



# Bluetts Block—Piney Ridge

(?or a new name?)

Alice Wells

President

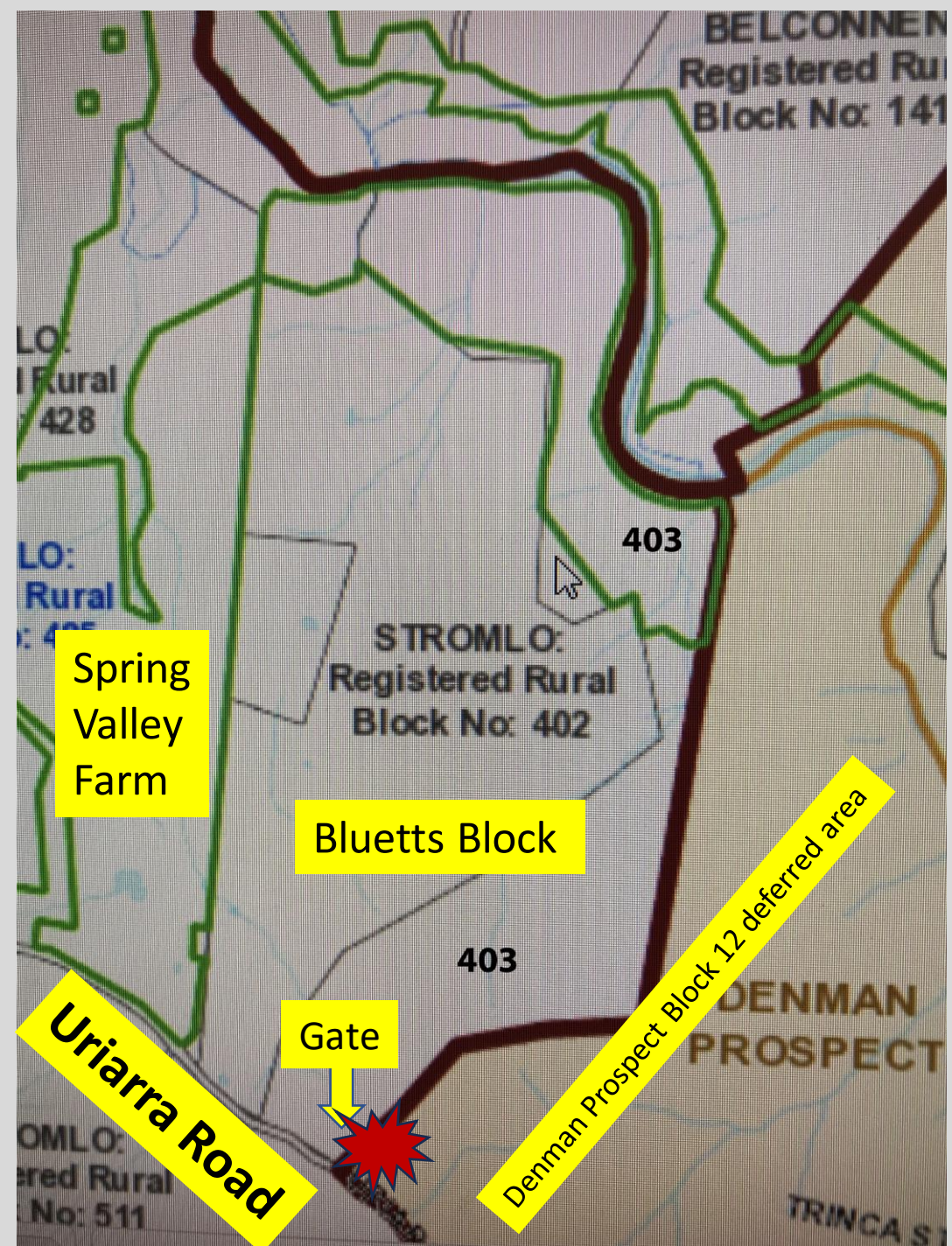
Friends of Bluetts Block

October 2023

# Location

## Note:

- Along Uriarra Road, 2.5 km from turnoff to Stromlo Forest Park
- Two blocks:  
Registered Rural Blocks 402 & 403
- Size: ~342 Hectares  
~845 Acres
- (Three blocks? —?at least part of Denman Prospect Block 12)



# Why does 'The Block' warrant Protection?

➤ Varied Habitat Types

(wide variety, including *Threatened communities*  
*Box gum/grassy woodland*)

➤ Wide Variety of Plant Species

➤ Variety of Animal Species

*including ACT listed species:* Superb Parrot, Gang  
Gang Cockatoo, Scarlet Robin, White-winged Triller;  
Pink-tailed Worm Lizard (threatened)

*others uncommon:* Chestnut-rumped Heath Wren;  
Dunnart (marsupial mouse)

*unknown:* most invertebrates, lichens, mosses, fungi

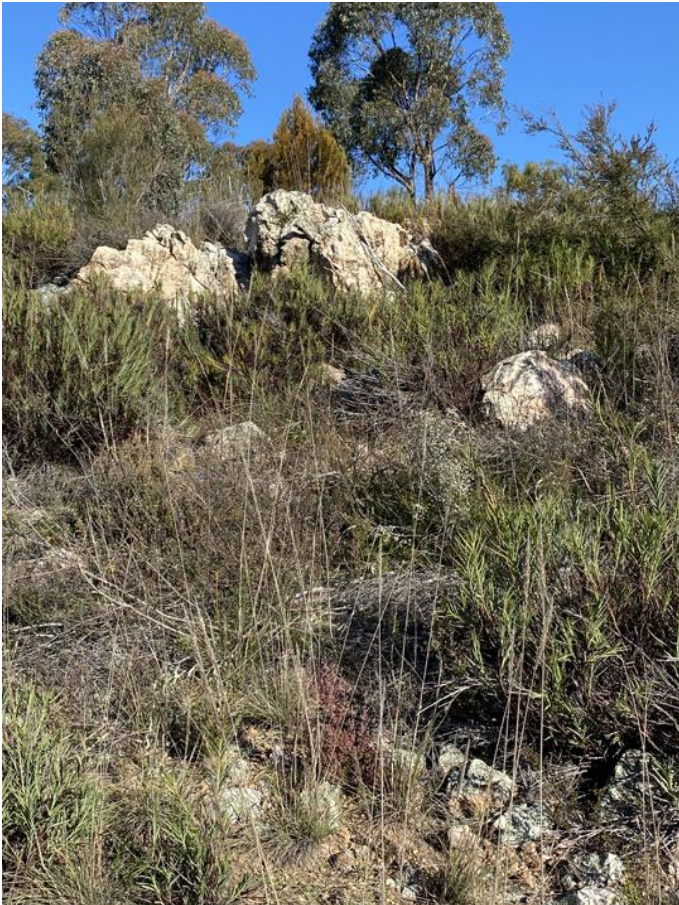
➤ Vital Wildlife Corridor

(between Canberra Nature Parks, north-south)



# ➤ Varied Habitat Types

A mosaic of habitat types — just a few:



Rocky-shrubby outcrop



Grassy woodland



Shrubby heathland

## ➤ Varied Habitat Types, contd



Red box — grassy woodland



Closed-canopy forest

# ➤ Varied and Significant Plants: a delight to discover

Fringed lily



*Thysanotus*

Narrawar Bur



*Solanum*

Clustered everlasting



*Chrysocephalum*

Hoary guinea flower



*Hibbertia obtusifolia*

Pale wedgepea



*Gompholobium*

Purple beard orchid



*Calochilus platychilus*

Rufous midge orchid



*Corunastylis clivicola*

Pink caps



*Caladenia congesta*

Wax Lip Orchid



*Glossodia major*

Common Hovea



*Hovea heterophylla*

# ➤ Varied and Significant Animals

Pink-tailed worm lizard



*Aprasia parapulchella*

Dunnart



*Sminthopsis* sp.

Swamp wallaby



*Wallabia bicolor*



Tiger moth & Cherry ballart shield bug

*Amata* sp. & *Commius elegans*

Also Gang Gang Cockatoo (Endangered); White-winged Triller, Varied Sitella, White-throated Needletail (Vulnerable)



Black-faced cuckooshrike

*Coracina novaehollandiae*



Chestnut-rumped heath wren

*Hylacola pyrrhopygia*



Scarlet Robin

*Petroica multicolor*



Painted button quail

*Turnix varius*



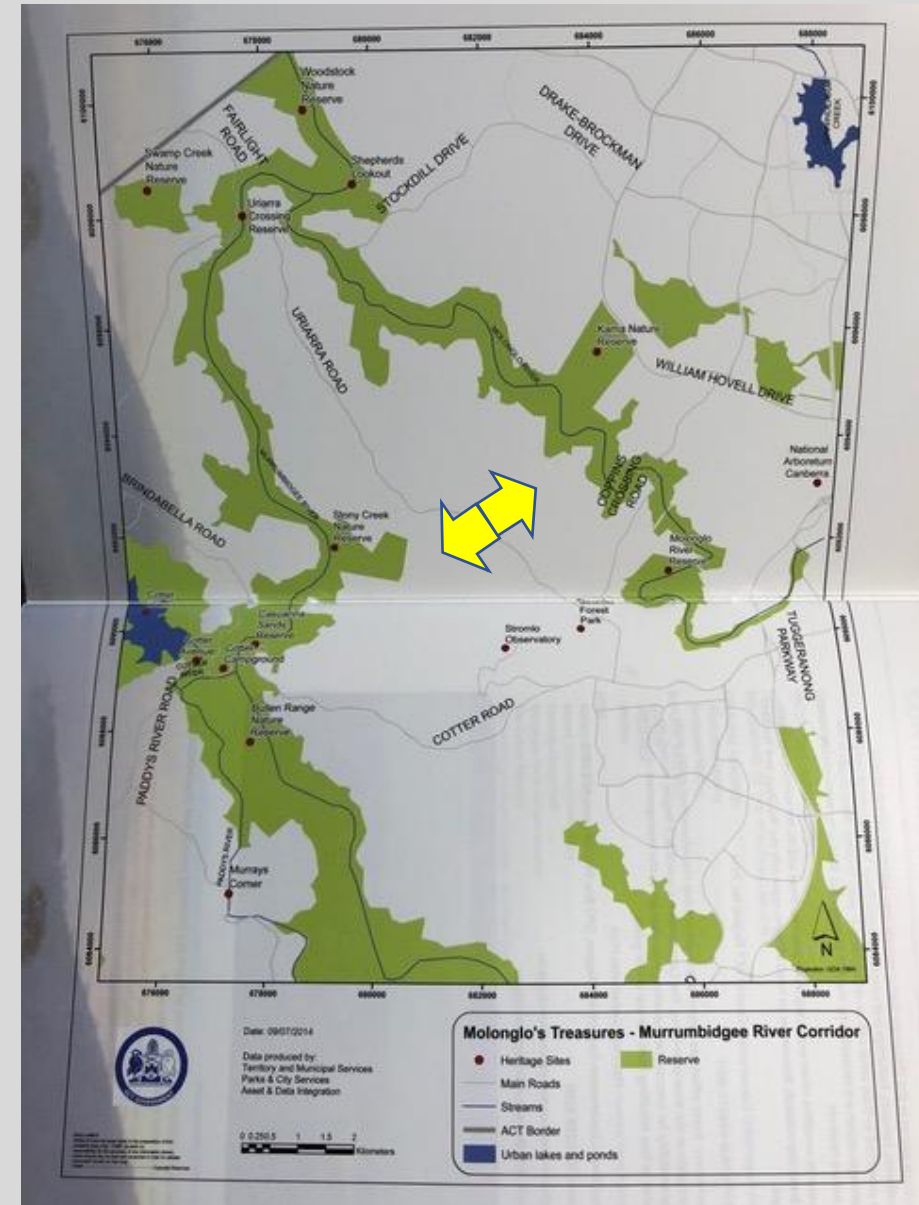
Rufous whistler

*Pachycephala rufiventris*

## ➤ Bluetts a vital wildlife corridor

Bluetts provides a corridor between Molonglo River Reserve and nearby protected areas

- Currently **Bluetts Block** provides corridor for birds and mammals to move across wooded areas, Molonglo River to Murrumbidgee River
- Extends corridor from north Canberra, through Mt Painter, Kama Reserve to Molonglo River Reserve and into Stromlo Forests, Stoney Ridge, to other southern nature parks





# \*\*Bluetts a Valuable, Social Amenity!

- Walking paths  
(for recreation and exercise)



*Inspecting wombat burrow*

- Exposure to nature  
(opportunity to restore connections with nature)

- Closely available natural area for education  
(available for nearby school excursions, research on ecology, restoration of natural environment, wildlife)



*Bird watching*

17/10/2021 08:39



*Just enjoying a walk*

11/09/2021

# Current Zoning Status of Bluetts Block

[Data from ACT MAPI]

## Stromlo Registered Block 402

Territory Plan Land Use Policies:

NUZ3: HILLS, RIDGES AND BUFFER AREAS

Overlay Zone:

Pc: **Nature Reserve**

PUBLAN: Public Land

FUA: Future Urban Areas

## Stromlo Registered Block 403

Territory Plan Land Use Policies:

NUZ3: HILLS, RIDGES AND BUFFER AREAS

NUZ4: **RIVER CORRIDOR**

Overlay Zone:

Pc: **Nature Reserve**

PUBLAN: Public Land

FUA: Future Urban Areas

## DP Block 12 Deferred Area ??

**Benefits to Molonglo Community to have a Nature Reserve rather than further urban area**

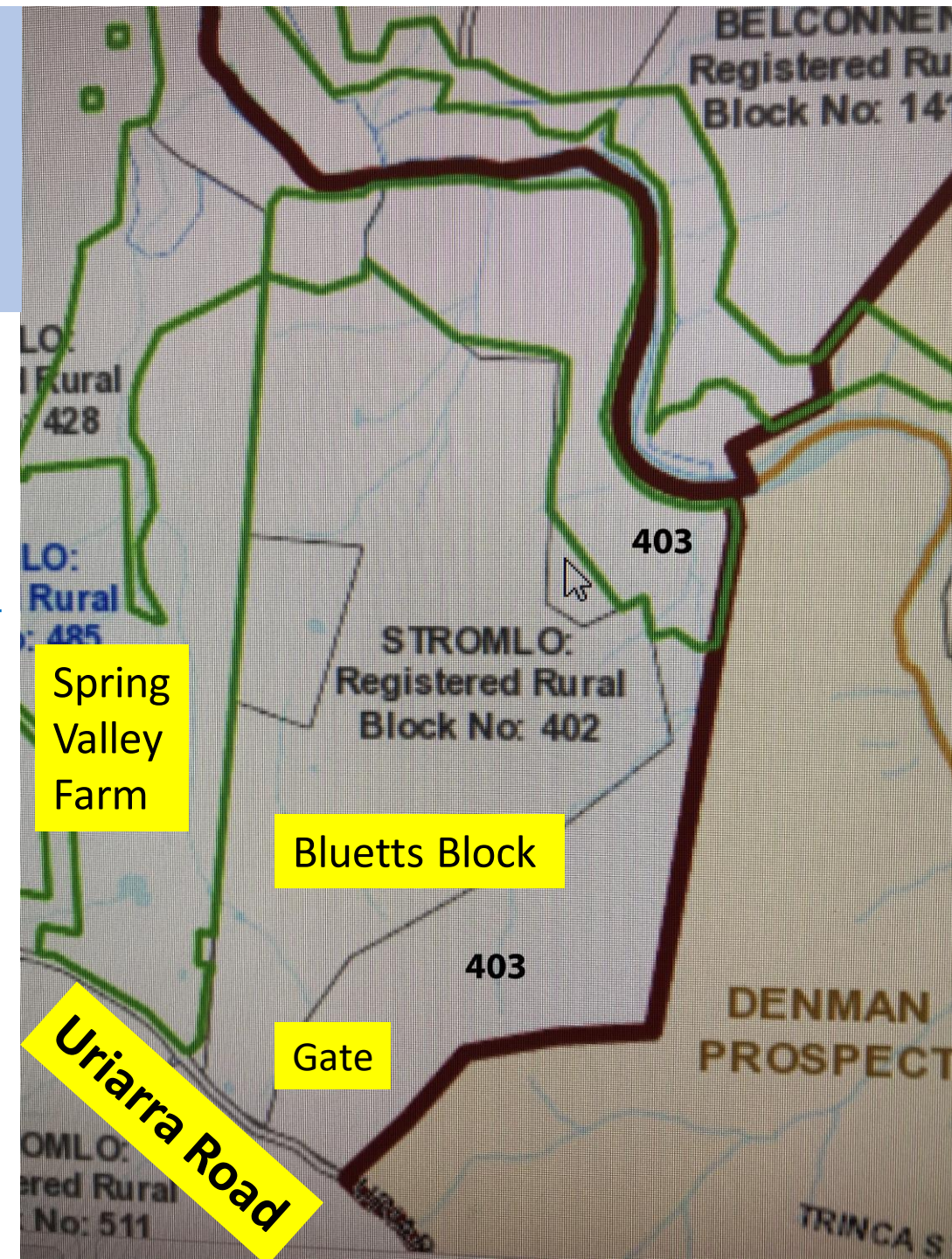


# Molonglo Valley Plan for the Protection of Matters of National Environmental Significance (NES Plan 2011)

'... establishment and implementation of the following principles:

- a response to the strong topographic character of the Valley;
- strong connections to the surroundings;
- protection of hills, ridges and views;
- retention of significant trees and shrubs;
- protection of significant natural corridors and habitats.'

***NES Plan gives strong reasons for protection of Bluetts Block as a Nature Reserve***





# Threats

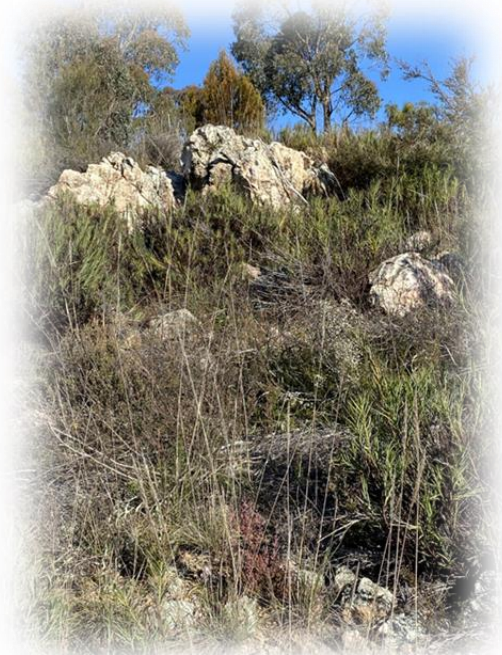
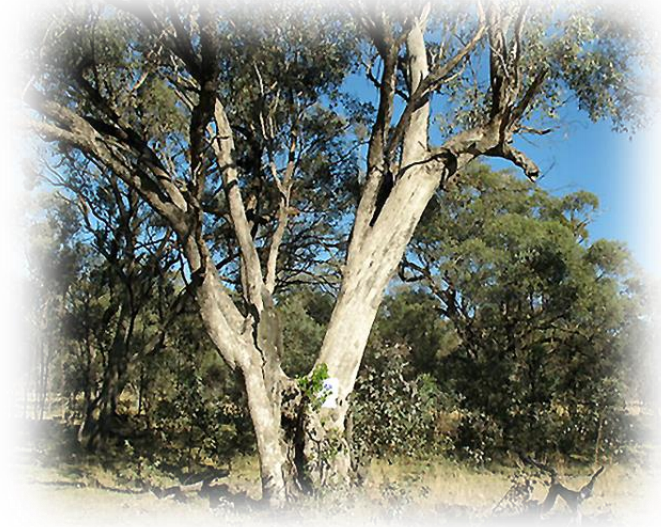
**\*\*\*Development is greatest threat** [*'...most significant threat to the Superb Parrot ... loss of woodland habitat for breeding and feeding'*]

- Fire
- Feral animals — cats!!
- Invasive plants
- Eucalyptus dieback

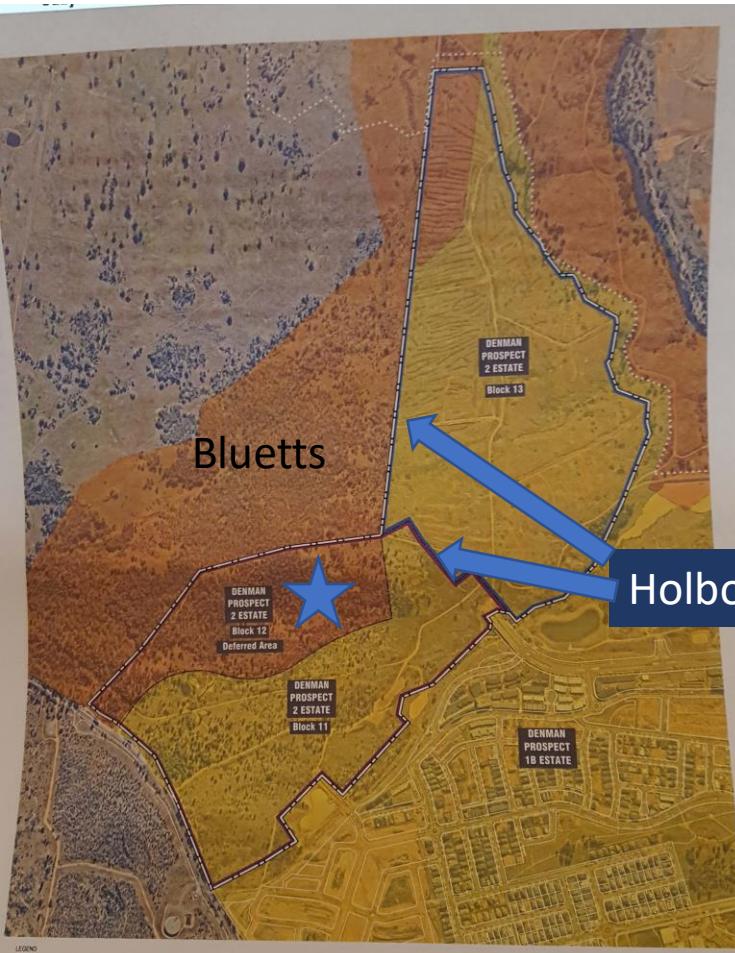


# Threats if Urban Development occurs:

- Loss of valuable community amenity
- Loss of valuable wildlife corridor
- Loss of wildlife habitat
- Loss of threatened habitat and species (Boxgum—Grassy Woodland and Gang Gangs, Pink-tailed Worm Lizard), etc
- Loss of precious trees for carbon storage



# Current plans for Denman Prospect development (Approved)



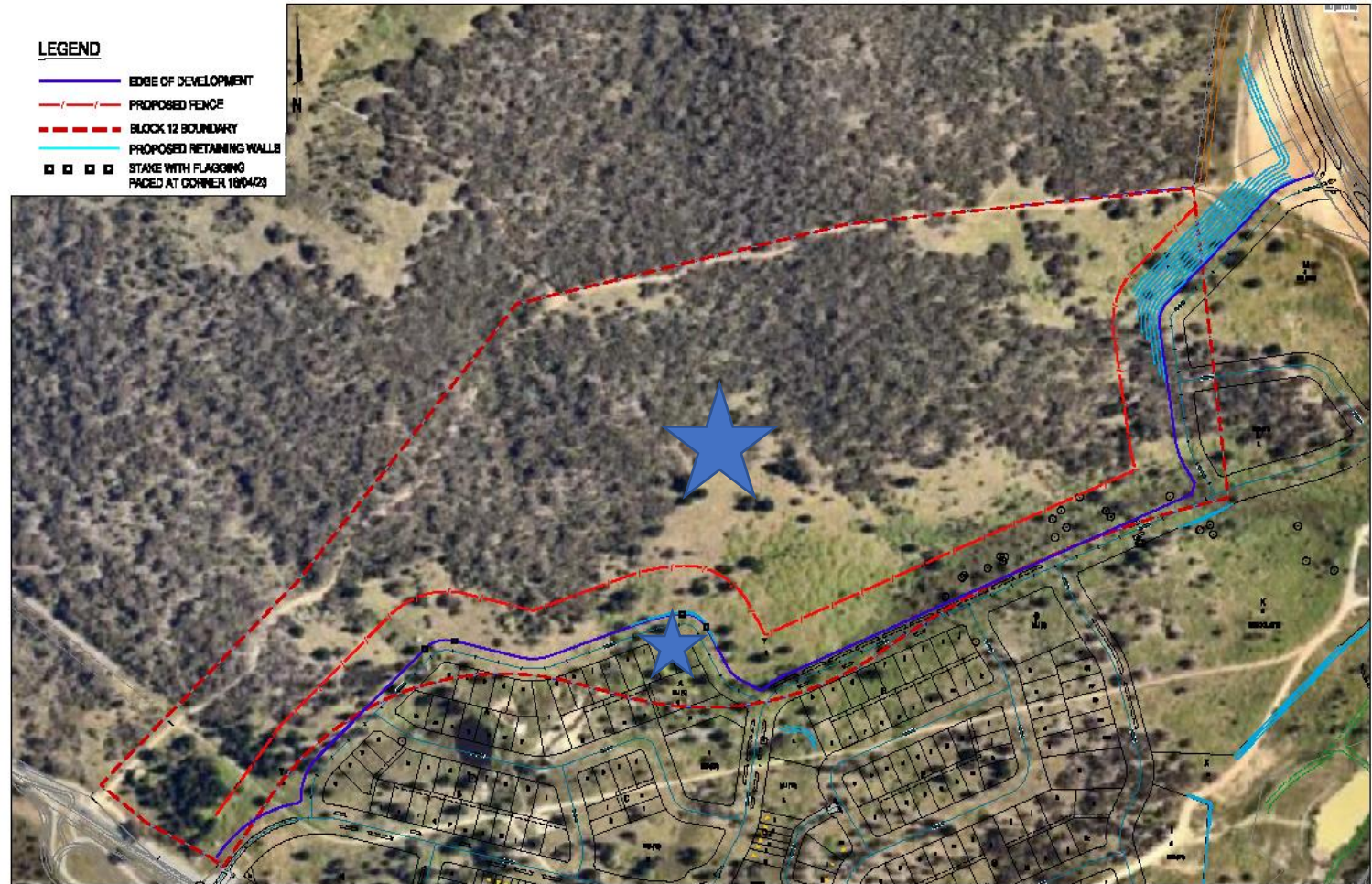
## Note

- Extension of road, and adjacent multiple apartment developments (**Red shading**)
- Holborow Avenue extends from Denman Prospect Shops along the back fence of Bluetts Block
- Multi-unit dwellings 60 m from the back fence of Bluetts
- High density housing development faces the Molonglo River
- No indication of height of apartments (vis a vis fire protection)
- Of the total 1214 dwellings in this area, 753 are for multi-units; the largest block of units sits on 10,220 m<sup>2</sup> (2 hectares) and contains 253 units

# Re Block 12 of Denman Prospect plans (the Deferred Area ★):

“The deferred area was identified in the [EIS exemption for Molonglo Valley Stage 2 \(NI2013-338\) \[2013\]](#) as requiring further investigations, where as [part of the EIS exemption for the deferred area \(NI2017-183\) \[2017\]](#) it was then highlighted to **only be used as an asset protection zone.**”

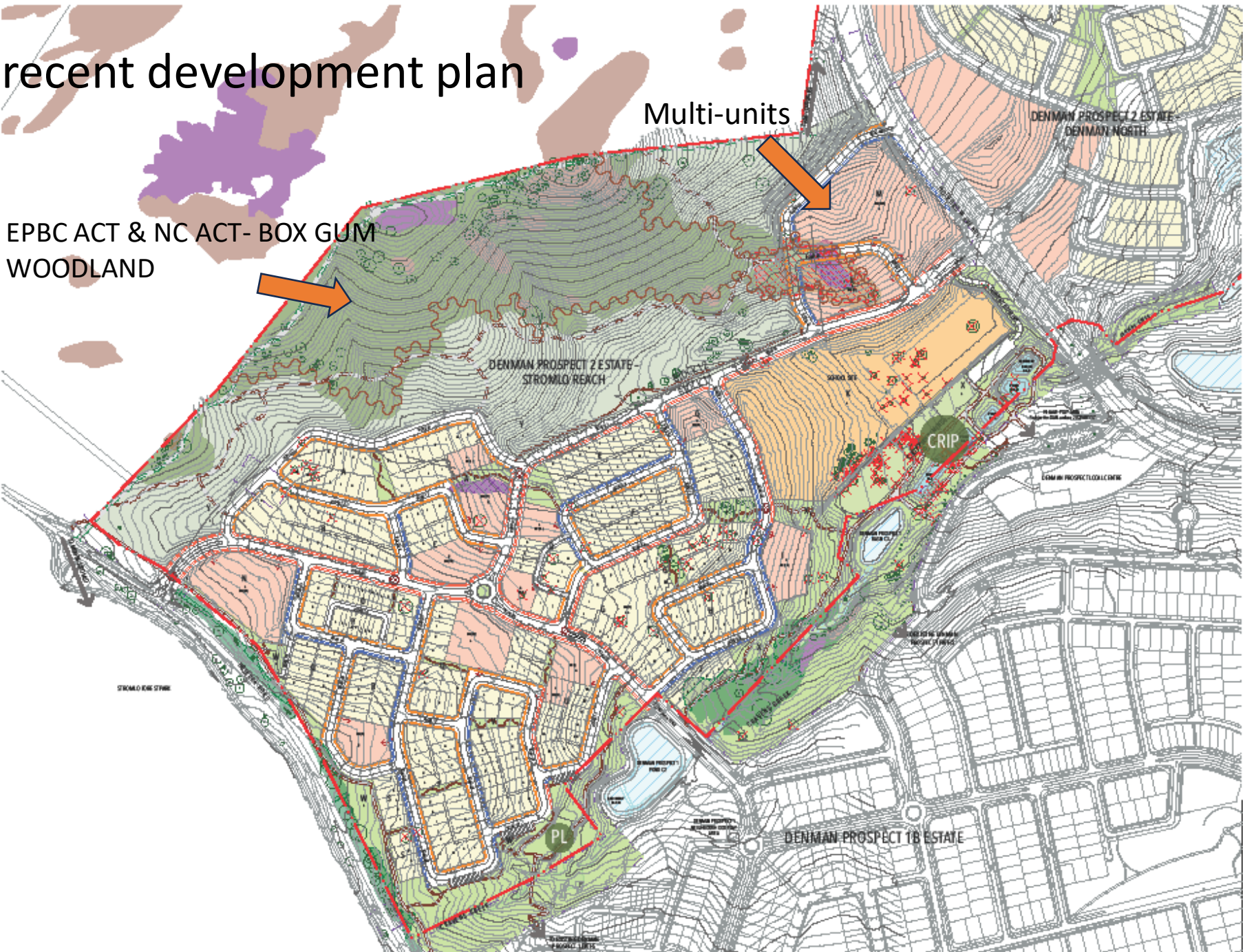
[My emphasis]



# Most recent development plan

EPBC ACT & NC ACT- BOX GUM WOODLAND

Multi-units



**LEGEND:**

- HOLDING LASE BOUNDARY
- BLOCK BOUNDARY
- OFF STREET WORKS AREA BOUNDARY
- DESIGN ID CONTOUR AT 1m INTERVALS
- SINGLE DWELLINGS
- MULTI UNITS (MAX NO OF UNITS)
- PUBLIC OPEN SPACE
- PROPOSED PONDS
- EXISTING PONDS
- COMMUNITY RECREATIONAL (RATED PARK)
- LOCAL (RATED) URBAN PARK
- OR ROAD PATH (1.5m WIDE)
- OR ROAD PATH (2.0m WIDE)
- OR ROAD SHARED PATH (2.5m WIDE)
- EQUILIBRIUM BIRD LEPIDOPTERON EXISTING FIRE TRAIL ALIGNMENT
- OFF ROAD PATHWAY
- OPEN SPACE PATHWAYS (1.5m-5m WIDE)
- STAIRS
- PRISM RAMPS
- BUSTOPS
- PEDESTRIAN CROSSING
- TREES TO BE REMAINED
- TREES TO BE REMOVED
- GROUP 3 TREES TO BE REMOVED
- DRIVEWAY
- INTER-CARVE MULTI-UNIT DRIVEWAY/LOBBY
- RETAINING WALL
- SERVICE GAS/DRIVE (3.5m WIDE DRIVE)
- INTER-CARVE CARPARK DRIVE
- CONNECTIONS TO EXISTING SURROUNDS

**ECOLOGICAL VALUE**

- HIGH VEGETATION - MOD HIGH VEGETATION
- GROUP 3 TREES
- EPBC ACT & NC ACT - BOX GUM WOODLAND TEC
- EPBC ACT & NC ACT - BOX GUM WOODLAND TEC IMPACTED

**POTENTIAL WORM LIZARD HABITAT**

- POTENTIAL HABITAT UNDER TREE CANOPY
- POTENTIAL HABITAT UNDER TREE CANOPY IMPACTED
- MODERATE QUALITY POTENTIAL HABITAT
- MODERATE QUALITY HABITAT AREA IMPACTED

Revision	Title	Date
A	EEP SUBMISSION	27/10/2022
B	DA SUBMISSION	2/9/2023

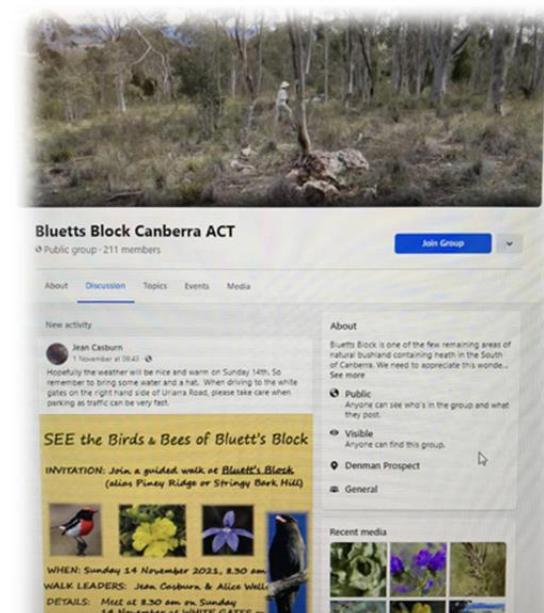


# Our hope for Future of Bluetts Block?

- *Ongoing appreciation and enjoyment of this wonderful bushland and its biodiversity by Molonglo Valley residents and broader community*
- *Legal protection by incorporation into the Canberra Nature Parks system*
  - With consequent management of weeds, bushfire risks and feral animals; and
  - With **Friends of Bluetts Block** assisting with management
- *Adoption of a new name and we suggest an appropriate First Nations' name — and one has been suggested*

# Efforts so far:

- Collection of information for development of submissions for protection
- Lobbying ACT Government Ministers Vassarotti & Gentleman and others
- Contact with ACT Park Rangers & ACT Conservator of Environment
- Talks with and for community groups
- Organising of walks
- Building community awareness
- **Support for Bluetts Block Facebook**
- Meetings with Capital Development Project officer
- **Establishment of Friends of Bluetts Block (FoBB)**
- Too many things to list...



# Acknowledgements & Special Thanks

- Rainer Rehwinkel for his 2019 Vegetation Report of Bluett's Block
- Supporters of Bluetts Block Facebook through photographs information and expertise
- Canberra Ornithologist Group members
- **The ACT Conservation Council for Support and Encouragement**
- Minister Vassarotti and Staff
- Jo Clay (MLA for Ginninderra)
- Canberra Nature Map volunteers
- Many walk participants
- Thanks to a long list of people for images from Bluetts Facebook
- **Southern ACT Catchment Group for Support and Encouragement**



Visit Bluetts public Facebook page:

@

**BLUETTS BLOCK CANBERRA ACT I FACEBOOK**

**And better still, visit the Block and Join the Friends Group**

