18/750: Molonglo River Reserve – final draft Reserve Management Plan

Summary of Impacts
This submission supports release of the Molonglo River Reserve Management Plan (the Plan). The Plan sets out how the reserve will be managed and restored over time conserving natural and cultural values, providing protection against bushfires and providing for recreational opportunities. The Reserve has high natural and cultural conservation value and will also be a central landscape feature and recreation destination for residents of the Molonglo Valley urban area.

Key to impacts: Red – negative, Blue - neutral and Green - positive.

Social

Ngunnawal culture and knowledge	• Protection of cultural heritage. • Engagement with Ngunnawal community on management of the reserve. • Education of general public on cultural values.
Social cohesion and health benefits	• Provision of access to areas of natural landscape and recreation spaces provides physical and mental health benefits. • Provision of environmental and cultural interpretative material. • Opportunity to build community cohesion through participation in caring for the Reserve through initiatives such as the Park Care volunteer program.
Education	• Opportunity to educate the community on ecological values and cultural heritage.

Economic

ACT Government Budget	• Nil impact to ACT Government Budget. Management actions to be delivered through existing recurrent resources.
Productivity	• Continuing engagement of local providers for land management activities within the Reserve such as weed control, restoration planting and fencing.
Investment	• Provision of a landscape setting providing attractive views across the river valley and opportunities for recreation adds value to the Molonglo land release program.
Tourism	• Walking and cycling links connecting tourist attractions such as the Arboretum and Stromlo Forest Park. • Meets objectives of the Cycle Tourism Strategy and will meet objectives of the Nature Based Tourism Strategy currently in development. • Potential for licensed commercial operators to undertake Indigenous guided activities.

Environmental

Biodiversity/ threatened species	• Protection and enhancement of ecological values in the Molonglo Valley.
Water quality	• Maintain the water quality in the Molonglo River.