

Molonglo Valley – an opportunity to achieve sustainable urban planning and protection of endangered ecosystems

Our vision is an urban development on degraded lands built to high levels of sustainable design alongside a nationally significant woodlands reserve and buffered by rural lands managed for conservation.



The Conservation Council supports some urban development in the Molonglo Valley and the opportunity it presents for improved land use.

However, in planning for future residential development we should also be planning for the conservation of our local plants and animals for future generations to experience and enjoy.

The Government's proposal

The ACT Government is planning to build housing for 73,000 people in Molonglo Valley. 55,000 in East Molonglo and 18,000 in Central Molonglo. See map over page.

What we are proposing

East Molonglo (which is mostly degraded plantation and agricultural land) be used for urban development for 55,000 people. The highest quality environmental assets be protected as "Kama" reserve. Conservation leases be established for the rest of central Molonglo with strict conditions to conserve the natural assets.

Why we think it is important to save the Molonglo Valley environment

ACT residents will lose an area of natural beauty and recreation if the government goes ahead with the full extent of its plans.

The Molonglo Valley is a "hotspot" for endangered ecological communities and threatened species. There is over 600 hectares of Yellow Box Red Gum grassy woodland as well as Natural Temperate Grassland. Across

Australia most of these woodlands and grasslands have already been cleared so we need to act now to conserve what is left.

The woodlands and river corridor contain the last two known breeding territories in the ACT for the Little Eagle (a declining species).

The mix of river corridor, rural land and woodlands provide habitat for the Peregrine Falcon, the Wedge-tailed Eagle and nine other birds of prey.

The woodlands provide refuge for threatened birds: Brown Treecreeper, Varied Sittella, Superb Parrot and White-winged Triller. The grasslands are home to a nationally threatened species, Pink-tailed Worm Lizard.

Planning

Kama: conserve for future generations two endangered ecological communities, viable populations of birds of prey and woodland animals, and a wildlife corridor linking the iconic Black Mountain to the Molonglo River.

Conservation lease: this would set a new direction in managing land according to agreed environment objectives including protection of threatened species habitat, raptor habitat and wildlife corridors, alongside productive farming.

Urban development: East Molonglo Valley would provide housing for 55,000 people. Kama will provide an attractive landscape setting for East Molonglo and recreational opportunities for the new residents.

What can I do?

Write to the your ACT MLAs and local Federal MPs and Senators expressing your support to save central Molonglo



Conservation Council
OF THE SOUTH EAST REGION & CANBERRA

For more information: see the website of the Conservation Council where you can access further details about this proposal and a fact sheet on the plants and animals of the Molonglo Valley www.consact.org.au

Molonglo Valley – an opportunity to provide housing for a population of 55,000 plus in East Molonglo, protection of critical plants and animals in Kama reserve and establish a new direction in managing land for conservation values whilst also continuing productive farming.

