

The Institute of Foresters of Australia

ABN 48 083 197 586

20 September 2010

Mr Ross Stevens
Manager, Property Resources
CSIRO Property Services
Email: Ross.Stevens@csiro.au



Dear Mr Stevens

The Institute of Foresters of Australia (IFA) is the peak professional body for forest scientists, forest educators and forested land managers in Australia. We are a non-profit organization with over 1350 member who are committed to the principles of sustainable forest management and the processes and practices which translate these principles into outcomes.

I refer to the Westridge House Draft Management Plan. The Institute of Foresters makes the following comments in relation to the Plan:

- We welcome the development of the Management Plan
- We support the conservation policies set out in the executive summary, with one exception (Conservation policy 7) as they seek to protect, maintain and enhance the Westridge House and its heritage values.

The IFA strongly support the following conservation policies

1. That the former connections and associations of this place with the Australian Forestry School and with the early history of the federal capital be interpreted within the site in an appropriate manner.
2. That the informal plantings adjacent the Royal Canberra Golf course and Westbourne Woods... These elements are to be retained and conserved [restored, maintained and preserved].
3. Notwithstanding these modifications, the iconic north, east, and south elevations remain recognisably the work of Harold Desbrowe-Annear and are to be conserved [restored/preserved].
4. It is recommended that these associations with people and with the early history of the federal capital be interpreted within the House and the precinct in an appropriate manner.
5. Any divestment of the Westridge House precinct is to accord with the Designated Crown Area Lease requirements protecting the heritage values of the place.

We note that the draft plan notes that the current zoning is 'Community Facility' and that it is intended to stay that way. It would be our preference that the site be maintained for Educational and Scientific Research use – as this is consistent with previous use. We would not favour zoning to residential use, but if this occurs we would expect that the facility would remain in perpetuity as National land restricted to single residential use only.

The IFA notes the significance of Westridge House to the development of forestry in Australia. It has been an integral element of the Australian Forestry School, the Forestry and Timber Bureau and CSIRO National Bushfire Research and remains an important part of the heritage of Australian Forest Research and Education.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Phil Pritchard'.

Phil Pritchard
Chairman, ACT Division