



**CONSERVATION  
COUNCIL**  
ACT REGION

## **Submission: Draft Amendment 95: North Curtin Diplomatic Estate and Urban Area**

---

**JULY 2020**

The **Conservation Council ACT Region** is the peak non-government environment organisation for the Canberra region. We have been the community's voice for the environment in the Canberra region since 1981. Our mission is to achieve an ecologically sustainable and zero net carbon society through advocacy, education, research and engagement with the community, the private sector and with government.

We represent more than 45 member groups who in turn represent over 20,000 supporters. We harness the collective expertise and experience of our member groups and networks. We work collaboratively with Government, business and the community to achieve the highest quality environment for Canberra and its region.

**For further inquiries regarding this submission please contact:**

Helen Oakey

Executive Director, Conservation Council ACT Region

PH: 6229 3202

Email: [director@conservationcouncil.org.au](mailto:director@conservationcouncil.org.au)

## Draft Amendment 95: North Curtin Diplomatic Estate and Urban Area

---

The Conservation Council ACT Region welcomes the opportunity to make a brief submission on Draft Amendment 95 which proposes changed land use of North Curtin Horse Paddocks to facilitate the development of a new diplomatic estate.

The Conservation Council would like to see DA95 strengthened to ensure that development of this area will protect and enhance the biodiversity values of the block and utilise this as an opportunity to enhance high-quality greenspace in, and retain connectivity through, central Canberra. We support the representations of our member groups, Friends of Grasslands (FoG) and Canberra Ornithologists Group (COG) in this regard.

Development of this site is likely to impact on species listed as threatened both under ACT and Commonwealth legislation. Records of Swift and Superb parrots, as well as a Golden Sun Moth population have been identified throughout the southern suburbs of central Canberra. As highlighted by FoG, greater investigation is needed to determine how DA95 will impact threatened species identified in the area, and the ongoing impacts of the development over time.

We support an approach that ensures the preservation and protection of the Yarralumla creek, including the incorporation of a conservation corridor that forms the edge of the Curtin suburb across Yarralumla Creek. The current maps indicate a narrow corridor either side of Yarralumla Creek; it is the view of the Council that this corridor should be significantly widened from the current proposal, so as to be of an adequate size to support the health of ecological communities and to maximise biodiversity. Consideration should be given to returning the creek to its natural state to improve amenity and management of water flows. New planting should be planned for and planted early in the development stages, and should incorporate native species and pollinators. Such a corridor will not only improve connectivity for biodiversity, it can also provide a high quality urban green space for both the residents of Curtin, the diplomatic precinct and other proposed developments in the area.

Consideration must be given to protecting existing mature trees onsite. Mature trees are an important aspect of the landscape as they provide food and refuge for wildlife and have important cultural significance for First Nations people. Ensuring any mature trees onsite are protected and suitably managed will require quantitative tree risk assessments to be conducted to assess their health and suitability on the site, and/or landscaping around them to ensure they are maintained in a way that ensures the safety of residents and the ongoing health of the tree.

The protection of a green corridor along the creekline, and new planting to support biodiversity and pollinators, will ensure connected habitat that will support Canberra's wildlife and enhance residential amenity for future residents.