



ACT GOVERNMENT

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

NATURE CONSERVATION ACT 1980

DETERMINATION OF FEES

DETERMINATION NO. 111 OF 1997

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The *Nature Conservation Act 1980* provides for the protection and conservation of native animals and native plants, and for the reservation of areas for those purposes in the ACT. It provides a regime to protect and control activities within reserved areas and wilderness zones. 'Reserved area' means any area of public land reserved under the Territory Plan as a wilderness area, national park or nature reserve. In 1991, Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve was gazetted as nature reserve under the *Nature Conservation Act 1980*.

Under section 83A, the Minister may determine fees for the purposes of the Act by notice in the *Gazette*. Under subsection 53A (1), a determined fee may be charged for entry into a reserved area.

This Determination sets fees to be charged for access to Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve. The access fee for Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve is a new fee.

The fees payable for the purposes of subsection 53A (1) of the Act are set out in the Schedule of Fees below

Schedule of fees

Type of Pass	Fee payable for entry into Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve	
Annual Pass	Private vehicle (up to 8 seats)	\$20.00
	Private vehicle concession	\$13.00
	Motorcycle, bicycle and pedestrian	\$ 8 00
Day Pass	Vehicle (up to 8 passengers)	\$ 8.00
	Vehicle concession	\$ 5 00
	Motorcycle, bicycle and pedestrian	\$ 3 00
	Group entry.	
	1. Coach (per passenger)	\$ 2 00
2. Student group (per student)	\$ 1 00	

The concession fee will apply to Commonwealth Government Pension Card holders, people in receipt of unemployment benefits, members of the Friends of Tidbinbilla and members of the Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve Pioneers Association. A 'student' is defined in the Determination as a primary, secondary or tertiary student.

Access charges are being introduced to ensure the ongoing enhancement of the facilities at Tidbinbilla. The funds raised will be an addition to, not substitute for, the normal appropriation provided by Government, and will be retained and used for conservation and visitor services within Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve. Access charges will not be imposed at any other ACT park.

Fees have been developed based on comparisons with other parks systems, other ACT attractions, research undertaken on fees for Tidbinbilla, and the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC) Best Practice Report on User Pays Revenue.

The ANZECC report on user pays operations in protected areas emphasises that revenue raising in protected areas has been accepted throughout Australian nature conservation agencies as a necessary adjunct to central funding. The report argues that adopting 'best practice' procedures can improve conservation outcomes, as well as providing better visitor services and facilities.

The charging of access fees for Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve is to commence on 1 July 1997.