

Waltraud Pix Co-ordinator

Friends of Mount Majura

Mail to: wpix@bigpond.net.au

Dear Ms Pix Waltrand

Hackett Horse Paddocks

I refer to your request for the Territory Plan to be varied to return the Hackett Horse Paddocks to public land nature reserve. I apologise for the delay in responding but I was waiting for the results of your on site meeting on 29 July 2008 with Parks Conservation and Lands staff so that I could give you a informed response.

I am pleased to inform you that I will be writing to the ACT Planning Authority requesting that the Territory Plan be varied to return Paddock 5 (as shown on the attached plan) to nature reserve. I will request that the overlay provision follow the paddock boundary so there is a clear management line easily distinguishable on the ground. In addition, my staff will investigate removing Paddock 5 from the Hackett Horse Paddocks at the completion of the current management contract (May 2009) provided that an appropriate fire fuel management regime can be implemented.

As discussed with my staff at the on-site meeting, Paddocks 4, 5 and 6 will continued to be managed sympathetically. These paddocks have not been grazed by horses for an extended period of time due to seasonal conditions and grazing pressure from kangaroo's and rabbits. There is no plan to introduce horses to these paddocks in the immediate future pending a significant change to seasonal conditions and a reduction in kangaroo and rabbit grazing pressure. I understand that a rabbit program is scheduled to begin in early autumn.

Thank you for raising the ecological significance of the area with me and I am pleased to support your request to return Paddock 5 to nature reserve. I have asked my staff to alert you when the Territory Plan Variation is available for public comment.

Hamish McNulty

Conservator of Flora and Fauna

August 2008

GENERAL

