

## Nola Marino MP

Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Territories Federal Member for Forrest

## MEDIA RELEASE

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## Treescape grows to new heights in the 'Bush Capital' – have your say

The Australian Government is calling upon all Australians to get involved in shaping the vision for the future treescape in Canberra's Central National Area.

The National Capital Authority (NCA) today released the Draft Tree Management Policy that is now open for public comment. The policy identifies and addresses the current and future challenges for the trees in the National Triangle/Central National Area.

Minister Marino said, "Millions of people visit our Nation's Capital every year – both from within Australia, and from overseas. This includes around 165,000 school children. The Australian Government is committed to ensuring that Canberra, our Nation's Capital, continues to be world-class – a meeting place all Australians can be proud of".

"Canberra's treescape was designed in the early 20th century and has been enjoyed for generations since. With ageing trees, it's now time to plan for the future - and we're inviting you to have your say, to ensure we deliver a treescape for future generations to enjoy," said Minister Marino.

NCA Chairman Mr Terry Weber is thrilled that this policy is now in its final stage of public consultation. "Trees play a major role in what makes Canberra so special for Canberra families to live, work and play - and for millions to visit each year. We've been living the legacy of Walter Burley Griffin's design, the pioneering work of Charles Weston, Lindsay Pryor and the development work undertaken by the National Capital Development Commission (NCDC) and others, for over 100 years. It is now time to plan for the next 100 years", said Terry Weber.

There are over 18,000 trees on NCA managed land in Canberra. The key take outs from the draft policy proposes:

- Increasing canopy cover on NCA managed lands from 33% to 40%
- Improving the age diversity of the treescape to make it more resilient
- Improving the diversity of species to improve treescape resilience

"It's a time to reflect on the past, but also infuse contemporary thinking and practices to create an urban forest that is thriving for many years to come - to become involved visit <u>www.ourtrees.com.au</u> or the NCA's website <u>www.nca.gov.au</u> and have your say" said Minister Marino.

Ends.

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