FRIENDS OF PARA WIRRA (FOPW) Comments on the Draft Planning and Design Code, 26/11/19

1. FOPW strongly supports comments made by Friends of Parks Inc.

2. FOPW recognises that all conservation reserves proclaimed under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 or the Wilderness Protection Act 1992 are included in the ‘Conservation Zone’

3. The Management Plan for Para Wirra Conservation Park is dated and should be stronger in conservation protection to reflect the park’s current status of Conservation Park. Despite this, the plan does not contemplate, specify or suggest tourism accommodation in the park. FOPW would vigorously oppose such development if it were proposed, on the grounds of conflict with Objective 2 of the Management Plan “Protect the natural assets of the park, manage wildlife, control weeds, exotic plants and feral animals”

4. FOPW believes the natural assets of the Conservation Park and adjacent contiguous habitat would be better protected by creation of additional overlays as suggested by Friends of Parks Inc, eg “Critical Habitat Overlay” which would be relevant to habitat protection for species of conservation significance such as Square-tailed kite, Southern Brown bandicoot, Western pygmy possum, Caladenia rigida and C. behrii. This information overlay is regarded as crucial to development assessment in Para Wirra Conservation Park and other parks connected by contiguous native vegetation.

5. Definition of the term “Contemplate” is required for us to have any understanding of the interaction between Park Management Plans and the Code in Conservation areas and with regard to built heritage on Park.

6. Friends of Para Wirra have found it difficult to comment effectively given tight timeframes, errors in the Draft Code and the difficulty in navigating the Draft Code and its mapping tool. We would like to remind DPTI that Para Wirra has been a Conservation Park for some time now, not a Recreation Park as shown on the supplied maps.

Friends of Para Wirra

Per President Patsy Johnson