



# CONSERVATION COUNCIL ACT REGION

8 September 2025

Minister Chris Steel

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GPO Box 1020

Canberra ACT 2601

Minister Suzanne Orr

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Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Minister Steel and Minister Orr,

We want to congratulate you and the ACT Government on your positive approach to making Canberra a sustainable city, in particular through the recent Missing Middle reforms, which will drive urban infill in Canberra. We strongly align with this policy agenda, believing that well-done infill is the environmentally and socially sound way for Canberra to grow, rather than further suburban sprawl.

To that end, we write to you regarding the Western Edge Investigation Area, a topic that is of great concern to us and the community. Pursuing development of the Western Edge would be an extremely unsustainable option for Canberra's growth, and we write to encourage you to rule out this option. In short, we ask that you commit to:

1. Keep the Western Edge outside of the to-be-set ACT urban boundary.
2. Take the Western Edge out of the ACT Government's development plans.
3. Ensure the Western Edge is sufficiently protected and managed for its ecological, cultural and recreational values.

As you will have already heard from your constituents, the Conservation Council ACT Region is leading a community campaign backing these asks. In one month we have gathered almost 1,000 petitions on this campaign, hundreds of sign-ups to events, and countless volunteers. The community is deeply concerned about this potential development.

On the first of October, we will be hosting a webinar with the community to discuss this issue. We kindly seek a response from the Government on the substantive policy issues by then. We expect the campaign to continue growing in the meantime, but hope to be able to inform the community of a commitment from the Government on this policy.

If you would like further information about the Western Edge and the community campaign to save it, please feel free to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Copland

Executive Director, Conservation Council ACT Region.