



National Parks Association of the ACT Inc.

conservation education protection

The Developments Team,
Defence Housing Authority
Via developments@dha.gov.au

Submission on the Revised Masterplan for North Lawson

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Defence Housing Authority (DHA)'s revised Master Plan for North Lawson (the Revised Master Plan').

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 maintained a keen interest in the proposed DHA development in North Lawson due to the potential impacts that this development could have on the endangered grassland ecosystem on that site.

Key Points

The area proposed for development is covered by a National Capital Planning Code. Under that code only two areas in the North Lawson (designated as Precincts A and B) were identified as suitable for housing. Other areas in North Lawson were identified as being primarily for nature conservation (Precinct E) or for heritage and nature conservation purposes (Precinct D).

The NPA ACT recognises that the Revised Master Plan has made some concessions to environmental values compared to the original 2020 Master Plan with the reduction of the extent of building in the south western section of Precinct D and the exclusion of most of Precinct E. However, the long-term viability of the natural values of Precinct E and the eastern section of Precinct D will be compromised by their loss of connectivity the remainder of the natural areas of North Lawson due to the proposed development on the northern section of Precinct D.

The proposed development will also see the direct destruction of natural temperate grassland habitat, an ecosystem recognised as endangered by both the ACT and the Commonwealth and further endangers species already in decline such as the Golden Sun Moth, Striped Legless Lizard, Perunga Grasshopper and Keys Matchstick Grasshopper.

Even where areas are preserved, the Revised Master Plan provides inadequate buffering between the development and the remaining natural areas which will further add pressure on the viability of these sites.

Much of the destruction of habitat in Precincts D and E would appear to be justified though a perceived need to include 266 non-defence related dwellings in the proposed development. The NPA ACT is incredulous that the DHA is willing to sacrifice critically

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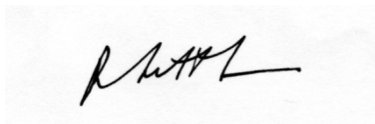
endangered habitat to seek additional profit from the development. It therefore calls on the DHA to seek an alternative site for the 155 Defence related dwellings in the proposal or keep the development within Precincts A and B and draw on its net assets of \$1.5 billion to fund any project shortfall.

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
President
National Parks Association of the ACT



Rod Griffiths
Convener, Environment Sub-committee
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