



**CONSERVATION
COUNCIL** ACT REGION

Submission to the ACT Government Territory
Planning Authority

Submission on Draft Plan Amendment 05 –
Removing the Future Urban Area (FUA) overlay
and setting zoning for a number of sites,
including Bluetts Block and Coombs Peninsula

5 August 2025

The Conservation Council ACT Region is the peak non-government environment organisation for the Canberra region. Since 1981, we have spoken up for a healthy environment and a sustainable future for our region. We harness the collective energy, expertise and experience of our more than 40 member groups to promote sound policy and action on the environment.

We campaign for a safe climate, to protect biodiversity in our urban and natural areas, to protect and enhance our waterways, reduce waste, and promote sustainable transport and planning for our city. Working in the ACT and region to influence governments and build widespread support within the community and business, we put forward evidence-based solutions and innovative ideas for how we can live sustainably.

At a time when we need to reimagine a better future, we understand that the changes we need will only happen with the collective support of our community.

For further information please contact:

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Introduction

The Conservation Council ACT Region appreciates the opportunity to provide comments to the Territory Planning Authority and ACT Government on the proposed Draft Plan Amendment 05 – Removing the Future Urban Area (FUA) overlay and setting zoning for a number of sites, including Bluetts Block and Coombs Peninsula.

The Conservation Council understands that part of the DPA-05's purpose is to recognise current uses of some sites by removing the Future Urban Area (FUA) overlays, and in so doing protects non-urban land and land from development within nature and special purpose reserves. DPA-05 also confirms relevant land use zoning and proposes some adjustments to the Molongolo River reserve boundary.

Summary and Recommendations

The Conservation Council supports all proposed changes in DPA-05, especially those where areas of (nature) reserves are increased (e.g. removal of the FUA over Bluetts Block, which also confirms the zoning of the area as NUZ4 River Corridor¹).

The Conservation Council also supports removal of the FUA at the Coombs Peninsula and rezoning the majority of the Molongolo River Reserve as NUZ4 River Corridor.

However, the Conservation Council does not support decreasing the reserve along part of Annabelle View by moving the boundary from the western side of the existing shared path to the eastern side where the fence line is located. This action decreases the reserve (by 1.4 ha) near Harold White Avenue by removing land that is not managed as a nature reserve.

It is our understanding that removing this section of land is to potentially facilitate the development of a pedestrian bridge in the area. We support the building of a pedestrian bridge; we believe that it must be allowed WITHIN the reserve. Such an action would have a dual benefit: it not only enhances the accessibility of the Reserve to the community but also strengthens the ecological viability of the Reserve.

¹ We note that the relevant maps related to Bluetts Block show this as NUZ3, while the text refers to NUZ4. We support either zoning, and confirm our support for removing the urban overlay, but suggest the Government confirms which zoning will be applied to Bluetts Block following this decision.