



ACT NATURE
CONSERVATION STRATEGY
2013-23 **IMPLEMENTATION
PLAN TWO (2019-23)**



ACT
Government

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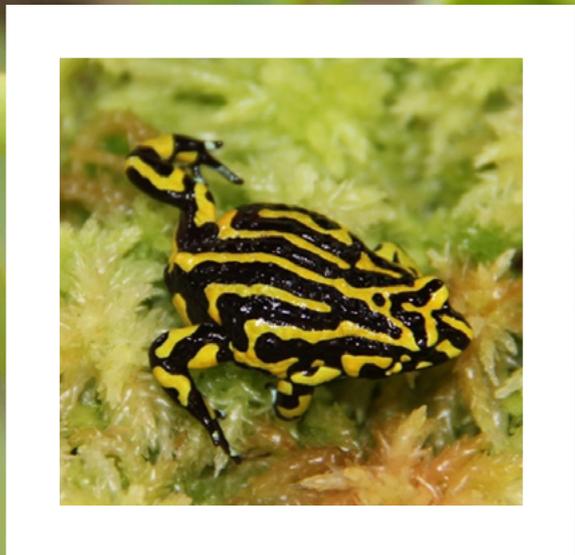
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INTRODUCTION

The [Nature Conservation Strategy 2013–23](#) (the Strategy) commenced on 14 November 2013. The Strategy provided a vision, outcomes, strategies and actions. It set a clear direction for the protection and management of biodiversity in the ACT and region.

Vision

Biodiversity rich, resilient landscapes stretching from the inner city to the mountains, where well-functioning ecosystems can meet the needs of people and the environment.

Outcomes

Outcome 1: Native vegetation and biodiversity is maintained and improved

Outcome 2: Landscapes are more resilient, including to climate change

Outcome 3: Community health and wellbeing is increased through use and appreciation of natural areas and ‘green assets’ in urban areas

Strategies

Strategy 1: Enhance habitat connectivity and ecosystem function

Strategy 2: Manage threats to biodiversity

Strategy 3: Protect species and ecological communities

Strategy 4: Enhance biodiversity value of urban areas

Strategy 5: Strengthen community engagement

Thirty-three actions guide conservation management of the natural environment across nature reserves, and rural and urban areas in the ACT. The Strategy was supported by an [Implementation Plan 1 \(2013–18\) \(IP1\)](#).



PROGRESS TO DATE

Implementation of the Nature Conservation Strategy 2013–23 has been well tracked and reported on. A report card on progress to December 2015 was released and is available [here](#). A report card on progress to December 2018 is available [Implementation Plan 1 \(2013–18\) \(IP1\)](#).

All milestones in Implementation Plan 1 have been progressed through strong collaboration between government, the community, land managers and researchers; 51 milestones have been completed, and 51 are ongoing.

Highlights from Implementation Plan 1

1. Baseline information on our landscapes has significantly improved and shared with the community through ACTMapi, including [vegetation communities](#), [habitat connectivity](#) and [soil and hydrological landscapes](#).
2. The ACT [Woodlands Restoration Program](#) (2011–18) has restored and connected 60,000 hectares of the largest remaining box–gum grassy woodland landscape in Australia focussing on priority landscapes of: Belconnen Hills, Majura Valley, Callum Brae, Kowen Plateau, Greater Gooroyaroo, and Murrumbidgee River Corridor.
3. [Grassland Enhancement Program](#) research and on-ground trials has improved management of biomass in grasslands to enhance habitat for the Grassland Earless Dragon, Striped Legless Lizard, Button Wrinklewort and Small Purple Pea.
4. Artificial fish habitat ('Cod Caves') were deployed in the Molonglo River and Yerrabi Lake, and [Engineered Log Jams](#) (ELJs) were constructed near Tharwa. [Conservation Research](#) monitoring results show improved native fish passage and habitat.
5. New action plans have been developed to manage and protect the following species: [Scarlet Robin](#) (2016); [Murray Cod](#) (2017) and [Listed Migratory Species](#) (2018)
6. [Action plans](#) for 16 threatened species and threatened ecological communities have been reviewed and updated.
7. Long-term monitoring for ecosystems has been improved through development of a [Conservation Effectiveness Monitoring Program](#).
8. [Translocations and reintroductions](#) of many species to the ACT, including the Eastern Bettong, Eastern Quoll, [Brown Treecreeper](#) and [New Holland Mouse](#), have been undertaken as part of the [Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary](#) and [Mulligans Flat – Gooroyaroo Woodland Experiment](#).
9. Seed banks are in place for [Brindabella Midge Orchid](#), [Murrumbidgee Bossiaea](#), [Tuggeranong Lignum](#) and [Ginninderra Pepperpress](#) with seed [collected and stored](#) at the Australian National Botanic Gardens for future translocation and conservation purposes.
10. Continued strong community engagement:
 - a. Reinvigorating ParkCare through creation of the [ParkCare Hub](#) and four volunteering streams to broaden and enhance opportunities: ParkCare Patch; RangerAssist; WldlifeAssist and VisitorAssist.
 - b. Forums showcasing and promoting research undertaken by Landcare and ParkCare groups, including: [ParkCare Forums](#); [Woodlands Forum](#); [Black Mountain Symposium](#).
 - c. Citizen science including: [Canberra Nature Map](#), [Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch](#), [Frogwatch](#), [Woodlands and Wetlands Trust Latham's Snipe project](#).
11. Continuation of the Murrumbidgee Ranger Program, involvement of Indigenous people in woodland restoration and increased knowledge and application of cultural burns in Caring for Country.





IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2

Implementation Plan 2 (2019–23) (IP2) identifies priorities for implementing the Nature Conservation Strategy over the next five years.

Following the experience gained with the first implementation plan, IP2 has given increased focus to:

- » enhancing biodiversity values in urban areas
- » working with rural landholders on promoting native vegetation and biodiversity on farms
- » supporting Traditional Custodians to apply Aboriginal land management methods on Country
- » building the ACT's ability to monitor conservation effectiveness within reserves
- » strengthening partnerships within the region for conservation management, including for cross-border collaboration.

Implementation Plan 2 – also places continuing priority on:

- » building our capacity to plan for and adapt to a changing climate
- » managing threats to the natural environment from pest animals and weeds
- » improving woodlands, grasslands and aquatic habitat including rehabilitating priority landscapes for habitat connectivity
- » protecting threatened species through monitoring, research and on-ground actions
- » expanding opportunities for people to enjoy nature through volunteering, recreation and eco-tourism
- » encouraging and supporting citizen science.

Relevant ACT Government directorates will focus efforts to secure resources for actions that demonstrate cost effectiveness in terms of responding to critical conservation priorities and achieving the greatest positive conservation impacts. Some of the actions are undertaken by the ACT Parks and Conservation Service and the ACT Government (under implementation of the [Nature Conservation Act 2014](#)). Other priorities are supported by ACT and Australian government programs.



IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS AND PRIORITIES

STRATEGY 1: Restoring priority landscapes and improving connectivity

Priorities for Implementation Plan 2 (2019–23)	Links to legislation and other plans and strategies
Action 1.1: Develop baseline information on landscape function	
<p>1: Assess changes in tree canopy, including to identify areas of tree decline from Dieback and regrowth from natural regeneration and plantings. Implement the Living Infrastructure Plan - refer to Action 66.</p>	<p>Nature Conservation Act 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listing of Loss of Hollow Bearing Trees as a key threatening process • ACT Woodlands Conservation Strategy • Climate Change Strategy
<p>2: Monitor priority species including Grassland Earless Dragon, Superb Parrot, Latham’s Snipe, Grey-headed Flying-fox and Macquarie Perch to better understand impacts of climate change and ability to adapt.</p>	<p>Nature Conservation Act 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grasslands Conservation Strategy— Grassland Earless Dragon Action Plan • ACT Woodlands Conservation Strategy— Superb Parrot Action Plan • Aquatic and Riparian Conservation Strategy— Macquarie Perch Action Plan • Action Plan for Listed Migratory Species <p>Climate Change Strategy</p>
Action 1.2: Undertake fine-scale planning for habitat connectivity	
<p>3: Revegetation activities including the Protecting and Connecting Box-Gum Woodlands in the ACT project, guided by the Conservation Effectiveness Monitoring Program.</p>	<p>ACT Natural Resource Management Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Government National Landcare Program
Action 1.3: Enhance regional connectivity	
<p>4: Improve regional habitat corridors in partnership with South East Local Land Services, Kosciusko to Coast and Great Eastern Ranges.</p>	<p>ACT and Region Catchment Strategy</p> <p>ACT Woodlands Conservation Strategy</p>
Action 1.4: Assess conservation investment opportunities across public and privately managed lands in the ACT	
<p>5: Continue to update the integrated ACT Natural Resource Management Investment Plan to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adapt and reflect priorities in new and updated ACT strategies and plans • respond to emerging funding opportunities • support engagement with key stakeholders and delivery partners • guide development of proposals for new program funds. 	<p>ACT Natural Resource Management Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Government National Landcare Program
<p>6: Continue to seek investment for nature conservation including through Australian Government programs.</p>	<p>ACT Natural Resource Management Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Government National Landcare Program

Priorities for Implementation Plan 2 (2019–23)

Links to legislation and other plans and strategies

- 7:** Work with rural landholders to identify ways to protect the natural resource base and promote biodiversity on farm.
- 8:** Explore opportunities for introducing Land for Wildlife, a voluntary program that encourages and assists people to manage wildlife habitat on their properties, both in rural and urban areas.

[ACT Natural Resource Management Programs](#)

- Australian Government National Landcare Program

Action 1.5: Fund priority landscape actions

- 9:** Fund restoration in lowland rural landscapes including Naas Valley, Murrumbidgee River corridor and Bullen Range area, including through delivery of:

- Protect and Connect Box–Gum Woodlands project.

[ACT Natural Resource Management Programs](#)

- Australian Government National Landcare Program

- 10:** Continue to invest in Mulligans Flat and Greater Gorooyaroo Sanctuary, including through delivery of:

- Safe Haven for Bettongs and Quolls project
- extension of Sanctuary fence
- species reintroductions.

[ACT Natural Resource Management Programs](#)

- Australian Government National Landcare Program

- 11:** Continue to implement restoration works to maintain or improve matters of National Environmental Significance pursuant to offset commitments, including:

- Molonglo Valley Strategic Assessment
- Gungahlin Strategic Assessment
- Eastern Broadacre Strategic Assessment.

[Environment Offsets](#)



Strategy 2: Manage threats to biodiversity

Priorities for Implementation Plan 2 (2019–23)	Links to legislation and other plans and strategies
Action 2.1: Implement ACT Weed Strategy (2009-2019)	
12: Review ACT biosecurity legislation (2019).	Biosecurity legislation
13: Develop (2020) and implement new ACT Weed Strategy.	Biosecurity legislation
14: Continue mapping of weeds and control activities in parks and nature reserves.	Parks and Conservation Service
15: Continue to improve ability to identify and respond to new and emerging pest (plant and animal) species.	Biosecurity legislation
Action 2.2: Implement ACT Pest Animal Management Strategy 2012–2022	
16: Develop and implement new Pest Animal Management Strategy.	Biosecurity legislation
17: Deliver pest control programs for wild pigs, rabbits, foxes and deer.	Biosecurity legislation
18: Implement Namadgi National Park Feral Horse Management Plan 2007 and control, if present, wild horses in Namadgi National Park.	Biosecurity legislation
19: Participate in National Carp Control Plan .	National program
20: Strengthen partnerships for invasive species research, including through the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions (CISS), on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • peri-urban foxes (2022) • integrated management of wild dogs, deer, cats and foxes. 	Biosecurity legislation
Action 2.3: Manage total grazing pressure on ecosystem function in reserves	
21: Continue to improve management of grassland reserves through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • development of herbage mass guidelines (2019) • use of strategic grazing and fire. 	Parks and Conservation Service Grassland Conservation Strategy
22: Annual monitoring of kangaroo populations to identify areas of over grazing and inform annual conservation cull in selected nature reserves.	Nature Conservation Act 2014 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kangaroo Management Plan
23: Progress fertility control research in macropods including the Eastern Grey Kangaroo.	Nature Conservation Act 2014 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kangaroo Management Plan
Action 2.4: Establish and implement ecologically appropriate fire regimes	
24: Revision of the ACT Strategic Bushfire Management Plan, including Regional Fire Management Plans, which guide appropriate fire regimes in reserves.	Emergencies Act 2004 ACT Strategic Bushfire Management Plan
25: Timely post-fire recovery action.	Parks and Conservation Service
26: Monitor and evaluate the implementation of ecological guidelines for fire and fuel management.	Parks and Conservation Service
27: Increased collaboration with Aboriginal people to conduct cultural burns or use traditional fire techniques, including through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • development and implementation of Cultural Fire Management Framework (2020) • on-ground land management. 	ACT ATSI Agreement 2019–28 Parks and Conservation Service

Priorities for Implementation Plan 2 (2019–23)

Links to legislation and other plans and strategies

Action 2.5: Implement improved catchment management to support aquatic ecosystems

<p>28: Monitor riparian and in-stream condition of river systems.</p>	<p>Aquatic and Riparian Conservation Strategy</p> <p>Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACT Water Strategy • ACT and Region Catchment Strategy • ACT Water Resource Plan—under Murray Darling Basin Plan
<p>29: Monitor priority aquatic species including Macquarie Perch, Galaxiads, Murray Cod, Murray Crayfish, Two-spined Black Fish and Platypus.</p>	<p>Aquatic and Riparian Conservation Strategy</p> <p>Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACT Water Strategy • ACT and Region Catchment Strategy
<p>30: Improve aquatic habitat and connectivity in river corridors, including through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • installing fishways and other structures to improve fish habitat • targeted riparian restoration to manage erosion and reduce sediment load to rivers. 	<p>Aquatic and Riparian Conservation Strategy</p> <p>Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACT Water Strategy • ACT and Region Catchment Strategy • ACT Water Resource Plan—under the Murray–Darling Basin Plan
<p>31: Protect and improve waterways in rural lands including through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • riparian vegetation and ground cover • reducing stock access to rivers • rehabilitating former dams. 	<p>Nature Conservation Act</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aquatic and Riparian Conservation Strategy <p>ACT Natural Resource Management Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Government National Landcare Program <p>Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACT Water Strategy • ACT and Region Catchment Strategy • ACT Water Resource Plan—under Murray–Darling Basin Plan
<p>32: Explore options for enhancing environmental flows to support ecosystem health, especially in the Murrumbidgee River.</p>	<p>Aquatic and Riparian Conservation Strategy</p> <p>Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACT Water Strategy • ACT and Region Catchment Strategy • ACT Water Resource Plan—under Murray–Darling Basin Plan
<p>33: Complete review of Fisheries Act 2000.</p>	<p>Fisheries Act</p>

Action 2.6: Develop and implement a migratory species and action plan

<p>34: Implement Action Plan for Listed Migratory Species.</p>	<p>Nature Conservation Act 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Plan for Listed Migratory Species
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Action 2.7: Develop and implement an ACT Soils Strategy

<p>35: Promote importance of soils as a natural resource and practical ways to improve soil health.</p>	<p>ACT and Region Catchment Strategy</p>
<p>36: Support rural landholders to improve soil condition and reduce risk of soil erosion.</p>	<p>ACT Natural Resource Management Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Government National Landcare Program

Strategy 3: Protect species and ecological communities

Priorities for Implementation Plan 2 (2019–23)	Links to legislation and other plans and strategies
Action 3.1: Manage the protected area estate	
<p>37: Update and implement reserve management plans for the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canberra Nature Park 1999 (update) • Molonglo River Corridor 2001 (update) • Murrumbidgee River Corridor 1998 (update) • Lower Cotter Catchment 2018 • Tidbinbilla 2012 • Namadgi National Park 2010 • Jerrabomberra Wetlands 2010. 	<p>Nature Conservation Act 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reserve Management Plans
<p>38: Update and implement offset management plans.</p>	<p>Environmental Offsets</p>
<p>39: Improve interpretation and education about the ACT conservation estate.</p>	<p>Parks and Conservation Service</p>
Action 3.2: Develop, implement and review action plans for threatened species and communities	
<p>40: Conservation advices finalised for all ACT-listed threatened species and ecological communities.</p>	<p>Nature Conservation Act 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threatened species and ecological communities listings
<p>41: Review and update the following action plans for threatened species and ecosystems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellow Box–Red Gum Grassy Woodland • Swift Parrot • Superb Parrot • Regent Honeyeater • Tarengo Leek Orchid • Canberra Spider Orchid • Small Purple Pea • Little Eagle • Northern Corroboree Frog • Glossy Black Cockatoo. 	<p>Nature Conservation Act 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action plans
<p>42: Improve knowledge and data on current species identified as ‘data deficient’ under the Nature Conservation Act 2014.</p>	<p>Nature Conservation Act 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native species list
<p>43: Progress alignment of ACT and Australian governments’ listings of threatened species and ecological communities.</p>	<p>Nature Conservation Act 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listing
Action 3.3: Restore and manage priority landscapes	
<p>44: Protect high country wetlands through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implementation of Ginini Flats wetland complex Ramsar site management plan 2017 • development of an Action Plan for Bogs and Fens. 	<p>Nature Conservation Act 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listing • Action plans

Priorities for Implementation Plan 2 (2019–23)

Links to legislation and other plans and strategies

45: Manage Mulligans Flat Sanctuary for ecological and cultural values.

[ACT Natural Resource Management Programs](#)

- Australian Government National Landcare Program

Action 3.4: Identify biodiversity refugia under drought and climate change

46: Enhance ACT's understanding and management of high priority sites important for climate change adaptation including through:

[Climate Change Strategy](#)

- collaboration with NSW in climate modelling
- analysis of biodiversity refugia.

Action 3.5: Monitor five priority ecosystems most vulnerable to threats

47: Develop and implement the Conservation Effectiveness Management Program (CEMP) for the following ecosystems:

[Parks and Conservation Service](#)

- Lowland Grasslands
- Upland Grasslands
- Riparian/Aquatic
- Lowland Woodlands
- Upland Woodlands
- Lowland Forests
- Upland Forests
- Bogs and Fens.

Action 3.6: Implement captive breeding programs and translocation programs

48: Implement innovative breeding programs for reintroducing native animals to the ACT:

Nature Conservation Act 2014

- Corroboree Frog
- Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby
- Yellow-footed Antechinus
- New Holland Mouse
- Grassland Earless Dragon.

- [Action plans](#)

49: Improve systems and processes for approving and tracking translocations.

[Nature Conservation Act 2014](#)

- Conservator guideline - translocation
- EPBC Act
- Conservation Agreement

Action 3.7: Propagate and translocate threatened plants

50: Investigate and implement, where feasible, propagation and translocation programs for:

[Nature Conservation Act 2014](#)

- Tuggeranong Lignum
- Button Wrinklewort
- Small Purple Pea
- Ginninderra Peppergrass
- Canberra Spider Orchid.

- [Action plans](#)

Action 3.8: Establish seed banks and seed orchards

51: Continued development, management and use of seed banks and seed orchards with the Australian National Botanic Gardens.

[Nature Conservation Act 2014](#)

- [Action plans](#)

52: Investigate options for establishing areas for native plants used by local Aboriginal people including public areas, backyards and rural areas.

[ACT ATSI Agreement 2019–28](#)

53: Testing of the susceptibility of a variety of *Eucalyptus blakelyi* provenances (seed collected across natural range) to Dieback.

[ACT Woodlands Conservation Strategy](#)

[Climate Change Strategy](#)



Strategy 4: Enhance biodiversity value of urban areas

Priorities for Implementation Plan 2 (2019–23)	Links to legislation and other plans and strategies
Action 4.1: Manage impacts of urban development on biodiversity	
54: Continue to manage impacts of urban development on significant biodiversity assets through Environmental Impact Statement processes and Strategic Environmental Assessments.	Environmental Offsets
55: Continued development of offset management plans and establishment of suitable offset sites.	Environmental Offsets
56: Review of ACT Environmental Offsets Policy (2020).	Environmental Offsets
Action 4.2: Manage urban open space	
57: Stocking native fish in urban lakes.	Aquatic and Riparian Conservation Strategy Fisheries Act 2000
58: Enhance habitat and increase knowledge of the role urban wetlands play in terms of biodiversity.	Water • ACT Water Strategy



Priorities for Implementation Plan 2 (2019–23)	Links to legislation and other plans and strategies
Action 4.3: Enhance connectivity through urban areas	
<p>59: Enhance habitat complexity and connectivity in urban spaces, for example by planting trees and adding rocks, logs, under-story and ground cover.</p>	<p>ACT Natural Resource Management Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australian Government National Landcare Program City Services <p>Climate Change Strategy.</p> <p>Living Infrastructure Plan</p>
<p>60: Develop and implement the Key Threatening Process Action Plan for Loss of Mature Trees.</p>	<p>Nature Conservation Act 2014</p> <p>ACT Woodlands Conservation Strategy</p>
Action 4.4: Manage the urban edge	
<p>61: Improved management of the urban edge, to protect the estate, including through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> weed management pest management ParkCare. 	<p>Parks and Conservation Service</p>
<p>62: Finalise and implement the ACT Cat Management Plan.</p>	<p>ACT Animal Welfare and Management Strategy</p>
Action 4.5: Support Urban Landcare and ParkCare activities	
<p>63: Continue to support ParkCare and the Urban Open Space Volunteer program.</p>	<p>Parks and Conservation Service</p> <p>Transport Canberra and city Services</p>
<p>64: Showcase and promote the research undertaken and knowledge held by Urban Landcare and ParkCare groups as examples of community driven, urban-based nature conservation initiatives.</p>	<p>Community engagement</p>
<p>65: Provide training opportunities for Urban Landcare and ParkCare groups in biodiversity research techniques and mapping (2013–18).</p>	<p>Parks and Conservation Service</p> <p>Community engagement</p>
Action 4.6: Assess urban areas, manage and enhance green assets and infrastructure	
<p>66: Develop and implement the Living Infrastructure Plan, including through setting targets for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> tree canopy cover surface permeability. 	<p>Climate Change Strategy.</p> <p>ACT Water Strategy</p>
<p>67: Improve water quality in urban lakes and water flowing from urban areas to the Murrumbidgee River through ACT Healthy Waterways infrastructure projects and water efficiency projects including catchment restoration urban wetlands, ponds and rain gardens.</p>	<p>Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACT Water Strategy ACT and Region Catchment Strategy ACT Water Resource Plan—under the Murray–Darling Basin Plan

Strategy 5: Strengthen community engagement

Priorities for Implementation Plan 2 (2019–23)	Links to legislation and other plans and strategies
Action 5.1: Support greater community involvement through volunteering	
68: Promote volunteering for all through ParkCare , including people from diverse backgrounds and people with low mobility.	Parks and Conservation Service
69: Support volunteer ACT Wildlife carers to continue assisting in educating community about living with wildlife.	Parks and Conservation Service Community engagement
70: Promote volunteering through the ACT Region Landcare Gateway and community events.	Community engagement
Action 5.2: Enhance and promote the use of citizen science projects	
71: Encourage and support citizen science to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monitor flora, fauna and landscape health • raise awareness of biodiversity in the ACT and region • enhance environmental reporting and decision making. 	Community engagement Water <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACT Water Strategy • ACT and Region Catchment Strategy
72: Continually improve access to conservation spatial data through ACTmapi .	Community engagement
73: Fund community projects through ACT Environment Grants .	Community engagement
Action 5.3: Implement targeted community education campaigns on priority issues (See also Action 4.3)	
74: Continue to provide education/outreach activities with anglers on responsible fishing.	Fisheries Act 2000
75: Improve awareness of waterway function and protection (e.g. species reliant on good water quality such as Platypus, native fish, waterbugs and frogs).	Community Engagement Water <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACT Water Strategy • ACT and Region Catchment Strategy
76: Deliver and support community forums to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • share knowledge • promote collaboration • raise awareness. 	Community engagement
77: Promote ‘living with nature’ through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • responsible pet ownership • raising awareness of ‘backyard biosecurity’ e.g. Weed Swap • raising awareness of benefits of native plants in gardens and habitat trees in urban areas. 	Community engagement
Action 5.4: Build indigenous engagement in the management of natural resources	
78: Work with the local Aboriginal community to integrate traditional knowledge into land and water management through, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cultural burning • landscape management including resource use and cultural values • Aboriginal Waterways Assessments. 	Water <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACT Water Strategy • ACT and Region Catchment Strategy • ACT Water Resource Plan—under the Murray–Darling Basin Plan

Priorities for Implementation Plan 2 (2019–23)

Links to legislation and other plans and strategies

79: Increase opportunities for and benefits from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) employment in ACT Government:

- support employment of Aboriginal people including through traineeships and the Aboriginal Ranger Program
- Murrumbung Yurung Murra (good strong pathways) network.
- implement EPSDD Reconciliation Action Plan and ATSI whole of government Agreement.

[ACT ATSI Agreement 2019-2028](#)

[Parks and Conservation Service](#)

80: Strengthening collaboration with the local Aboriginal community in Caring for Country including through:

- Aboriginal ACT Natural Resource Management Facilitator
- working with community leaders
- supporting establishment of a Traditional Custodians Caring for Country Council
- sharing knowledge between generations and with other regions.

[ACT ATSI Agreement 2019-2028](#)

81: Increase appreciation and understanding of Aboriginal culture including:

- language
- places
- knowledge
- land and water management
- traditions.

[ACT ATSI Agreement 2019-2028](#)

82: Strengthen Traditional Custodians specific and distinct cultural land and water rights:

- enable collection and harvesting of food and fibre for cultural and ceremonial purposes
- facilitate access to Country and practice of culture
- develop cultural resource management plan including for cultural fishing
- include intellectual property rights of traditional knowledge.

[ACT ATSI Agreement 2019-2028](#)

ACT Water Resource Plan (under Murray Darling Basin Plan)

[Fisheries Act 200](#)

[Nature Conservation Act 2014](#)

83: Work with local Aboriginal community to protect culturally significant areas:

- manage visitors to parks and reserves
- improve information including ‘parks interpretation’
- foster aboriginal businesses
- manage and maintain sites.

[ACT ATSI Agreement 2019–28](#)

Parks and Conservation Service

[ACT Heritage Act 2004](#)

Priorities for Implementation Plan 2 (2019–23)	Links to legislation and other plans and strategies
Action 5.5: Encourage the involvement of youth in nature conservation	
<p>84: Encourage and support schools to engender a love of nature and understanding of Country:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ranger visits • connect schools with Traditional Custodians and Aboriginal businesses. 	<p>Community engagement</p> <p>ACT ATSI Agreement 2019–28</p>
<p>85: Recognise and expand opportunities for Aboriginal children and youth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage youth with support from Elders on Caring for Country • Provide students with increased opportunities through Kickstart My Career Through Culture program • Foster emerging leaders including through mentoring. 	<p>ACT ATSI Agreement 2019–28</p>
Action 5.6: Support appropriate recreational and tourism use of natural areas	
<p>86: Develop and implement a Visitor Experience Strategy.</p>	<p>Parks and Conservation Service</p>
<p>87: Enhance Nature Stays experiences in parks and reserves.</p>	<p>Parks and Conservation Service</p>
<p>88: Encourage visitors to Namadgi National Park for its wilderness, wildlife and Aboriginal and European cultural sites.</p>	<p>Parks and Conservation Service</p>
<p>89: Promote Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve for its wide range of natural experiences including bushwalking, Sanctuary wetlands, Discovery Playground and wildlife.</p>	<p>Parks and Conservation Service</p>
<p>90: Foster Jerrabomberra Wetlands as a place located in the heart of Canberra for visitors to learn, explore and be inspired.</p>	<p>Parks and Conservation Service</p>
<p>91: Support construction of a Woodlands Learning Centre at Throsby.</p>	<p>Parks and Conservation Service</p>
<p>92: Facilitate and support Aboriginal businesses to deliver nature-based tourism.</p>	<p>ACT ATSI Agreement 2019-2028</p>
Action 5.7: Enhance key partnerships across government, community and the private sector	
<p>93: Work with traditional custodians and Aboriginal community to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strengthen Traditional Custodian representation • foster relationships between traditional custodians and Canberra’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. 	<p>ACT ATSI Agreement 2019–28</p>
<p>94: Work with ACT rural landholders on promoting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sustainable land management • native vegetation and biodiversity on farms. 	<p>Woodland Conservation Strategy</p> <p>ACT Natural Resource Management Programs</p>
<p>95: Strengthen research partnerships and collaboration to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monitor ecosystems and individual plants and animals to better understand state of (condition), trends, impacts and management effectiveness • build new knowledge and strengthen the evidence base to inform decision making and on-ground management. 	<p>Nature Conservation Act 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACT Woodlands Conservation Strategy. • Grassland Conservation Strategy. • Aquatic and Riparian Conservation Strategy. • Biodiversity Research and Monitoring Program. <p>ACT State of Environment Report</p>

Priorities for Implementation Plan 2 (2019–23)

Links to legislation and other plans and strategies

96: Strengthen whole-of-government collaboration on nature conservation and Aboriginal cultural heritage through:

- health
- education
- justice.

[ACT ATSI Agreement 2019–28](#)

97: Strengthen regional collaboration and partnerships through regional networks such as the [ACT and Region Catchment Management Coordination Group](#) and Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Coordinating Committee.

Water

- [ACT Water Strategy](#).
- [ACT and Region Catchment Strategy](#).

98: Work with the [Australian Alps National Parks](#) to support coordinated management and cooperative activities across the Alps.

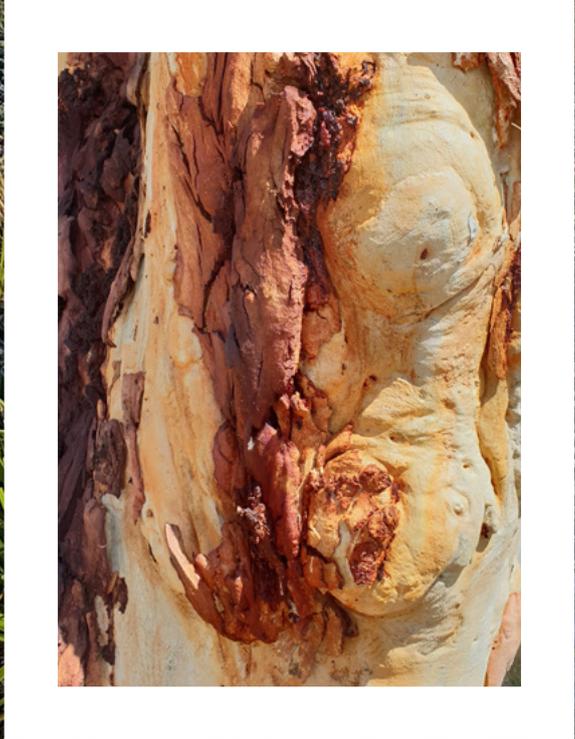
[Parks and Conservation Service](#)

99: Continue participation in the [Upper Murrumbidgee Demonstration Reach](#) program, which aims to improve fish habitat and river health for native fish in the upper Murrumbidgee.

Water

- [ACT Water Strategy](#).
- [ACT and Region Catchment Strategy](#).





TRACKING PROGRESS

Implementation of the Strategy will continue to be monitored. Progress will be reported against priorities identified in Implementation Plan 2.

The Strategy also includes targets and indicators that will be tracked.

Targets and indicators	Implementation
Target 1—The overall extent of lowland native vegetation across the ACT will be maintained, and the condition of lowland native vegetation communities will be improved	
1.1 Extent of lowland native vegetation	Baseline vegetation community mapping was completed in 2018. The data are available on ACTmapi . The data provide detailed community descriptions that are used to inform protection, management and conservation priorities.
1.2 Condition of lowland native vegetation	<p>The ACT Conservation Effectiveness Monitoring Program is a new ACT Government approach to monitoring the condition and change in condition of ecosystems. Three lowland vegetation ecosystems have been identified for the ACT and the development of programs for each is underway:</p> <p>1: Lowland native grasslands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecosystem monitoring plan completed in 2017 and being implemented. <p>2: Lowland woodlands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecosystem monitoring plan due to commence 2019. <p>3: Lowland forests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecosystem monitoring plan due to commence 2020. <p>Indicators include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extent of native versus exotic grasslands within reserves • extent of Natural Temperate Grasslands within reserves • native plant species richness • ground cover • threatened flora and fauna species.
Target 2—A measurable increase in connectivity between patches of native vegetation, non-native vegetation in urban areas, and along riparian areas	
2.1 Spatial links habitat connectivity score, including increase in the number of habitat patches as verified by 10 yearly on-ground assessments	Information to be collected based on the monitoring protocol prepared by CSIRO under the functional connectivity project, and update into the ACT connectivity layer on ACTmapi .
2.2 Riverine connectivity measure (number of in-stream barriers)	Mapping of stream connectivity and data collection on barriers to fish passage in the ACT being undertaken. A report is to be released in 2019.

Targets and indicators	Implementation
Target 3—A reduction in threats to biodiversity from inappropriate fire regimes, weeds, pest animals and urban development	
3.1 Abundance and distribution of priority ACT weeds in reserves	<p>The ACT Weeds Strategy establishes best practice in reducing weed impacts on the environment, economy, human health and amenity.</p> <p>Information on invasive plants is collected through standard operations and invasive plant control works. Infestation data is collected and mapped using the ArcGIS Online Collector app to assist control work.</p> <p>The Invasive Plants Operation Plan for 2018–19 has assessed the risk of weed species and uses these to prioritise weed control works (see Table 1 of the Plan).</p> <p>Weed control areas for priority species is mapped and publicly available on ACTmapi.</p> <p>The abundance and distribution of priority weed species invasive plants is mapped out on Canberra Nature Map.</p>
3.2 Abundance and distribution of significant pest animals; significance and levels of damage from pest animals	<p>Information is collected through standard operations and reporting on annual pest management activities. Operations and actions to manage, reduce and prevent pest animal impacts are set out in the Pest Animal Management Strategy.</p> <p>The abundance and distribution of pest animals is reported and mapped on Canberra Nature Map.</p>
3.3 Area of reserve addressed by an appropriate fire regime that appropriately addresses both risk to assets and ecology, in hectares	<p>Bushfire management is directed by the ACT Strategic Bushfire Management Plan.</p> <p>During the 2018–19 financial year, 17,538 hectares were subject to prescribed burns for fuel management; this includes cultural (20.5 hectares) and ecological burns (172.5 hectares). This information is provided in the 2018–19 Bushfire Operations Plan.</p>
Target 4—Climate change impacts and refugia in the ACT are identified and appropriately managed	
4.1 Monitoring programs established in the five ACT priority ecosystems considered to be most sensitive to threats including native grasslands, woodlands, alpine bogs, montane forests, and the Murrumbidgee–Cotter River system	<p>Significant amounts of data are collected as part of routine monitoring of threatened species and ecological communities.</p> <p>The ACT Conservation Effectiveness Monitoring Program (CEMP) enables consistency in the collection, analysis and evaluation of data, and uses an adaptive management framework to learn from and inform conservation actions.</p> <p>The CEMP identifies eight ACT ecosystems and a monitoring program for each is under development:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lowland Native Grasslands Ecosystem Condition Monitoring Plan Lowland woodlands Lowland forests Aquatic and riparian ecosystems Upland native grasslands Upland woodlands Upland forests Upland bogs and fens.
4.2 Number of refugia identified and appropriately managed (maintained or enhanced)	<p>The ACT Government invested in the Biodiversity Refugia Project, which undertook research on areas of the ACT where biodiversity is most likely to persist under future climate change scenarios. This project is informing future conservation planning.</p>

Targets and indicators	Implementation																						
Target 5—An increase in the area of land under volunteer effort (ParkCare, ‘Friends of’ or other volunteer groups) in management of the CNP																							
5.1 Total number of groups	<p>The Parks and Conservation Service (PCS) currently supports 26 ParkCare groups. Within the ParkCare program, three new programs have been implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RangerAssist Program • WildlifeAssist Program • VisitorAssist Program <p>The implementation of the ParkCare Hub has been an important driver of increasing community involvement.</p>																						
5.2 Total number of ‘community work hours’ devoted to management of reserves and other natural areas	<p>The 2017–18 period saw 521 registered volunteers contribute a total of 28,895 hours volunteering through the four ParkCare streams:</p> <p>ParkCare Patch volunteers contributed 21,093 hours of weeding, rehabilitation, heritage works, survey work, events, administration and training.</p> <p>VisitorAssist volunteers contributed 4633 hours of public engagement and assistance at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve or Namadgi National Park.</p> <p>RangerAssist volunteers contributed 1489 hours of assisting PCS staff and adding value to land management tasks including survey work, track work and rehabilitation.</p> <p>WildlifeAssist volunteers contributed 1164 hours working with wildlife carers at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve undertaking animal husbandry tasks.</p>																						
5.3 Total area treated by volunteers in hectares	<p>Volunteers are active in the following reserves:</p> <table border="0"> <tbody> <tr> <td>4: Aranda Bushland</td> <td>15: The Pinnacle</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5: Cooleman Ridge</td> <td>16: Tidbinbilla</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6: Black Mountain</td> <td>17: Gudgenby Valley</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7: Bruce Ridge</td> <td>18: Isaacs Ridge</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8: Farrer Ridge</td> <td>19: Mount Mugga Mugga Majura Pines</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9: Jerrabomberra Wetlands</td> <td>20: Mount Taylor Mount Ainslie</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10: Mount Majura</td> <td>21: Red Hill</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11: Mount Painter</td> <td>22: Urambi Hills</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12: Mount Pleasant</td> <td>23: Uriarra</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13: Mulligans Flat</td> <td>24: Watson Woodlands</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14: Oakey Hill</td> <td>25: Namadgi National Park</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	4: Aranda Bushland	15: The Pinnacle	5: Cooleman Ridge	16: Tidbinbilla	6: Black Mountain	17: Gudgenby Valley	7: Bruce Ridge	18: Isaacs Ridge	8: Farrer Ridge	19: Mount Mugga Mugga Majura Pines	9: Jerrabomberra Wetlands	20: Mount Taylor Mount Ainslie	10: Mount Majura	21: Red Hill	11: Mount Painter	22: Urambi Hills	12: Mount Pleasant	23: Uriarra	13: Mulligans Flat	24: Watson Woodlands	14: Oakey Hill	25: Namadgi National Park
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5.4 Level of support provided to ParkCare groups (budgets and Parks and Conservation Rangers)	<p>Approximately \$100,000 per year was allocated to the Parks and Conservation Service to directly support ParkCare.</p> <p>Parks rangers also play a valuable role in supporting and facilitating community involvement including for weed management, revegetation, erosion control and surveys. The new Ranger Assist stream also provides opportunities for volunteers to work alongside park rangers.</p>																						

Targets and indicators	Implementation
Target 6—Ten areas of conservation significance (including areas outside reserves) ‘adopted’ by ACT schools or higher learning institutions as sites for nature based education	
6.1 Number of reserves or other natural areas adopted and actively used by schools or higher learning institutes	Many ACT schools are situated near or adjacent to reserves and provide an opportunity for nature-based education.
6.2 Number of students involved in learning activities in these sites	<p>An Education Manager has recently been employed within the Community and Visitor Programs team (Parks and Conservation Service) to develop a nature-based curriculum for schools. A formal relationship between the Education Directorate and the EPSDD Environment Division will be established to provide these important nature-based education opportunities in collaboration with the Parks and Conservation Service.</p> <p>This will build on how schools currently utilise the conservation estate for learning, such as the Kickstart My Career through Culture Program aimed at engaging at risk students, including through environmental programs and land management training.</p>
Target 7—Increased community understanding of, and support for, the protection of the ACT’s biodiversity	
7.1 Community surveys and consultation	<p>Public consultation on ACT Government plans, strategies, policies and legislation occurs primarily through the YourSay website and/or Environment website. This type of consultation often includes polls, questions and interactive maps to seek opinions and information across the Territory. Recent examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the Fisheries Act 2000 • ACT Biosecurity Act • Reserve Management Plans • Lower Cotter Catchment • Molonglo River Reserve • Volunteering Action Plan • Threatened Species Action Plans • Spotted-tailed Quoll • Pink-tailed Worm-lizard • Migratory Species • Tourism and Visitor Experience in Reserves • Nature-based Tourism Strategy
7.2 Number of education campaigns delivered	<p>Ranger-guided tours and other educational activities and events are continuously held at Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary and Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve. Engagement events include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tidbinbilla Open Day • Bush Blitz • Weed Swap • Volunteering expos <p>Forums and seminars hosted by ACT Government <u>include</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The annual Ecofocus forum (ACT Government, Conservation Research) • The 2018 Woodlands Forum • The 2018 Fire Forum • The 2018 ACT and Region Grasslands Management Forum and Restoration Forum.

