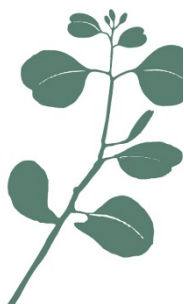


AUSTRALIAN
NATIVE
PLANTS
SOCIETY
CANBERRA



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DHA DEVELOPMENT AT LAWSON NORTH CANBERRA, CONSULTATION OF NOVEMBER 2021

We are the Australian Native Plants Society of Canberra (ANPSC), dedicated to the horticulture and preservation of the native flora and its distinctive habitats, and we write to express continuing reservations over the environmental and species impacts of the proposed development at North Lawson.

In July 2020, we (and others) cosigned a Conservation Council letter to the DHA Managing Director. While noting that “Stage 1” (precincts A/B) of the development was already approved under NCA Plan, we were concerned by a proposed “Stage 2” (precincts D/E) that would require significant amendments to NCA Plan, and destroy rare grassland habitat hosting endangered bird, lizard and insect species. The “strip” of precinct D to be retained was in our collective view inadequate.

Unfortunately, the revised Lawson North master plan does not appear to resolve the environmental concerns, although it is claimed that the “proposed expansion” is positioned “outside” of core habitat areas.

This master plan would still require significant alteration of the present Development Control Plan. It would remove or degrade endangered Grassland and Box Gum terrains, impacting rare and vulnerable lizard and insect species.

This site “expansion” (an extra 266 houses) beyond the core DHA housing requirement (150 dwellings) appears to be a profit-driven compensation for a lack of proper budget funding from Defence. In our view, this funding should be found, and the ACT’s environmental and social interests should prevail.

Once again, we urge DHA to reduce or remove the non-core housing impost, so that the priorities are given to the core-housing requirement and the endangered natural habitat that it borders.

Stephen Saunders
President ANPSC
26 November 2021

