



ACT Heritage Council

HERITAGE ADVICE

Environmental Significance Opinion

ACTPLA Reference: ESO202400008
Heritage Reference: Belconnen – B1419
Contact Officer: DB
Received by Council: 28 February 2024
Due date: 16 February 2024

TO: Territory Planning Authority
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate
EPDImpact@act.gov.au

Block:	Section:	Division / District:	Heritage Place:
1419		Belconnen	Kama Woodlands Nature Reserve
78		Molonglo Valley	Nil recorded or registered

Status of Place: Registered Heritage Place
Description of Works: Vegetation restoration works
Report Details: Environmental Significance Opinion - Molonglo Valley Forb Enhancement Program 2024
Council Advice provided by: Director (Approvals and Advice)

Pursuant to Section 140 of the *Planning Act 2023* and Section 60 of the *Heritage Act 2004*, the ACT Heritage Council advises that:

- The proposal is **unlikely to have a significant adverse environmental impact, subject to the condition** described below.
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Background:

On 28 February 2024, the Territory Planning Authority referred an application for an Environmental Significance Opinion (ESO) to the ACT Heritage Council (the Council) for entity advice (ESO202400008).

The ESO relates to the proposed Molonglo Valley forb enhancement program, in which the Parks and Conservation Service are seeking to conduct restoration works, including weed control, scraping and direct seeding at two small locations within the Molonglo River Reserve and William Hovell Woodland Conservation Area (Block 1419 Belconnen and Block 78 Molonglo Valley).

Block 1419 Belconnen contains the registered heritage place “Kama Woodland/Grassland”, which is a significant heritage landscape with Aboriginal heritage and natural heritage values. Significant features of the place include examples of two endangered ecological communities (Yellow Box-Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Natural Temperate Grassland) together with the natural boundary (ecotone) between them, and a high diversity of native species including uncommon native forbs, woodland birds and riparian species.

The proposed location for the restoration works within this block are confined to a very small area and will not directly impact significant features of the heritage listing.

Review of the ACT Heritage Register indicates that, while several Aboriginal places also occur within Block 1419 Belconnen, none will be affected by the works, as they are located some distance from the proposed plantings area (>750m).

Block 78 Molonglo Valley does not contain any nominated or registered heritage places, or any known Aboriginal heritage places or objects.

While both Block 1419 Belconnen and Block 78 Molonglo have potential for unrecorded Aboriginal places and objects, the proposed locations for the restoration works are also confined to small areas, have been subject to some prior disturbance and are considered unlikely to affect heritage places or objects.

Decision and Condition:

In this context, and as a Council delegate I advise that the works are unlikely to have significant adverse heritage impacts subject to the following condition:

1. An Unanticipated Discovery Protocol is to be implemented during the proposed works. In the event that suspected Aboriginal places or objects are encountered during works: works at that location are to cease (in accordance with Section 75 of the *Heritage Act 2004*); and the Council is to be notified within five working days (in accordance with Section 51 of the *Heritage Act 2004*); and management is to be undertaken in accordance with further Council advice.

Meaghan Russell
Director (Approvals and Advice) (as delegate for),
ACT Heritage Council

11 April 2024