



# ACT NATURE CONSERVATION STRATEGY 2013-23

PROGRESS AGAINST MILESTONES IN  
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 1 (2013-18)

Produced by the Environment, Planning and Sustainable  
Development Directorate

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## Strategy 1: Restoring priority landscapes and improving connectivity

Milestones	Progress	Status
<b>Action 1.1: Develop baseline information on landscape function</b>		
Habitat connectivity mapping for wildlife.	Habitat connectivity mapping based on <a href="#">CSIRO research</a> has been incorporated into <a href="#">ACTMAPi</a> and is informing on-ground woodland revegetation. Connectivity mapping data has also been integrated into the <a href="#">ACT Environmental Offsets Calculator</a> .	Completed (2014)
Map ACT soils.	Soil characteristics, landscapes and hazards have been mapped and uploaded to <a href="#">ACTMAPi</a> . These data are helping us identify critical areas that may require intervention to combat erosion and <a href="#">salinity</a> .	Completed (2015)
Hydrogeological Landscape Framework.	<a href="#">Hydrogeological Landscapes</a> have been mapped and uploaded to <a href="#">ACTMAPi</a> . These data are helping us understand functions (e.g. <a href="#">biodiversity refugia</a> ) and vulnerabilities (e.g. <a href="#">dieback</a> ).	Completed (2017)
Vegetation mapping—Kowen plateau, Murrumbidgee Valley and Namadji National Park, urban areas east of the Murrumbidgee.	Detailed vegetation mapping has been uploaded to <a href="#">ACTMAPi</a> . These data are helping us understand <a href="#">dieback</a> and <a href="#">biodiversity refugia</a> in addition to informing the <a href="#">Bushfire Operations Plan</a> . The updated data are also informing the review and development of the <a href="#">Woodlands and Grasslands Conservation Strategy</a> .	Completed (2018)
Native vegetation condition indicators to be agreed nationally by 2014.	In lieu of a national approach progressing, the ACT is developing the <a href="#">Conservation Effectiveness Management Program</a> to monitoring ecosystem condition. See The <a href="#">Lowland Native Grassland Ecosystem Condition Monitoring Plan</a> (2017).  Monitoring plans are being developed for the following ecosystems: upland grasslands; riparian/aquatic; lowland woodlands; upland woodlands; lowland forests; upland forests; and bogs and fens.	Ongoing
<b>Action 1.2: Undertake fine-scale planning for habitat connectivity</b>		
Fine-scale planning for grassy woodland ecosystems.	Fine-scale planning across six <a href="#">grassy woodland restoration</a> landscapes informed restoration plans for Belconnen Hills, Majura Valley, Callum Brae, Kowen Plateau, and Greater Gorooyaroo.	Completed (2013)

Milestones	Progress	Status
<b>Action 1.3: Enhance regional connectivity</b>		
Regional corridor links identified and agreed with regional partners by 2013.	Linkages across the ACT/NSW border have been identified and embedded into program design and project development to ensure best quality outcomes. See <a href="https://www.ger.org.au/home">https://www.ger.org.au/home</a> and <a href="http://app.actmapi.act.gov.au/actmapi/index.html?viewer=ssvcrt">http://app.actmapi.act.gov.au/actmapi/index.html?viewer=ssvcrt</a> .	Completed (2013)
Collaborate with partners to submit funding bids to the Commonwealth Biodiversity Fund for on ground restoration activities to support regional corridors (2013–17).	The <a href="#">ACT Woodlands Restoration Program</a> (2011–18) was supported by \$3 million from the Australian Government Biodiversity Fund.	Completed (2017)
<b>Action 1.4: Assess conservation investment opportunities across public and privately managed lands in the ACT</b>		
Climate change risk impacts statement for the ACT's biodiversity.	Potential biodiversity impacts under future climate scenarios has been modelled for the Murray Basin Cluster. In conjunction with the <a href="#">NSW assessment</a> of the Southern Tablelands and Australian Alps, these risk impacts inform future planning and programs for management of species in the ACT.	Completed (2015)
Dynamic Natural Resource Management (NRM) planning framework to be used to plan for climate change adaptation (2013–17).	The <a href="#">NRM webpage</a> and <a href="#">investment plan</a> , combined with information and <a href="#">mapping tools</a> , provides a customisable, dynamic framework to plan for climate change adaptation.	Completed (2017)
<b>Action 1.5: Fund priority landscape actions</b>		
Deliver at least 2000 hectares of revegetation and restoration in lowland grassy woodland ecosystems, and 15,000 hectares of invasive species control in these ecosystems by June 2017.	The <a href="#">ACT Woodlands Restoration Program</a> (2011–2018) restored and connected 60,000 hectares of the largest remaining box–gum grassy woodland landscape in Australia focussing on the following areas: Murrumbidgee River Corridor, Belconnen Hills, Greater Gooroyarroo, Majura Valley, Callum Brae and areas linking the Kama Nature Reserve with the Stony Creek Tributary running into the Murrumbidgee River.  The program was implemented as a partnership between ACT Natural Resource Management (ACT NRM), ACT Parks and Conservation Service (PCS) and Greening Australia. Others including Ginninderra, Molonglo, and Southern ACT Catchment Groups, ParkCare groups, Aboriginal people and rural landholders also contributed significant time and resources to woodland restoration program efforts.	Completed (2017)
Finalise current fish habitat works in the Molonglo and Murrumbidgee Rivers.	Breeding and habitat structure works in the Molonglo and Murrumbidgee Rivers has been completed, and monitoring is ongoing (See Action 2.5).	Completed (2014)
Seek funding opportunities through the Commonwealth, and ACT governments (2013–18) and deliver activities on ground.	Through <a href="#">ACT NRM</a> the ACT received funding from a number of Australian Government programs including: <a href="#">National Landcare Program</a> (2013–18) <a href="#">Regional Land Partnerships</a> (2018–23) Biodiversity Fund (2012–17) <a href="#">Threatened Species Strategy</a> (2017–19) Green Army Program (2014–18).	Completed (2018)



## Strategy 2: Manage threats to biodiversity

Milestones	Progress	Status
<b>Action 2.1: Implement the ACT Weed Strategy (2009–2019)</b>		
Pest plant management plans for critical weed species developed (2017), pending a proposed review of ACT biosecurity legislation.	Management plans have been developed for three critical weed species: <a href="#">Chinese Fairy Grass</a> , <a href="#">Fireweed</a> and <a href="#">Serrated Tussock</a> to ensure best practice management.	Completed 2017
ACT and region web-based weeds portal on the Atlas of Living Australia developed to support improved mapping and monitoring. Weed alert system developed for the ACT.	The <a href="#">ACT and Southern Tablelands Weed Spotter Portal</a> has been developed and, together with <a href="#">Canberra Nature Map</a> and use of the Collector app, is assisting to ensure fast response to new weed incursions.	Completed 2014
Mapping of serious and widespread weeds completed.	The Collector app is used by the PCS rangers, contractors and volunteers to map control efforts. This ensures invasive weed control locations are permanently recorded and helps with follow-up control. Up to date information on species, control method and area for 2014–15, 2015–16, 2016–17 and 2017–18 are available online.	Ongoing
Programs to reduce new weed problems will be developed and implemented (2014–17).	In addition to the pest plant management plans above, an <a href="#">Invasive Weeds Operations Plan</a> is prepared each year to set out priority species and areas. Risk assessments have been completed for 20 potential weeds (currently in NSW) based on the NSW risk assessment framework. The <a href="#">Pest Plants Declaration</a> is updated as necessary to reflect current higher risk species. Information on <a href="#">invasive species</a> is available online to help public identification.	Completed 2018
<b>Action 2.2: Implement the ACT Pest Animal Management Strategy 2012–2022</b>		
Develop effective identification, surveillance, response and reporting strategies for new pest animal species.	Biosecurity alerts, information and resources are available <a href="#">online</a> , and the public is able to report sightings via many methods including <a href="#">Canberra Nature Map</a> , <a href="#">Feral Fish Scan</a> and <a href="mailto:EPSDInvasiveAnimals@act.gov.au">EPSDInvasiveAnimals@act.gov.au</a> . This enables rapid response to sightings which reduces the risk of spread and outbreaks.	Ongoing
Rabbit Pest Animal Management Plan finalised (2013) Pest Animal Management Plans for additional priority species such as wild dogs, pigs, and deer (2014–18).	The following plans have been developed: <a href="#">Best Practice Management Guide for Rabbits</a> (2015) <a href="#">Monitoring Impacts of Sambar Deer on forests in the Cotter Catchment</a> (2017).	Ongoing
The schedules to the Pest Plants and <a href="#">Animals Act 2005</a> updated.	The pest animals declaration was updated in <a href="#">2016</a> .	Completed 2018
Priority pest animal management programs implemented, focusing on assisting wildlife corridor restoration.	Extensive control activities for foxes in the greater Goorooyarroo region as part of the <a href="#">ACT Woodlands Restoration Program</a> . PCS conducts management activities for priority species including feral pigs, rabbits, feral horses, and wild dogs.	Ongoing

Milestones	Progress	Status
Guidelines developed for controlled native species management plans for damage reduction.	A guideline has been developed to outline legislative requirements including public consultation and issues to be considered by the Conservator of Flora and Fauna in drafting controlled native species management plans, such as animal welfare and management options.	Completed 2014
Continued investment in the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre to 2017 to access national research and best practice outcomes.	Collaboration through the Centre for <a href="#">Invasive Species Solutions</a> included enhanced rabbit management tools and fertility control research.	Completed 2018
<b>Action 2.3: Manage total grazing pressure on ecosystem function in reserves</b>		
Rabbit Pest Animal Management Plan implemented.	The <a href="#">Best Practice Management Guide for Rabbits in the ACT</a> has been completed and is driving on-ground works to control rabbit populations across the territory. Implementation is ongoing.	Completed 2015.
Biomass management plans developed for grassland reserves.	The <a href="#">Grassland Enhancement Program</a> undertook research and trials that are informing management of biomass in grasslands to meet different species' needs including:  Burning for Biodiversity trials  habitat requirements of threatened grassland species  investigating techniques to replace exotic species with native species.	Completed 2017
Annual monitoring of kangaroo populations in selected reserves.	<a href="#">Research</a> into sustainable management of kangaroos is ongoing and includes investigation into impacts of high grazing pressure both on <a href="#">ecosystems</a> and <a href="#">kangaroo mortality</a> and management methods such as <a href="#">fertility control</a> .	Ongoing
<b>Action 2.4: Establish and implement ecologically appropriate fire regimes</b>		
ACT Strategic Bushfire Management Plan revised by the end of 2014.	The revised <a href="#">ACT Strategy Bushfire Management Plan Version 3</a> (SBMP) directs bushfire management throughout the ACT. The SBMP is a dynamic document that allows emergency services and fire managers to have the flexibility they require to implement measures to reduce bushfire risk.	Completed (2014)
Post-fire recovery monitoring of vegetation to continue until 2014.	<a href="#">Long-term monitoring</a> of plots burned in the 2003 fires has been completed and helps us understand how different vegetation types recover after fire. These data have also been used to estimate appropriate intervals for fire management planning.	Completed 2014
Ecological fire management guidelines updated in 2014 and implemented through the TAMS Bushfire Operational Plan. Fuel and Fire Suppression Guidelines for ACT Declared Threatened Species and Endangered Ecological Communities updated by 2015 for high priority species.	Research into appropriate <a href="#">fire intervals for fauna</a> has been undertaken and used to inform the revised <a href="#">Ecological Guidelines for Fire, Fuel and Access Management Operations</a> . These data also help guide <a href="#">fuel management</a> for different ecosystems.	Completed 2018
Long-term monitoring undertaken of prescribed burning of high conservation value nature reserves or on specific flora and fauna.	Monitoring of <a href="#">how flora and fauna respond to prescribed burns</a> is helping us understand the relationship between ecosystems and fire and estimate appropriate fire intervals.	Completed 2017

Milestones	Progress	Status
<b>Action 2.5: Implement improved catchment management to support aquatic ecosystems</b>		
Cod balls in place in Molonglo River and Yerrabi Pond, and fish usage of the structures (2014) monitored on an ongoing basis  Tharwa Fish Habitat structures constructed, and fish usage and changes to the river geomorphic profile monitored (2013).	Artificial fish habitat ('Cod Caves') deployed and monitored in Molonglo River and Yerrabi Lake.  <a href="#">Engineered Log Jams</a> have been constructed to enhance aquatic habitat for native fish. Monitoring results show <a href="#">increased river channel depth past the structures and improved native fish passage and habitat in the area</a> .	Completed (2014)
Determine the efficacy of the Casuarina Sands fishway to allow fish to pass using passive integrated transponder tagging technology.	Monitoring of the efficacy of the <a href="#">Casuarina Sands fishway</a> on the Murrumbidgee River indicated that the fishway needed modification to operate effectively at low flow levels. Modifications were completed in 2015.	Completed (2014)
Determine the best method to monitor Murray Crayfish and the condition of the crayfish population within the ACT at selected sites.	A report on methods to monitor <a href="#">Murray Crayfish</a> was finalised in 2013. The recommended methods were used in a 2015 survey and indicated that Murray Crayfish are still in low numbers and have patchy distribution.	Completed (2014)
Annually stock the larger lakes in Canberra with native fish species to reduce angling pressure on the natural river populations and improve the ecological functioning of the artificial urban lakes.	A <a href="#">Fish Stocking Plan for the ACT</a> has been developed and is being implemented annually to relieve fishing pressure on the more fragile rivers and streams in the ACT.	Completed (2018)
Implement key actions in the Murrumbidgee Demonstration Reach Implementation Plan (2013–18).	Projects such as the <a href="#">FeralFishScan portal</a> , <a href="#">Engineered Log Jams</a> , the <a href="#">Casuarina Sands fishway</a> , <a href="#">revegetation</a> and <a href="#">annual monitoring</a> are contributing to the implementation of the <a href="#">Murrumbidgee Demonstration Reach Implementation Plan</a> .	Completed (2018)
<b>Action 2.6: Develop and implement a migratory species and action plan</b>		
Migratory Species Action Plan finalised (2014).	The <a href="#">ACT Action Plan for Listed Migratory Species</a> was completed in 2018 and will manage identified threats to important sites and habitat and improve our knowledge about the occurrence and management of listed migratory species.	Completed (2018)
<b>Action 2.7: Develop and implement an ACT Soils Strategy</b>		
Develop and implement an ACT soils strategy.	Increased knowledge and understanding of soil characteristics and capability through soil mapping the (1:100,000) and Hydrogeological Landscape Framework.	Ongoing



Detection dogs such as Tommy the springer spaniel are being used to monitor endangered grassland earless dragons in the grassland reserve in Jerrabomberra Valley

## Strategy 3: Protect species and ecological communities

Milestones	Progress	Status
<b>Action 3.1: Manage the protected area estate</b>		
Reserve Operational Plans (RoPs) developed for 14 reserves (2014). Remaining RoPs developed (2018).	RoPs have been developed for 14 reserves. A coordinated framework for operational planning across the PCS estate is under development.	Ongoing
Canberra Nature Park Plan of Management reviewed.	The Canberra Nature Park Draft Reserve Management Plan is being released in 2019.	Ongoing
Complete Molonglo River Corridor Plan of Management (2014).	The draft <a href="#">Molonglo River Corridor Draft Reserve Management Plan</a> was released for community consultation in 2018.	Ongoing
Commence preparation of a Lower Cotter Catchment Plan of Management (2013).	The <a href="#">Lower Cotter Catchment Reserve Management Plan</a> was finalised in 2018.	Completed (2018)
Progressive implementation of actions in Plans of Management and Threatened Species and Ecological Communities Action Plans (ongoing).	Implementation of actions in <a href="#">reserve management plans</a> and <a href="#">threatened species and ecological communities action plans</a> are progressing subject to funding. Overarching <a href="#">conservation strategies</a> are also contributing to landscape scale implementation.	Ongoing
Trails Strategy finalised and implementation commenced.	<a href="#">Trails ACT Planning and Management Guidelines</a> were released in 2015.	Completed (2015)
Restoration of degraded areas within Canberra Nature Park (2013–2018).	Restoration focussed on priority landscapes (See Action 1.5) and offset areas.	Ongoing
<b>Action 3.2: Develop, implement and review action plans for threatened species and Communities</b>		
Action plans will continue to be developed to identify and manage threats to declared species and communities (ongoing).	New plans for managing and protecting native species have been developed for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Scarlet Robin</a> (2016)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Murray Cod</a> (2017)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Listed Migratory Species</a> (2018).</li> </ul>	Ongoing
Action plans will be reviewed, and updated where necessary to ensure they remain current (ongoing).	Since 2013, the following <a href="#">Action Plans</a> have been reviewed and updated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural Temperate Grassland (2017)</li> <li>• Baeuerlen's Gentian (2017)</li> <li>• Button Wrinklewort (2017)</li> <li>• Ginninderra Peppercress (2017)</li> <li>• Golden Sun Moth (2017)</li> <li>• Pink Tailed Worm Lizard (2017)</li> <li>• Striped Legless Lizard (2017)</li> <li>• Grassland Earless Dragon (2017)</li> <li>• Perunga Grasshopper (2017)</li> <li>• Macquarie Perch (2018)</li> <li>• Murray River Crayfish (2018)</li> <li>• Two-spined Blackfish (2018)</li> <li>• Trout Cod (2018)</li> <li>• Tuggeranong Lignum (2018)</li> <li>• Murrumbidgee Bossiaea (2018)</li> <li>• Spotted Tailed Quoll (2018) (draft).</li> </ul>	Ongoing

Milestones	Progress	Status
<b>Action 3.3: Restore and manage priority landscapes</b>		
Implement woodland restoration activities and invasive species control within priority lowland woodland areas across priority 'focal' landscapes (2017).	Several <a href="#">woodland restoration projects</a> in addition to landscape scale pest control have been undertaken to improve habitat quality and connectivity of box–gum woodlands in the ACT and region. (See Action 1.5).	Completed (2017)
One Million Trees program finalised in Murrumbidgee River Corridor (2018).	Over the past decade, 300,000 native trees have been planted in the Murrumbidgee River Corridor, as part of planting one million trees across the Territory under the ACT's 2007 Climate Change strategy Weathering the Change 2007. Trees were also planted in urban areas and in the Lower Cotter Catchment	Completed (2018)
Finalise monitoring and restoration of alpine bogs affected by the 2003 fires, and commencement of long-term monitoring.	Ten years of monitoring has enhanced our understanding on the ecological community's sensitivity to fire and informed development of a <a href="#">Ginini Flats Wetland Complex Ramsar Site Management Plan</a> , released in 2017.	Completed (2014)
Priority activities delivered from the Upper Murrumbidgee Demonstration Reach Implementation Plan (2013–18).	The ACT has implemented projects that are contributing to the implementation of the <a href="#">Murrumbidgee Demonstration Reach Implementation Plan</a> . (See Action 2.5).	Completed 2018
<b>Action 3.4: Identify biodiversity refugia under drought and climate change</b>		
Develop criteria and principles for identifying and managing refugia (2013).	An <a href="#">Identifying Biodiversity Refugia</a> project has utilised soil, hydrology vegetation and climate data to model potential refugia for native species in the ACT.	Completed
Identify refugia in the ACT and region using NSW and ACT Region Climate Model (NARCLiM) data and other data sets (See Activity 1.1 also) (2015).		
Manage at least one identified site for refugia values (2018).		
<b>Action 3.5: Monitor five priority ecosystems most vulnerable to threats</b>		
Monitoring of five ecosystems—native temperate grasslands, grassy box-gum woodlands, alpine bogs, montane forests and Murrumbidgee–Cotter River system (2013–18).	A Conservation Effectiveness Management Program is being established for the following ecosystems: lowland native grasslands; upland grasslands; riparian/aquatic; lowland woodlands; upland woodlands; lowland forests; upland forests; and bogs and fens.  In 2017, the <a href="#">Conservation Effectiveness Monitoring Program: An Overview</a> and <a href="#">Lowland Native Grasslands Ecosystem Condition Monitoring Plan</a> were released.	Ongoing
Monitoring of riverine ecosystems to date focuses on in-stream biodiversity, primarily fish. Additional resourcing will be required to properly undertake riparian monitoring.	<a href="#">Several monitoring programs</a> have been undertaken such as Macquarie Perch surveys, Murrumbidgee Bossiaea monitoring, Two-spined Blackfish monitoring, Tuggeranong Lignum monitoring and riparian condition surveys. These projects are helping to develop our understanding of riverine ecosystems in addition to tracking condition of populations and habitat over time.	Ongoing

Milestones	Progress	Status
<b>Action 3.6: Implement captive breeding programs and translocation programs</b>		
Captive breeding program for the Corroboree Frog to be continued (ongoing).	<a href="#">Captive breeding and release</a> of juvenile <a href="#">Corroboree Frogs</a> has continued, and monitoring in 2017 revealed that at least one pair of released frogs had bred. This <a href="#">program</a> is boosting wild populations to reduce decline. Expanding the program to outdoor breeding enclosures will increase project success.	Ongoing
Reintroduction of the Macquarie Perch in the enlarged Cotter reservoir (in partnership with ACTEW).	<a href="#">Monitoring in 2016</a> revealed that <a href="#">Macquarie Perch</a> successfully accessed and spawned in the Cotter River after extra water was released from the enlarged Cotter Dam. <a href="#">Genetic rescue</a> has also been undertaken to increase the resilience of the Cotter Dam population.	Completed
Translocation programs will continue to be undertaken in the Mulligans Flat Woodlands Sanctuary consistent with the aims of the ecological research project.	<a href="#">Translocations and reintroductions</a> of many species including the Eastern Bettong, Eastern Quoll, <a href="#">Brown Treecreeper</a> and <a href="#">New Holland Mouse</a> have been undertaken as part of the <a href="#">Mulligans Flat Sanctuary</a> and <a href="#">Mulligans Flat – Gorooyarroo Woodland Experiment</a> projects guided by the <a href="#">Translocation of Native Flora and Fauna Guidelines</a> . These translocations are enabling <a href="#">scientific research</a> on woodland biodiversity while increasing public <a href="#">engagement and knowledge</a> of these threatened species and the environment.	Ongoing
The methodology for translocating Golden Sun Moths will continue to be developed and will lead to the production of translocation guidelines (2015).	<a href="#">Translocation guidelines</a> for native flora and fauna have been developed and will help guide <a href="#">Golden Sun Moth</a> projects.  Two translocation methods for the Golden Sun Moth were <a href="#">tried in 2016</a> , with similar levels of success, and will continue to be developed and tested.	Completed (2017)
Programs for the Brush-tailed Rock-Wallaby and bettongs to be continued and expanded, including translocation of bettongs outside Mulligans Flat Sanctuary.	<a href="#">Funding and a partnership</a> with Zoos Victoria has been secured to establish a 120 hectare semi-wild enclosure at Tidbinbilla which will home to up to 100 <a href="#">Brush-tailed Rock-wallabies</a> . This project will increase opportunities to <a href="#">reintroduce bred animals</a> into the wild in Victoria and the ACT.  In 2011–12 two populations of Eastern Bettongs were established within <a href="#">Mulligans Flat Sanctuary</a> and <a href="#">Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve</a> with great success. <a href="#">Trials of reintroduction</a> into the Lower Cotter Catchment have been undertaken and methods are being refined to increase success.	Ongoing
<b>Action 3.7: Propagate and translocate threatened plants</b>		
Propagation and translocation programs for Tuggeranong Lignum, Button Wrinklewort, Small Purple Pea and Ginninderra Peppercress developed and underway if technically possible and resources available (2016).	<a href="#">Monitoring and translocation</a> of <a href="#">Button Wrinklewort</a> , <a href="#">Ginninderra Peppercress</a> , <a href="#">Small Purple Pea</a> and <a href="#">Tuggeranong Lignum</a> have been undertaken and methods continue to be developed.	Ongoing
Subject to community interest, a community plant rescue program will be developed and implemented (2016).	Development has largely been directed away from sites supporting threatened plants, and the opportunity for translocation has yet to arise. This remains an option of last resort.	Ongoing
<b>Action 3.8: Establish seed banks and seed orchards</b>		
Development, management and use of seed banks and seed orchards.	<a href="#">Brindabella Midge Orchid</a> , <a href="#">Murrumbidgee Bossiaea</a> , <a href="#">Tuggeranong Lignum</a> and <a href="#">Ginninderra Peppercress</a> seed has been <a href="#">collected and stored</a> at the Australian National Botanic Gardens for future translocation and conservation purposes.	Ongoing
Seed collection policy released.	CSIRO has developed <a href="#">guidelines for climate-ready restoration</a> that includes information on seed collection, storage and species choice.	Completed



## Strategy 4: Enhance biodiversity value of urban areas

Milestones	Progress	Status
<b>Action 4.1: Manage impacts of urban development on biodiversity</b>		
Manage impacts of urban development on significant biodiversity assets through Environmental Impact Statement processes and Strategic Environmental Assessments.	Impacts of urban development are being managed by the <a href="#">Environmental Impact Assessment</a> process. After avoidance and mitigation measures are taken, any residual impacts are compensated by the creation of <a href="#">environmental offsets</a> . Offsets help protect land from future development; locations and statuses can be viewed at the <a href="#">Offsets Register</a> .  <a href="#">Connectivity mapping</a> is utilised as part of the development assessment process, with the aim of avoiding further significant fragmentation.	Ongoing
Accreditation of ACT environmental assessment processes through a revised Bilateral Assessment Agreement.	ACT processes for approval of proposed actions have been accredited through a <a href="#">draft approval bilateral agreement</a> . This has simplified the approvals process and reduced overlap and confusion between ACT and Commonwealth responsibilities.	Completed (2014)
Development and finalisation of the approach to environmental offsets in the ACT (2013–18).	The <a href="#">ACT Environmental Offsets Policy</a> is supported by the <a href="#">ACT Environmental Offsets Delivery Framework</a> and a number of <a href="#">tools, manuals and methodology</a> . These documents provide clarity to developers regarding offset requirements.	Completed (2015)
<b>Action 4.2: Manage urban open space</b>		
Continue to stock lakes with native fish species annually.	The ACT Government stocks approximately 50,000 fish each year in Canberra lakes, in partnership with the National Capital Authority, guided by a <a href="#">Fish Stock Plan</a> for the ACT 2015-20.	Ongoing
Policies to improve biodiversity outcomes from landscaping developed.	Implementation of the Design Guidelines for the <a href="#">Water Sensitive Urban Design General Code</a> has significantly improved biodiversity outcomes.  Work continues with community groups to improve habitat in urban areas, for example, SEE-Change's Birdscaping Canberra project.	Completed (2015)
TAMS revised guidelines ("Tree Selector") used to plant appropriate species in urban parks and open space to enhance biodiversity and climate change adaptation (2013–18).	A <a href="#">draft tree species list</a> and <a href="#">Plant Selector webtool</a> have been developed to guide plantings that will both enhance biodiversity and be resilient to climate change.	Ongoing
Key areas mapped where environmental plantings can enhance connectivity and biodiversity outcomes in urban areas and deliver plantings through the urban component of the One Million Trees program.	Habitat connectivity mapping has been incorporated into <a href="#">ACTMAPi</a> and is informing tree planting.	Completed (2014)
Encourage native plantings and retention of mature/hollow bearing trees across urban areas, or any other areas that require more native vegetation coverage, ensuring fire fuel management responsibilities.	<a href="#">Loss of mature native trees (including hollow bearing trees) and a lack of recruitment</a> was listed as a <a href="#">Key Threatening Process in 2018</a> .  A <a href="#">conservation advice</a> outlines action to mitigate against the loss of mature native trees.	Ongoing

Milestones	Progress	Status
<b>Action 4.3: Enhance connectivity through urban areas</b>		
One Million Trees urban component finalised (2018) and lessons learnt incorporated into connectivity planning.	Urban trees have been replaced and planted in new areas, with priority given to filling gaps and improving connectivity to enhance walkability, urban amenity and biodiversity connectivity.  A <a href="#">Living Infrastructure Information Paper</a> was released in 2018 and recognised trees as a key component of living infrastructure including to increase habitat connectivity.	Ongoing
Implementation of education and incentive programs to encourage more native plantings in backyards close to reserves and urban fringe areas commenced (2014).  (See also Action 5.3).	The <a href="#">Canberra Plant Selector webtool</a> is available for the public to match their requirements and soil and water profiles with suitable plant species. The biannual <a href="#">Weed Swap</a> program also encourages the public to swap highly invasive species for native plants.	Ongoing
<b>Action 4.4: Manage the urban edge</b>		
ACT Trails Strategy completed.	<a href="#">Trails ACT Planning and Management Guidelines (2015–25)</a> . (See Action 3.1).	Completed (2015)
The ACT Government to continue its commitment to pet containment, waste management, recreational use, fire management (ongoing), the spread of invasive plants into bushland and support for the current Bush on the Boundaries program.	Additional suburbs have become cat containment with a total of 15 suburbs (or part) declared cat containment as at 2018.  Permitted activities and closed reserve declarations, included within the <a href="#">Nature Conservation Act</a> , have been recently updated.  Information on <a href="#">fire management</a> and the ACT <a href="#">Strategic Bushfire Management Plan</a> is available online, and continues to be updated with best practice policies and procedures.  Implementation of the ACT Weed Strategy is ongoing (See Action 2.1) and initiatives such as the <a href="#">Weed Swap</a> program are run to increase public awareness of invasive species.  The ACT Government has supported the Conservation Council in the establishment of several <a href="#">Bush on the Boundary</a> groups to increase engagement of people living in suburbs on the urban edge.	Ongoing
Implement education program on the impacts of escaped domestic animals (pets such as fish, dogs, cats etc.).	The <a href="#">Animal Welfare and Management Strategy</a> and the <a href="#">Transport Canberra and City Services website</a> provide information and guidance on pet ownership and containment. A Draft ACT Cat Plan is also in development. These documents and information help minimise risks to pets, people, ecosystems and native wildlife.	Ongoing

Milestones	Progress	Status
<b>Action 4.5: Support Urban Landcare and ParkCare activities</b>		
Continue to support Urban Landcare and ParkCare groups.	In 2018, ParkCare was reinvigorated through creation of the <a href="#">ParkCare Hub</a> and four volunteering streams to broaden and enhance opportunities for community involvement in environmental interpretation, caring for wildlife and working with PCS. The volunteer streams are: ParkCare Patch; RangerAssist; WldlifeAssist and VisitorAssist.  The Urban Open Space Volunteer Program supports <a href="#">Urban Landcare</a>  A new <a href="#">ACT and Region Landcare Gateway</a> website was finalised in 2017.	Ongoing
Work with existing urban Landcare and ParkCare groups to identify key areas of weed infestation and incorporate this knowledge into proposed weed mapping targets (2013–18).	Weed and plant identification training for volunteer groups is ongoing. The Collector app is used by PCS rangers, contractors and volunteers to map and coordinate control efforts.	Ongoing
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 (2013–18).	The annual <a href="#">Scribbly Gum newsletter</a> reports on the work of ParkCare and Urban Landcare groups.  Several forums have been either supported or held to showcase and promote research undertaken by Landcare and ParkCare groups, including: <a href="#">ParkCare Forums</a>  The <a href="#">Woodlands Forum</a> (27–28 June 2018)  The <a href="#">Black Mountain Symposium</a> (24–25 August 2018)  (See Action 5.3—Park Care Forums).	Ongoing
Provide training opportunities for urban Landcare and ParkCare groups in biodiversity research techniques and mapping (2013–18).	Volunteers continue to be supported through training. For example, in 2017/18 more than 70 volunteers received formal training in first aid, chemical application, interpretation and/or invasive species identification.  <a href="#">Online tutorials</a> have been released to assist NGOs, community groups and land managers make better use of available spatial data and tools provided by the ACT Government.	Ongoing
Create and support new Urban Landcare and ParkCare groups that capture urban open space and roadsides and other green areas (2013–18).	In 2015, three new Urban Landcare groups were established to help City Services maintain areas of urban open space. There are now 19 groups.	Ongoing
<b>Action 4.6: Assess urban areas, manage and enhance green assets and infrastructure</b>		
Assess urban areas to determine the need and suitability for additional tree coverage to mitigate potential heat island effect (2016).	The <a href="#">ACT Climate Change Adaptation Strategy</a> was finalised in 2016 and is guiding adaptations that will mitigate and minimise the impacts of climate change.  <a href="#">Mapping of surface urban heat in Canberra</a> was undertaken in 2017 and identified key areas of concern and potential mitigation strategies.	Completed
Strategy for the maintenance and management of the ACT's green assets and infrastructure developed (2018).	The <a href="#">Living Infrastructure Information Paper</a> was released in 2018.	Completed



## Strategy 5: Strengthen community engagement

Milestones	Progress	Status
<b>Action 5.1: Support greater community involvement through volunteering</b>		
Continue support for ParkCare, Urban Landcare and catchment management groups (See Action 4.5).	A number of government programs provide grants and funding for implementing environmental activities. Programs include: <a href="#">Environment Grants</a> <a href="#">Heritage Grants.</a>	Ongoing
Provide support to community events related to woodland restoration.	Regular community planting days, and seed collection and propagation by volunteers are delivered in partnership with Greening Australia, catchment groups and other community-based groups.	Ongoing
<b>Action 5.2: Enhance and promote the use of citizen science projects</b>		
Continue to provide support to community groups to provide critical monitoring of the ACT's biodiversity.	The ACT has promoted monitoring through citizen science including: <a href="#">Canberra Nature Map</a> <a href="#">Upper Murrumbidgee Waterwatch</a> <a href="#">Frogwatch</a> <a href="#">Woodlands and Wetlands Trust Latham's Snipe project.</a>	Ongoing
Update ACTMAPi with new conservation-related data layers and analysis.	<a href="#">Soil, hydrogeological landscapes</a> and updated <a href="#">vegetation</a> mapping data layers have been uploaded to <a href="#">ACTMAPi</a> . Some data obtained through citizen science have augmented biodiversity data layers on ACTMAPi.	Ongoing
Annual environment grants—Community groups will be supported through grants and provision of equipment and training.	Annual <a href="#">environmental grants</a> are awarded to community groups to support activities and provision of equipment and training.	Ongoing
<b>Action 5.3: Implement targeted community education campaigns on priority issues See also Action 4.3</b>		
Education/outreach activities with anglers on responsible fishing.	Information for anglers is available <a href="#">online</a> and <a href="#">brochures</a> are available at some fishing stores and from rangers. This information is helping to increase awareness of sustainable fishing practices. <a href="#">The Fisheries Act 2000</a> is currently being <a href="#">reviewed</a> and may result in additional education and outreach activities.	Ongoing
Community education and awareness campaigns on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• understanding the importance of box-gum woodlands and native grasslands (2013)</li> <li>• implications of climate change on biodiversity in the ACT and region (2014)</li> <li>• managing the impacts of pets roaming from the suburbs (2015)</li> <li>• managing backyards for biodiversity (2016)</li> <li>• greater awareness about managing the urban/bushland edge (2017).</li> </ul>	Forums and education campaigns have been delivered and supported to increase public engagement of environmental issues:  <b>Forums</b> <a href="#">17th Australasian Vertebrate Pest Conference</a> (1–4 May 2017) The <a href="#">Woodlands Forum</a> (27–28 June 2018) The <a href="#">Black Mountain Symposium</a> (24–25 August 2018) The <a href="#">12th Australasian Plant Conservation Conference (APCC12)</a> (11–15 November 2018).  <b>Education and workshops</b> <a href="#">Biodiversity adaptation</a> <a href="#">Hydrological landscapes</a> <a href="#">Biannual Weed swap</a> <a href="#">Responsible pet ownership.</a>	Ongoing

Milestones	Progress	Status
Biennial forum on nature reserves to promote information exchange, community education and awareness and planning	ParkCare Forums are regularly held including: Reflect, Explore and Inspire: Celebrating 25 Years of ParkCare in the ACT (2014) Parkcare Forum: Community voices in reserve management (2015).	Ongoing
<b>Action 5.4: Build Indigenous engagement in the management of natural resources</b>		
Involve Indigenous people in woodland restoration (2013–17).	Woodland restoration projects funding by the Australian Government and ACT Government has supported increased involvement of Aboriginal people, including an Indigenous Restoration Officer employed by Greening Australia, and engagement of a local traditional owner to support restoration of a significant cultural site in a threatened box–gum woodland.	Ongoing
Continuation of the Murumbung Ranger Program.	In 2018, PCS had six Aboriginal rangers dedicated to deliver ranger-guided activities and community engagement through cultural interpretation, heritage, fire, water and land management programs.	Ongoing
Support Murrumbung Yurung Murra Network in ACT Government to engage with the Aboriginal community on NRM issues.	The Murrumbung Yurung Murra Network (meaning good strong pathways in Ngunnawal language) met monthly with staff within the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate to maintain cultural connectivity. The network participates in activities to support, strengthen and build capacity within the Aboriginal staff including:  A session with the Human Rights Commission on Section 27 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples  Attending meetings to support the local Aboriginal community  Natural Resource Management activities including echidna surveying.	Ongoing
Continue to employ an Indigenous Natural Resource Management (NRM) Facilitator.	An <a href="#">Aboriginal Natural Resource Management Facilitator</a> continues to be employed and engages with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community on a wide range of environmental and cultural programs.	Ongoing
<b>Action 5.5: Encourage the involvement of youth in nature conservation</b>		
Develop and implement a program to encourage and support educational institutions to ‘adopt’ an area of conservation significance as places for nature-based education (mid 2015). Five areas adopted by 2018.	Schools across the ACT undertake community service activities in nature reserves and use them for nature-based education. Some also participate in <a href="#">Waterwatch</a> and <a href="#">Frogwatch</a> via <a href="#">waterbug and water quality workshops</a> and frog surveys.	Ongoing
<b>Action 5.6: Support appropriate recreational and tourism use of natural areas</b>		
Finalise and implement the ACT Tracks and Trails Strategy.	Completed (See Action 3.1): <a href="#">Trails ACT Planning and Management Guidelines</a> developed.	Completed (2015)
Finalise the ACT Mountain Bike Strategy.	The ACT Mountain Bike Strategy is in development and will inform track and trail works. It is also closely related to the <a href="#">CBR Cycle Tourism Strategy</a> , which aims to develop, manage and promote cycling tourism in the ACT.	Ongoing

Milestones	Progress	Status
<b>Action 5.7: Enhance key partnerships across government, community and the private sector</b>		
Continued support of Mulligan's Flat Gorooyaroo Woodland experiment.	<a href="#">Funding</a> of the <a href="#">Mulligans Flat–Gorooyaroo Woodland Experiment</a> is ongoing, and is helping with the implementation of the <a href="#">Mulligans Flat Concept Plan</a> . This includes the extension of the predator proof fence, pest eradication and construction of an ecotourism learning centre.	Ongoing
Work with rural landholders, Rural Landholders Association and institutional landholders on woodland restoration works.	<a href="#">Rural grants</a> support ACT rural landholders to implement projects on their farms that achieve sustainable agriculture outcomes on-the-ground.	Ongoing
Formalise engagement with national networks focused on biodiversity and climate change.	Since 2013 ACT NRM has regularly engaged with <a href="#">AdaptNRM</a> on the development and application of climate adaptation planning products and guidance materials.	Completed (2013)
Work with NSW partners to identify regional wildlife corridors.	The ACT and NSW work together to enhance wildlife corridors at larger landscape scales. ACT and NSW partners collaborate for example on the Kosciuszko to Coast and the Great Eastern Ranges initiatives.	Completed
Work with research partners to develop a dynamic ACT NRM framework that is 'climate change ready'.	Workshops with a diverse range of stakeholders assisted the creation of a customisable, dynamic framework to plan for climate change adaptation. This framework is used by combining the <a href="#">NRM webpage</a> with the information and <a href="#">mapping tools</a> provided.	Completed (2016)

