**18/342 - ACT Government Submission to the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services: Nature in our City**

|  |
| --- |
| **Summary of Impacts** |
| * The proposal seeks to highlight benefits of nature to Canberrans * The proposal will raise awareness of the positive social, economic and environmental benefits to the ACT from our natural capital. * There are no known implementation risks associated with this proposal. |

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

**Social**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Access to social networks & community activities** | * Renowned as the Bush Capital, Canberra provides its population with easy access to nature – green spaces, parks, reserves, lakes and waterways - available to most within 1 km of their homes. * Across the ACT, thousands of people participate in volunteering opportunities including ParkCare, Community catchments groups and “friends of groups”. They meet regularly to socialise and contribute to caring for our natural and cultural heritage. |
| **Human rights** | * Submission will have no direct implications on human rights. |
| **Indigenous and Multicultural** | * ACT’s natural environment provides the venue for social interaction, including by bringing culturally and linguistically diverse communities together, and is a place of cultural importance. |

**Economic**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ACT Government Budget** | * Submission will have no direct budget implications. |
| **Productivity and innovation** | * The ACT is well positioned to take advantage of the natural environment for education and tourism opportunities. |
| **Investment and Economic Impacts** | * The natural environment contributes directly to the economy through tourism and employment. * Nature and proximity to nature can provide value to neighbourhoods and property. * Parks and reserves offer free space for events and recreational activities. This has multiplier effects with spin offs that support our local economy from the bike shop to the outdoor clothing retailers. |

**Environmental**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Biodiversity** | * Our natural environment conserves and protects biodiversity. |
| **Heritage** | * Our natural environments protect sites of great social, cultural and spiritual value to communities, including aboriginal heritage. |
| **Environmental quality** | * Our green infrastructure supports Canberra’s liveability. Blue and Green infrastructure and the application of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD), provision of landscaped urban spaces and nature reserves provide a buffer in the urban environment. |