TO: National Capital Authority

TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY

Dear Sir/madam.

This response is on behalf of the ACT National Trust who supports the initiative and the Policy generally as a positive step for the environment and for the heritage of the ACT. We do have some comments which are outlined below.

1.   The initiative is only for the land controlled by NCA so we believe that one of the objectives should be is to encourage the ACT Government to adopt a similar policy.

2.   The Policy objectives should include a reference to conserving the heritage of the ACT. It is mentioned within the policy document such as key policy areas on page 9 and in section 5 on page 14 but the message should be strengthened by having it in the objectives.

3.   It would be useful to indicate the other areas excluded from the policy as mentioned on page 4 by means of a list or a map as it is not clear who and what areas are excluded and who has the wider responsibility and how they can be linked into the same policy opportunities.

4.   The diagram on page 6 representing the city gives an incorrect impression of Civic as the buildings within a treed environment does not exist and is becoming less so.

5.   Policy 5.4 clearly states replacing trees with the same species. This is supported. However it is not being implemented in practice as some heritage listed trees are considered invasive, environmental weeds or not preferred and from past actions are not being replaced with the same species. This needs to be made very clear in the policy re maintaining heritage values. If the policy as stated is to replace like with like regardless of other factors it is supported.

Regards,

Eric Martin, AM

31/03/2020