

The Problem

Canberra's Western Edge, a beautiful patch of critically endangered ecosystems to Canberra's west, is up for unsustainable, unaffordable and dangerous urban sprawl development by the ACT Government.

The Solution

With Canberra's urban boundary being set by the ACT Government over the next two years, we have to tell our government now, before decisions are made, that we want our Western Edge kept outside of that boundary so it is protected from urban sprawl.

The Campaign

The Conservation Council ACT Region is organising a community campaign calling on the ACT Legislative Assembly to:

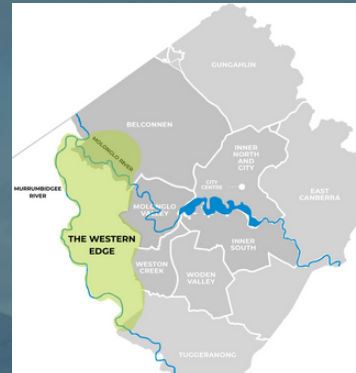
1. Keep the Western Edge outside of the to-be-set ACT urban boundary
1. Take the Western Edge out of the ACT Government's development plans
2. Ensure the Western Edge is sufficiently protected and managed for its ecological, cultural and recreational values

Sign the petition and find out more at conservationcouncil.org.au/western-edge



The Western Edge

The 'Western Edge' is 9800 hectares of beautiful yet critically endangered ecosystems to the west of Canberra - bordered by the Murrumbidgee River and the regions of Kambah, Weston Creek, Molonglo Valley and Belconnen.



An ecological sanctuary

The Western Edge features beautiful rivers, woodlands and grasslands and is home to many rare plants & animals such as the superb parrot, pink-tailed worm lizard, greater glider, Murray crayfish, orchids and platypus.



Photo: Ken Piper



Photo: Ken Piper



Photo: Waterwatch

A sacred Ngunnawal site

The Western Edge is located on unceded Ngunnawal Country and is a place of ancient and continuing Ngunnawal custodianship and cultural heritage. For example, the Molonglo River features many occupation sites and is a part of Ngunnawal songlines and trading routes.

A place to relax and play

There's something for everyone in the Western Edge! Popular activities include bushwalking, swimming, biking, kayaking, fishing, horse riding, bird watching and rock climbing. Head to linktr.ee/conservationACT to see what activities are on offer today.



A protective buffer

The Western Edge acts a protective buffer for thousands of residents in Canberra's western-most suburbs from bushfires, extreme heat and flooding, all of which are to occur with greater frequency and severity under climate change (ACT Bushfire Council, 2021).

A barrier to urban sprawl

The Western Edge represents a natural barrier to urban sprawl due to its hilly topography, bushfire risk and significant values. "Urban sprawl" is when a city expands rapidly outwards creating dispersed, low-density suburbs. Urban sprawl destroys nature, separates people from each other and the services they need, and requires timely, expensive and climate-damaging private vehicle use.