



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Ed Cocks MLA

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into ACT's heritage arrangements

Submission Number: 039

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Friends of Grasslands

supporting native grassy ecosystems

Standing Committee On Environment, Climate Change And Biodiversity
Legislative Assembly For The Australian Capital Territory
LcommitteeECCB@parliament.act.gov.au

Re: Inquiry into the ACT's heritage arrangements

Friends of Grasslands (FOG) is a community group dedicated to the conservation of natural temperate grassy ecosystems in south-eastern Australia. FOG advocates, educates and advises on matters to do with the conservation of native grassy ecosystems, and carries out surveys and other on-ground work. FOG is based in Canberra and its members include professional scientists, landowners, land managers and interested members of the public.

We note that the remit contains four criteria that include natural history:

Under the [Heritage Act 2004](#) (the Act) the Council is responsible for keeping a register of places and objects in the ACT which have heritage significance at the Territory level. A place or object must meet at least one of the heritage significance criteria outlined in the Act to be entered in the register. The criteria are:

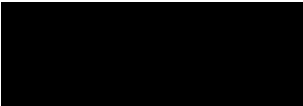
- a) importance to the course or pattern of the ACT's cultural **or natural history**;
- b) has uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the ACT's cultural **or natural history**;
- c) potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the **ACT's cultural or natural history**;
- d) importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural **or natural places or objects**;

Despite that, places that contain elements of 'natural history' especially places of high ecological value containing critically endangered natural grassland and/or Yellow Box-Blakely's Red Gum grassy woodland or associated threatened species are poorly represented on the register.

Recommendation:

The Heritage Council urgently needs environmental/ecological expertise in its composition to advance conservation of natural heritage, in particular, the nationally endangered grasslands and grassy woodlands habitats and species in the ACT.

Yours sincerely


Professor Jamie Pittock
President
31 March 2023