

28 February 2013

Waltraud Pix
Friends of Mt Majura (FoMM)
Co-ordinator

To:
ACT Budget Consultation
Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate

Friends of Mt Majura (FoMM) Submission ACT 2013 / 2014 Budget

The current funding level allocated to manage the Nature Reserve as outlined in the Canberra Nature Park (CNP) Management Plan 1999 is inadequate to address the existing and foreseeable land degradation within the Mount Majura Nature Reserve and other CNP reserves that arise from increased recreational use, residential development at the boundary of nature reserves and overgrazing by introduced and native herbivores.

FoMM requests that the ACT Government allocates sufficient funds

1. to increase ranger resources for the management of CNP and to provide for a second full time Community Program / ParkCare and Landcare co-ordinator position;
2. as a matter of urgency to manage overgrazing in CNP, which is a major source of degradation, weed infestation and loss of biodiversity in the reserves¹⁾;
3. to provide for an ongoing integrated rabbit control program in CNP;
4. to provide for an ongoing integrated weed control program in high conservation value sites of CNP such as endangered Box-Gum Grassy Woodland. In particular FoMM requests a commitment to remove environmental woody weeds from public open space that abuts nature reserve as suggested in FoMM's Election 2012 paper²⁾.
5. to rehabilitate / close eroded and informal tracks within the Mount Majura Nature Reserve that cut through high conservation value endangered grassy woodland with rare or endangered plant species. FoMM proposes to rehabilitate informal tracks to offset the construction of the proposed Centenary Trail through endangered grassy woodland³⁾.

FoMM considers additional funds to be a much needed investment to provide safe and sustainable access to CNP reserves whilst conserving the reserves' natural environment and enhancing Canberra's green assets.

Yours sincerely,
Waltraud Pix

¹⁾ FoMM documentation grazing impact on grassy woodland
Explaining Change, a FoMM project to document the relative impact of climate and grazing on the groundcover layer <http://majura.org/explaining-change/>
Impact of overgrazing on the ecological condition of grassy woodland

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/61627737@N03/sets/72157631419900742/>

Impact of overgrazing on woodland restoration at Mt Majura Ridge

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/61627737@N03/sets/72157632823459049/>

²⁾ FoMM (October 2012) ACT Election 2012. Issues Concerning Mt Majura and Canberra Nature Park

<http://majura.org/2012/10/02/act-election-2012-issues-mount-majura-and-canberra-nature-park-draft/>

³⁾ FoMM (December 2011) Guiding principles for the proposed Centenary Trail. Comment Proposed Centenary Trail (CT) Feasibility Study and Ground Truthing Report (GT) Appendix 2

<http://majura.org/2012/01/11/fomm-comment-on-the-proposed-centenary-trail/>