

LIMESTONE PLAINS GROUP

An alliance of ACT scientists and nature conservation groups advocating responsible and ecologically informed management of grassy ecosystems in the ACT and region

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18 February 2011.

Senior Manager,
Natural Environment and Resource Management,
Department of Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water,
GPO Box 158,
Canberra ACT 2601.

Re: Submission to the Review of the ACT Nature Conservation Act 1980

The Limestone Plains Group comprises scientists and community groups seeking to promote responsible and ecologically informed conservation and management of grassy ecosystems in the ACT and region. We offer the two following points for consideration by your review.

1. Recognition of the conservation role played by community groups

Community groups play an important role in the conservation of grasslands in the ACT, and the Nature Conservation Act would be improved if it included some recognition of the value of this contribution, and an expectation that their participation is regarded as a part of nature conservation. This could be achieved by including in the objectives of the new Act a clause of such as "to ensure members of community conservation groups are able to participate in nature conservation activities".

2. ACT Action Plans and financial penalties for non-compliance

The *conservation objective, management strategies and measures for protection*, described in each of the ACT Action Plans for listed threatened species and communities, should be given legislative teeth via the Nature Conservation Act.

We have a process for nominating and listing species and communities as threatened, and of preparing action plans, but there is inadequate provision for actions to be required to be implemented, monitored and report on. The introduction of financial penalties for non-compliance would make the point that non-compliance is a serious offence.

Yours sincerely

Ms Isobel Crawford.

For *Limestone Plains Group*