

# MOLONGLO RIVER RESERVE DRAFT RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

## WHAT WE HEARD REPORT

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A new 1280 hectare nature reserve is being established for the growing Molonglo Valley region. The Molonglo River Reserve will extend 12 kilometres along the Molonglo River from Scrivener Dam to the intersection with the Murrumbidgee River Corridor Reserve.

The Molonglo Valley will be home to approximately 55,000 new residents. Along with residents from across Canberra, many will visit the new nature reserve for recreation.

In early 2018, the ACT Government asked you to comment on the Molonglo River Reserve Draft 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 bushfire as well as recreational opportunities for ACT residents and visitors.

### THE CONVERSATION

We held a conversation online, face-to-face and directly with stakeholders from 8 February to 23 March 2018.

Engagement occurred through a variety of forms including formal submissions, online surveys, emails, meetings and conversations at events. We also ran two ranger guided walks at the reserve.

### WHO ENGAGED

Peak bodies, conservation organisations and members of the general public were engaged or involved in the engagement.

#### Key insights from the community

##### General

- 1 There is generally strong support for the Molonglo River Reserve Management Plan.
- 2 Concerns have been raised about the delays in the finalisation of the Plan.
- 3 Having an ongoing budget for the effective management of the reserve is important to the community.

##### Protection of natural and cultural values

- 4 The protection of the natural and cultural values within the Molonglo River Reserve is important to the community.
- 5 The reserve area will require careful planning to accommodate environmental and human pressures.
- 6 The community is concerned that some of the Plan's objectives, actions and policies will not provide adequate protection to threatened species populations.
- 7 Concerns have been raised about the impacts on birds, other wildlife and sensitive landscape areas if dogs are permitted in certain areas of the reserve.

##### Recreation in the Reserve

- 8 There is strong support for a range of recreational activities to be permitted within the reserve.
- 9 There are suggestions for a change in status or conditions for some of the permitted or prohibited uses.

##### Kama Nature Reserve

- 10 There is strong support for the protection of Kama Nature Reserve through the provision of the urban edge buffer which is outlined in the Molonglo Valley Plan for the Protection of Matters of National Environmental Significance.
- 11 The community has a strong view that the buffer width should be detailed in the Plan.

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## WHAT'S NEXT?

ACT Parks and Conservation Service team is reviewing the submissions received during the consultation period. A final draft Molonglo River Reserve Management Plan will be put to Government for consideration in the second half of 2018.

To find out more about the Molonglo River Reserve Management Plan visit [www.yoursay.act.gov.au](http://www.yoursay.act.gov.au).

### Key Timings

#### April – June 2018

- > Review the submissions received through the public consultation process

#### July – October 2018

- > Finalise the draft plan
- > Formalise the reserve boundaries through a Territory Plan variation

#### Late 2018

- > Final draft plan provided to Minister for the Environment and Heritage for approval
- > A Consultation Report will be released to the public.

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

**10,000**  
people reached on  
social media

49  
individuals  
completed the online  
survey

30  
30 people attending  
events (ranger guided  
walks, public  
meetings)

21  
We received 21  
written submissions