



Ms Bronwyn Blake
Chair of the ACT Monaro Riverina Branch
Australian Garden History Society
[REDACTED]

Dear Ms Blake

Replacement of Lombardy Poplars at the National Library of Australia forecourt

I am writing to update you regarding the National Capital Authority's (NCA) landscape renewal project. The project will see the replacement of the Lombardy Poplars (*Populus nigra 'Italica'*) located in the National Library of Australia (NLA) forecourt. Lombardy Poplars are a regulated plant in the ACT, declared as a pest plant and therefore prohibited under the ACT Government's *Pests, Plants and Animals Act 2005*.

Since I wrote in November 2022, the NCA has advanced its preparations for the landscape renewal works. The works include the replacement of the existing trees, replenishment of the soil, upgrades to the irrigation system and the installation of new grass. A contractor has been appointed and the works are scheduled to be undertaken between March and July 2023.

Considering community feedback, associated with the heritage values of the Lombardy Poplars in the forecourt of the NLA, the NCA reengaged with the ACT Government to seek a permit to replace the trees with the same species. I am pleased to share that the ACT Government, acknowledging the community interest in maintaining the same species, issued a permit enabling the Lombardy Poplar to be maintained for this landscape renewal.

It is noted that the permit was granted on this occasion in recognition of the unique site and characteristics of the Lombardy Poplar required to maintain the heritage values. The ACT Government also noted the very high standard of maintenance the NCA will undertake to reduce any impact on surrounding areas as a result of this tree species being replanted.

The NCA is currently working to secure sufficient volume of semi mature trees required for the project. The NCA continues to be committed to the ongoing management and maintenance of high-quality landscapes.

Please don't hesitate to contact me or the NCA Project Manager, Natalie Joy on email via Natalie.joy@nca.gov.au if you have comments or would like to discuss the project in more detail.

Yours sincerely

Sally Barnes
Chief Executive

22 March 2023