

John Stanhope MLA
Chief Minister
ACT Legislative Assembly
GPO Box 1020
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Chief Minister

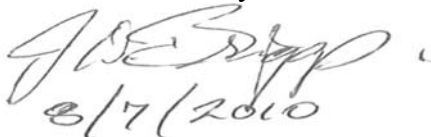
Please Protect Red Hill's Woodland

We are experts in woodland ecology and woodland conservation and implore you to protect Red Hill's nationally significant woodland. Between us we have visited many of the remnants of the Yellow Box – Blakely's Red Gum vegetation community across its range. The woodland at Red Hill (based on information supplied to us by Red Hill Regenerators) is of exceptional conservation value in terms of its size, plant diversity and the habitat it provides for rare and threatened species and biodiversity in general. The proposed housing and associated infrastructure development on and around the Federal Golf Club lease will have significant adverse direct and indirect impacts on this national treasure.

Further clearing of Box Gum woodland, including the reduction in the size of surviving patches, and deterioration of remnant condition, through such factors as weed invasion and altered fire regime, are formally acknowledged as key threatening processes to the survival of this critically endangered woodland type. The Federal Golf Course proposal would be yet another example of these key threatening processes in operation.

We acknowledge and applaud the considerable actions your government has already taken to protect and better understand lowland woodland. We urge you to extend this good record. The conservation values of the Red Hill woodland should be protected through adding the wooded land on the leasehold land not currently used for golfing to the adjoining Red Hill nature reserve. The outstanding woodland on Red Hill should not be degraded by locating housing on community land which supports native vegetation of such importance.

Yours sincerely



John Briggs
Threatened species expert and
woodland ecologist



Ian Davidson
Expert on Victorian and Southern
NSW woodland



Dr Don Driscoll
Research Fellow, expert on
biodiversity in fragmented
landscapes



Dr David Freudenberger
Former Senior Scientist,
expert in woodland birds and
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Dr Phil Gibbons
Senior Fellow, Natural
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Nigel Jones
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Toni McLeish
Coordinator, Grassy Box Woodland
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Dr Suzanne Prober
Research Scientist, expert in
temperate woodlands and their
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Rainer Rehwinkel
Expert in NSW grassy ecosystems

cc All Molonglo representatives of the Legislative Assembly

