.

Yours sincerely



Esther Gallant
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Rod Griffiths
Convener, Environment Sub-committee
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