



**Rebecca Vassarotti MLA**

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Heritage

Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services

Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction

Member for Kurrajong

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20/98065

Ms Amanda Coleman

[meow100@grapevine.com.au](mailto:meow100@grapevine.com.au)

Dear Ms Coleman

Thank you for your email of 14 November 2020 about the Acton Boardwalk Extension and native fauna in the area. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

We have carefully considered the potential impacts of this development on native wildlife, including the Australian reed warbler, and we are taking steps with the City Renewal Authority to see habitat is included in the new development.

Some areas of reed bed are being removed as part of boardwalk construction, and this may impact reed warblers in the immediate term and vicinity. However, long-term prospects for the species at the site are positive. Reed warblers are typically secure in urban environments and their numbers are increasing steadily across the ACT, which is a wonderful sign that our urban green spaces are providing valuable habitat.

Importantly, the development will reinstate reed beds wherever possible and include new plantings and structures to enhance local biodiversity. We are confident this development is unlikely to compromise the persistence of reed warblers in the local area and will not threaten positive population growth observed for the species more broadly.

You also mentioned the rakali (water rat). Rakali generally have large home ranges and are highly mobile within their territory. The reclamation of the foreshore is being undertaken outside of their breeding period where they may be dependent upon one particular burrow. We anticipate this species will have room to avoid areas under construction and return to the area following construction.

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 @RebeccaVassarot

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Thank you for your email and interest in protecting Canberra's native wildlife. We hope you continue to enjoy our urban green spaces and the flora and fauna that occupy them.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Vassarotti', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Rebecca Vassarotti MLA

3/2/2021