



ACT GOVERNMENT

**AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**  
**NATURE CONSERVATION ACT 1980**  
**DETERMINATION OF FEES**  
**DETERMINATION NO. 134 OF 1997**

**EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

The *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991* and Territory Plan provide for the reservation of land as public land for the purposes of nature conservation. The *Nature Conservation Act 1980* (hereafter the Act) provides for the protection and conservation of native animals and plants. The Nature Conservation Act also 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, the area known as Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve was reserved as public land nature reserve and public land special purpose reserve under the Territory Plan.

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 revokes the fees to be charged for access to Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve previously determined in Determination No. 111 of 1997 dated 18 June 1997 and notified in Gazette No S171 of 20 June 1997 and sets new fees to be charged for access to Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve.

The new fees payable for the purposes of subsection 53A (1) of the Act are set out in the Schedule of Fees below. A comparative list of the old and the new fees is provided in Attachment 1.

The fees are being revised as a result of debate in the Legislative Assembly during which the Minister for the Environment, Land and Planning agreed to amend the fees in order to provide incentives for families to visit the Reserve.

### Schedule of new fees

Type of Pass	Fee payable for entry into Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve	
Annual Pass	Private vehicle (up to 8 seats)	\$10.00
	Private vehicle concession	\$ 7 00
	Motorcycle, bicycle and pedestrian	\$ 5.00
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

The access fees are to provide additional funds 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.

**Attachment 1**

**Comparison of old and new fees payable for entry into Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve**

<b>Type of Pass</b>		<b>Old Fee</b>	<b>New Fee</b>
Annual Pass	Private vehicle (up to 8 seats)	\$20.00	\$10.00
	Private vehicle concession	\$13 00	\$7 00
	Motorcycle, bicycle and pedestrian	\$8 00	\$5.00
Day Pass	Vehicle (up to 8 passengers)	\$8 00	\$8.00
	Vehicle concession	\$5 00	\$5.00
	Motorcycle, bicycle and pedestrian	\$3 00	\$3.00
	Group entry.		
	1. Coach (per passenger)	\$2.00	\$2 00
2. Student group (per student)	\$1 00	\$1.00	