

NATURE CONSERVATION ACT 1980

DECLARATION OF THE BIMBERI WILDERNESS ZONE

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Under Sub-section 52(1) of the Nature Conservation Act 1980 the Minister may declare a reserved area, or part of a reserved area, to be a wilderness zone.

This declaration will declare a wilderness zone to be known as "Bimberi Wilderness". A plan showing the wilderness zone in relation to the Australian Capital Territory is attached. The area of land that is to become Bimberi Wilderness forms part of the reserved area known as Namadgi National Park. Namadgi National Park was declared a reserved area by the then Minister under Sub-section 51(1) of the Act on 3 October 1984.

Once the declaration comes into effect greater protection of the natural features of this area will be possible. The Act provides for this by prohibiting the following Acts within a wilderness zone:

Section 59

- a) excavating
- b) establishing a track or road
- c) using a motor vehicle, except on a track or road that:
  - (i) was formed for the use of vehicles having four or more wheels; and
  - (ii) was in existence at the time the wilderness zone was declared.

Sub-section 56(4)

- d) erecting a building, booth, stall, post, sign or other structure; and
- e) supplying goods or services.

In addition, Sub-section 52(4) requires the Conservator of Wildlife to cause such things to be done in a wilderness zone as are necessary and reasonable for its proper management.

As the area remains part of Namadgi National Park, it will continue to be regulated by the provisions in the Act which allow the Conservator of Wildlife to prohibit and regulate the activities of persons within reserved areas. These provisions, Sections 53 to 60, cover activities such as lighting fires, camping and carrying weapons.

