Dear Sir/Madam,

Draft Variation to the Territory Plan 366: Franklin Grasslands Environmental Offset Site

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 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.

In the last two years, FOG has taken an intense interest in block 5, section 47 Franklin, commonly known as Franklin Grassland. It has participated in two working bees at the site, held a public forum there, participated in a several other major events held there, and taken many people to visit the site to discuss its values and future.

FOG has recognised that Franklin Grassland is recognised as a Category One Grassland within the ACT Grassland Strategy owing to is large areas of Natural Temperate Grasslands, a critically endangered ecological community, and five threatened species, Golden Sun Moth (GSM), Striped Legless Lizard, Ginninderra Peppercrest, Perunga Grasshopper and Superb Parrot.

Franklin Grassland is a 20ha site surrounded on all sides by medium to high level urban and commercial development. FOG believes that the grassland provides an excellent opportunity to create a conservation and recreation reserve in which the public can participate. With the support of the ACT Government, FOG has prepared a draft Concept Plan to meet these objectives putting conservation first (https://www.dropbox.com/s/atedpacgbdqjrdc/Franklin%20Grassland%20Concept%20Plan.pdf?dl=0). This will create an opportunity for the local Canberra community to experience nature on their doorstep, learn about and enjoy the woodlands, grasslands and wetland areas that are present there, to observe, learn about and enjoy the many plant and fauna species present, to examine the grassland restoration overtime and to participate in its management and future direction. The Concept Plan will be finalised shortly.

FOG supports the proposal to DV 366 to establish a nature reserve over the Franklin Grassland.

Yours sincerely

Geoff Robertson
President
13 December 2019