



ACT SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

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Director-General, Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development
Directorate, ACT Government, GPO Box 158, Canberra ACT 2601.

Telephone: 02 6207 1923

Website: www.planning.act.gov.au

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1. Background

This report outlines the activities of the ACT Scientific Committee (SC) for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020. The SC was established under the [Nature Conservation Act 2014](#) (the Act) which commenced on 11 June 2015. The Minister for the Environment and Heritage (the Minister) appoints the SC members for a three-year term. The SC convened four times during the reporting period. A schedule of meeting dates and member attendance is at [Attachment A](#).

1.1 FUNCTIONS

The Minister must make lists for the special protection of relevant native species under the Act. The SC has specific statutory responsibilities to assess and make listing recommendations to the Minister on nominated items for the:

- [Threatened Native Species List](#)
- [Key Threatening Processes List](#)
- [Threatened Ecological Communities](#)
- [Protected Native Species List](#)

The SC provides advice to the Minister about assessments and listings (relevant to the ACT) made by other jurisdictions under the Common Assessment Method.¹ The SC also provides independent, expert scientific advice to the Minister and the Conservator of Flora and Fauna (the Conservator) on matters relating to nature conservation in the ACT.

¹ The [Common Assessment Method](#) is a consistent approach to the assessment and listing of nationally threatened species across the Australian jurisdictions. It is based on the best practice standard developed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), as used to create the Red List of Threatened Species, with some amendments to suit the Australian context.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Assessment criteria for listing species in the ACT are developed by the SC in consultation with the Minister, including the:

- [Threatened Native Species Eligibility Criteria](#)
- [Key Threatening Processes Eligibility Criteria](#)
- [Threatened Ecological Communities Eligibility Criteria](#)
- [Protected Native Species Criteria and Processes](#).

The SC or the Conservator may review the criteria if the criteria do not adequately identify items eligible to be listed, or there are changes to the international or national standards (ss 66, 72, 79, 114).

No revisions to assessment criteria were carried out during the reporting period.

NOMINATIONS AND LISTING ASSESSMENT

The SC may receive, make, or reject a nomination for an item to be included, transferred, or omitted from a list and must carry out a listing assessment against the criteria above.

The Minister must consult with the SC before including or transferring a relevant item in a list. An ACT nomination is not required for the SC to assess and recommend a relevant nationally threatened item (an existing Commonwealth or State listed item – s 90A) to be included, transferred or omitted from a list.

Nominations and assessments considered during the reporting period are provided in section 2.1.

CONSERVATION ADVICE

The SC must prepare a Conservation Advice for a nominated threatened item proposed for listing (s 90C).

The Conservation Advice must be consistent with any Conservation Advice guidelines prepared by the Minister (s 90B).

The Conservation Advice must include the outcome of the listing assessment and the criteria met, and must be given to the Minister within 15 months of the commencement of the assessment process (s 90D). The Conservation Advice informs the threatened species and ecological communities listing decisions made by the Minister.

The SC may review a Conservation Advice on its own initiative or at the Conservator's request and may make recommendations to the Conservator about the advice (s 90F).

Conservation Advice made during the reporting period is provided in section 2.3.

PLANS, STRATEGIES AND REPORTS

The Minister must seek advice from the SC in deciding whether an Action Plan needs to be prepared for a relevant species (s 100A), including those listed as critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable, regionally threatened or regionally conservation dependent.

The Conservator must consult with the SC on the preparation of:

- Draft Nature Conservation Strategy (s 50)
- Draft Action Plans (s 102)
- Draft Native Species Conservation Plans (s 118)
- Biodiversity Research and Monitoring Program (BRAMP) (s 25(2))
- Conservator guidelines (s 23(2)).

The SC must review Action Plans (s 108(5)) every 10 years after the plan commences or at any other time at the Conservator's request. The SC may make recommendations to the Conservator, including that a plan is no longer needed for a species (s 108 (7)). The SC may also be asked to review Native Species Conservation Plans and make recommendations (s 125) to the Conservator.

The SC must, each financial year, give the Minister an annual report about the activities of the SC during the year and make this report publicly accessible (s 33).

1.2 MEMBERSHIP

The Act specifies that the Minister must appoint seven members to the SC with expertise in ecology and biological diversity, conservation science and management. A range of disciplines are represented so that collectively the SC can address a variety of issues with a high degree of competence. Members are appointed by the Minister on a part-time basis.

In July 2018, seven members were appointed by the Minister for a three-year term. The members are:

- Distinguished Professor Arthur Georges (Chair)
- Assistant Professor Jasmyn Lynch
- Honorary Professor Penny Olsen (Deputy Chair)
- Dr Barry Richardson
- Dr Kenneth Hodgkinson
- Dr Chloe Sato.
- Associate Professor Mark Lintermans

Member profiles are provided in [Attachment B](#).

Jasmyn Lynch resigned her membership of the SC when she became Senior Director of the Conservation Planning and Policy Branch of the ACT Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) in March 2020.

1.3 SECRETARY AND SECRETARIAT

Due to restructuring in the Environment Division, the position of Secretary of the SC was delegated to the Director of Biodiversity Conservation Policy and, for most of this reporting period, was filled in an acting role by Senior Policy Officer Johannes Botha. This role was delegated back to the Senior Director of Conservation Planning and Policy on 24 June 2020 when Dr Jasmyn Lynch was appointed Secretary.

The Biodiversity Conservation Policy team within the EPSDD provides secretariat support to the SC. Ms Kelly Dobson, Policy Officer, provided administrative support for the SC during this reporting period with assistance from Laura Parsons, Policy Officer.



2. Committee Business

2.1 ASSESSMENT OF NOMINATIONS

The SC assessed a nomination for the Unnatural Fragmentation of Habitats to be listed as a Key Threatening Process in the previous reporting period. The Minister accepted the recommendation by the SC and listed it as a Key Threatening Process in December 2019 ([NI2019-822](#)). The SC prepared a Conservation Advice that accompanied the recommendation and it was notified on 19 December 2019 ([NI2019-833](#)).

Following the listing of the White-throated Needletail under the [Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999](#) (EPBC Act) on 4 July 2019, the SC made an assessment recommending the Minister similarly list this species under the NC Act. The Minister included the species on the Threatened Native Species List on 26 May 2020 ([NI2020-300](#)). The SC prepared a Conservation Advice for the ACT that accompanied the recommendation to list and it was notified on 26 May 2020 ([NI2020-302](#)).

2.2 THREATENED LISTINGS

YELLOW BOX BLAKELY'S RED GUM GRASSY WOODLAND AND NATURAL TEMPERATE GRASSLAND

Under the CAM, the Minister agreed to align threatened native species and ecological communities with other jurisdictions, including the Commonwealth.

The SC recommended the Yellow Box - Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Natural Temperate Grassland communities be transferred to the Critically Endangered category. The Minister agreed to this recommendation and made the listing transfer on 27 May 2020 ([NI2020-301](#)).

The current lists of threatened native species, threatened ecological communities and key threatening processes are at [Attachment C](#).

2.3 CONSERVATION ADVICE

The SC prepared Conservation Advice in this reporting period for the items in Table 1.

Table 1: Conservation Advice notified on the ACT Legislation Register in the 2019-2020 reporting period.

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	INSTRUMENT AND LINK NUMBER
Baeuerlen's Gentian	<i>Gentiana baeuerlenii</i>	NI2019-708
Button Wrinklewort	<i>Rutidosis leptorhynchoides</i>	NI2019-709
Small Purple Pea	<i>Swainsona recta</i>	NI2019-710
Tarengo Leek Orchid	<i>Prasophyllum petilum</i>	NI2019-711
Tuggeranong Lignum	<i>Muehlenbeckia tuggeranong</i>	NI2019-712
White-throated Needletail	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	NI2020-302
Macquarie Perch	<i>Macquaria australasica</i>	NI2020-351
Murray River Crayfish	<i>Euastacus armatus</i>	NI2020-352
Silver Perch	<i>Bidyanus bidyanus</i>	NI2020-353
Trout Cod	<i>Maccullochella macquariensis</i>	NI2020-354
Two-spined Blackfish	<i>Gadopsis bispinosus</i>	NI2020-355
Yellow Box -Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland	Ecological Community	NI2020-304
Natural Temperate Grassland	Ecological Community	NI2020-303
Unnatural Fragmentation of Habitats	Key Threatening Process	NI2019-833

The SC also drafted Conservation Advice for the following listed species that will be notified in the next reporting period:

- Pink-tailed Worm-lizard
- Golden Sun Moth
- Striped Legless Lizard
- Perunga Grasshopper.

2.4 ACTION PLANS

The Minister decides if an action plan is required when a threatened native species, ecological community or key threatening process is listed. The Conservator is then responsible for preparing the action plan, detailing conservation issues and proposed conservation measures for the species/community/process. The SC provides advice to the Conservator on whether the proposed action plan adequately addresses the conservation requirements of the species/community concerned. The Conservator consults the SC on draft action plans prior to their mandatory release for public comment and briefs the SC on the progress of the action plans. The SC reviews action plans every ten years and may make recommendations to the Conservator, including that a plan may no longer be needed for a species.

The SC was consulted on the development of the following draft action plans:

- Loss of Mature Native Trees
- High Country Bogs and Fens Action Plan
- Grey-headed Flying-fox (Native Species Conservation Plan).

2.5 ADVICE ON ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The SC is advised on the progress of action plan implementation every five years as reported by the Conservator to the Minister. This provides the SC with a good opportunity to be updated on the progress of an action plan and assist their determination as to whether reassessment of a species may be required prior to their 10-year review of the action plan. During the reporting period, the following implementation reports were provided to the SC:

- Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby
- Brindabella Midge Orchid.

2.6 LIAISON WITH NSW, COMMONWEALTH AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS ON REGIONAL ISSUES

The SC reviews national listings under the EPBC Act. During the reporting period, the following threatened species and ecological communities were added to, or transferred within, the ACT Threatened Native Species List and the ACT Threatened Ecological Communities List to align with the Commonwealth listing status including:

- White-throated Needletail included in the Vulnerable category
- Yellow Box – Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland transferred to Critically Endangered
- Natural Temperate Grassland transferred to Critically Endangered.

The SC exchanges information with the NSW Scientific Committee and the NSW Fisheries Scientific Committee on a regular basis. Amongst other things, the ACT provides information on ACT listings and copies of ACT action plans. NSW in turn provides information on determinations made under the [Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 \(NSW\)](#) and the [Fisheries Management Act 1994](#) (NSW). The SC routinely assesses the determinations made in NSW with the view to identifying any species, communities and threatening processes that warrant consideration from an ACT and region perspective, and if relevant, provides advice to the NSW Scientific Committee and the NSW Fisheries Scientific Committee on their proposed recommendations.

2.7 ADVICE TO ACT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES DURING DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW OF POLICY, STRATEGIES AND LEGISLATION

With part of the SC's charter being to provide advice on nature conservation issues in general, the SC provided comment and advice on ACT Government documents and other matters referred to it by the EPSDD and other ACT Government agencies.

The SC provided advice to the ACT Government and agencies on the following:

- Proposed changes to the Protected Native Species List Plan
- Conservator Licensing Guidelines → Draft Science Plan – Environment Division
- Draft Namadji National Park Feral Horse Management → Bushfire recovery.

2.8 SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE STRATEGIC PLAN

The SC undertook activities in line with the 2018-2021 Strategic Plan.



Pink-tailed Worm-lizard

Attachment A - Schedule of Meeting and Attendance

Table 2: Member attendance at meetings during the reporting period.

MEMBER	MEETING 17 – 11 SEPTEMBER 2019	MEETING 18 – 4 DECEMBER 2019	MEETING 19 – 4 MARCH 2020	MEETING 20 – 3 JUNE 2020
Arthur Georges	■	■	■	■
Penny Olsen		■	■	■
Jasmyn Lynch	■	■	■	■
Mark Lintermans	■	■	■	■
Barry Richardson	■	■	■	■
Kenneth Hodgkinson	■	■	■	■
Chloe Sato	■		■	■

OUT OF SESSION CONSULTATIONS

There were not any out-of-session meetings in 2019-20, however, the SC provided significant out of session guidance throughout the year in relation to the SC business outlined in Section 2.

Outside of meetings, the Chair of the SC met with the new ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment, Dr Sophie Lewis, and with the Conservator (on separate occasions).

The Chair noted that he met with Renee Brawata, Antonio Mozqueira and Stephanie Pulsford out of session. Notes of the discussion have been recorded and are archived.



Attachment B - Member Profiles

CHAIR – DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR ARTHUR GEORGES

Expertise: Conservation biology of native Australian species, the ecology, evolution and systematics of Australian reptiles and amphibians, temperature-dependent sex determination.

Position: Professor in Applied Ecology, Institute for Applied Ecology, University of Canberra

Professor Georges is committed to sound fundamental science with a keen interest in its application in natural resource management. He has a strong commitment to bringing about realistic win-win situations where development and conservation come into conflict. Professor Georges has extensive experience and knowledge of the biology and conservation of Australia's reptile and amphibian species. In addition to his work as the Chair of the Scientific Committee, Professor Georges has contributed his expertise to the Australian Biodiversity Information Facility Committee, ARC Environmental Futures Network (Steering Committee), ACT Natural Resource Management Advisory Committee and the IUCN/SSC Committee on Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles (Steering Committee).

DEPUTY CHAIR – HONORARY PROFESSOR PENNY OLSEN

Expertise: Birds, conservation biology

Position: Honorary Professor, Division of Ecology and Evolution, Australian National University

Dr Olsen is a research scientist with a particular expertise in raptors. Her experience and interests are broad, ranging from wildlife management to behavioural ecology. She has prepared a number of national and state recovery plans, is a long-time consultant to the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Heritage's Environment Australia's Norfolk Island owl recovery program and works as an occasional consultant on other matters of national and local environmental interest. Dr Olsen is a member of Birdlife Australia's Threatened Species Committee, tasked with the preparation of The Action Plan for Australian Birds, which informs the Australian government and feeds directly into the IUCN Red List. Dr Olsen has published a number of research papers, books and popular articles on a diversity of subjects including conservation, threatened species and pest management.

OTHER MEMBERS

DR BARRY RICHARDSON

Expertise: Endangerment theory, conservation genetics, conservation policy, mammals and invertebrates.

Position: Honorary Research Fellow (CSIRO, National Research Collections Australia)

Dr Richardson is a researcher with a broad background including research in endangerment theory, conservation genetics and conservation policy. He has experience in environmental research/taxonomic revisions in mammal, pest mammals, freshwater fish, pelagic and benthic chordates, terrestrial gastropods, insect communities, waste-water management, spiders and red listing procedures. He is currently an Honorary Research Fellow (CSIRO, National Research Collections Australia). Dr Richardson is the author and co-author of over 100 publications and has supervised over 30 Honours, Masters and PhD students.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MARK LINTERMANS

Expertise: Ecology and management of aquatic systems, fish, waterbirds and wetlands

Position: Associate Professor of Freshwater Fisheries Ecology and Management, University of Canberra

Emeritus Professor Lintermans has over 30 years' experience in the ecology and management of freshwater ecosystems. He led the aquatic ecology research and management program in the ACT Government for 16 years, working predominantly on freshwater fish ecology and management. Associate Professor Lintermans sits on national recovery teams for Trout cod, Murray cod and Macquarie perch and he also convenes the Threatened Fishes Committee of the Australian Society for Fish Biology, was the Chair of the NSW Fisheries Scientific Committee from 2011-2020 and was also the Australian and New Zealand Region Chair of the IUCN Freshwater Fish Specialist Group from 2013–2016. Associate Professor Lintermans has also worked on wetlands, particularly on migratory waterbirds at Jerrabomberra Wetlands. He has published widely on fish ecology, conservation and management.

DR KENNETH HODGKINSON

Expertise: Grassland and woodland ecology; restoration and management of Natural Temperate Grasslands and woodlands of the ACT.

Position: Honorary Research Fellow, Ecology, CSIRO Land and Water, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Knowledge and Services Program.

Dr Hodgkinson has a national and international reputation for his research on the dynamics of plant processes and populations in Australia's grasslands and woodlands. Currently he researches restoration of ACT's Natural Temperate Grasslands and Woodlands in projects of the Ginninderra Catchment Group (for which he is currently Deputy Chairman) and of CSIRO. He has a particular interest in the interactions of grazing, fire regimes and drought on the functioning and biological diversity of these ecosystems in changing climates. He is on the Advisory Board of the UK Cambridge Conservation Initiative and has significant experience in the core responsibilities of committee representation including editorial work and reviewing research. Dr Hodgkinson has authored over 120 publications, is a reviewer for over 20 journals and examines PhD theses for eight universities.

DR CHLOE SATO

Expertise: Ecology and biodiversity conservation, specialising in herpetology, applied vegetation ecology, alpine-subalpine ecosystems, and box-gum grassy woodlands.

Position: Associate Research Fellow Deakin University (Melbourne), ACT Government Environmental Offsets Ecologist Honorary Lecturer, Australian National University.

Dr Chloe Sato is currently employed as a research fellow with Deakin University and holds an honorary appointment at The Australian National University. Prior to her appointment with Deakin University, she held appointments as an ecologist with NSW and ACT Governments, and was a research fellow at The Australian National University where she focused on surrogate ecology, ecosystem collapse, and analysis of long-term ecological monitoring data. Dr Sato's particular interest is in designing and conducting question-driven ecological research and monitoring programs, and ecosystem risk assessments that lead to tangible on-ground management outcomes. She is a highly-proficient ecologist who has conducted research in temperate woodlands and grasslands, Ash forests, deserts and alpine-subalpine ecosystems, and has led or contributed to projects on threatened reptiles, birds, mammals and flora including Grassland Earless Dragons, Striped Legless Lizards, and Superb Parrots.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR JASMYN LYNCH

Expertise: Conservation biology, plant ecology, rare and threatened plant species, recovery planning and botanical survey work.

Position: Assistant Professor in Environmental Management, University of Canberra.

Assistant Professor Lynch is a conservation ecologist with expertise in research on rare and threatened species; biodiversity patterns and processes; vegetation, climate and geomorphology interactions; wetland assessments and management; and ecological and threatening process frameworks. She has research experience from the genetic scale, through species autoecology, regional ecology, global patterns of diversity, to the application of science to conservation policy and environmental management. Assistant Professor Lynch has over 27 years' experience on environmental issues, having worked with the Australian, Tasmanian, Queensland and Western Australian governments, the University of Queensland, the University of Tasmania and Indigenous representatives of Cape York Peninsula.

In March 2020, Assistant Professor Lynch stood down as a member of the Scientific Committee when she was selected as the Senior Director of the Conservation Policy and Planning Branch within the Environment Division. Upon accepting this position, she became the Acting Secretary of the Scientific Committee, with the full position becoming effective 24 June 2020.



Attachment C – Listed threatened native species and ecological communities

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED SPECIES

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	DATE OF LISTING
<i>Anthochaera phrygia</i>	Regent Honeyeater	11 May 2019 (30 May 1997 Endangered)
<i>Lathamus discolor</i>	Swift Parrot	11 May 2019 (30 May 1997 Vulnerable)
<i>Pseudophryne pengilleyi</i>	Northern Corroboree Frog	11 May 2019 (4 Sep 2003 Endangered)
<i>Caladenia actensis</i>	Canberra Spider Orchid	11 May 2019 (11 Apr 2005 Endangered)
<i>Corunastylis ectopa</i>	Brindabella Midge Orchid	11 May 2019 (11 Apr 2005 Endangered)
<i>Pterostylis oreophila</i>	Kiandra Greenhood	11 May 2019
<i>Litoria castanea</i>	Yellow-spotted Bell Frog	11 May 2019 (locally extinct)

ENDANGERED SPECIES

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	DATE OF LISTING
<i>Gentiana baeuerlenii</i>	Baeuerlen's Gentian	15 Apr 1996
<i>Prasophyllum petilum</i>	Tarengo Leek Orchid	15 Apr 1996
<i>Rutidosia leptorhynchoides</i>	Button Wrinklewort	15 Apr 1996
<i>Swainsona recta</i>	Small Purple Pea	15 Apr 1996
<i>Synemon plana</i>	Golden Sun Moth	15 Apr 1996
<i>Tympanocryptis pinguicollis</i>	Grassland Earless Dragon	15 Apr 1996
<i>Macquaria australasica</i>	Macquarie Perch	6 Jan 1997
<i>Maccullochella macquariensis</i>	Trout Cod	6 Jan 1997
<i>Petrogale penicillata</i>	Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby	6 Jan 1997
<i>Pseudomys fumeus</i>	Smoky Mouse	12 Jan 1998
<i>Muehlenbeckia tuggeranong</i>	Tuggeranong Lignum	19 Aug 1998
<i>Lepidium ginninderrense</i>	Ginninderra Peppergrass	26 Oct 2001
<i>Bidyanus bidyanus</i>	Silver Perch	26 Oct 2001
<i>Bossiaea grayi</i>	Murrumbidgee Bossiaea	30 Jan 2012
<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	Australasian Bittern	11 May 2019
<i>Dasyurus viverrinus</i>	Eastern Quoll	11 May 2019
<i>Isodon obesulus obesulus</i>	Southern Brown Bandicoot (Eastern)	11 May 2019
<i>Rostratula australis</i>	Australian Painted Snipe	11 May 2019

VULNERABLE SPECIES

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	DATE OF LISTING
<i>Delma impar</i>	Striped Legless Lizard	15 Apr 1996
<i>Gadopsis bispinosus</i>	Two-spined Blackfish	6 Jan 1997
<i>Euastacus armatus</i>	Murray River Crayfish	6 Jan 1997
<i>Perunga ochracea</i>	Perunga Grasshopper	30 May 1997
<i>Melanodryas cucullate cucullata</i>	Hooded Robin	30 May 1997
<i>Polytelis swainsonii</i>	Superb Parrot	30 May 1997
<i>Climacteris picumnus victoriae</i>	Brown Treecreeper	30 May 1997
<i>Grantiella picta</i>	Painted Honeyeater	12 Jan 1998
<i>Dasyurus maculatus maculatus</i>	Spotted-tailed Quoll	4 Sep 2003
<i>Daphoenositta chrysoptera</i>	Varied Sittella	8 Dec 2003
<i>Lalage tricolor</i>	White-winged Triller	8 Dec 2003
<i>Hieraaetus morphnoides</i>	Little Eagle	22 Feb 2008
<i>Aprasia parapulchella</i>	Pink-tailed Worm-lizard	27 Mar 2008
<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami</i>	Glossy Black-cockatoo	17 Aug 2010
<i>Petroica boodang</i>	Scarlet Robin	12 May 2015
<i>Mastomys fuscus mordicus</i>	Broad-toothed Rat (mainland)	11 May 2019
<i>Petauroides volans</i>	Greater Glider	11 May 2019
<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>	Koala (QLD/NSW/ACT population)	11 May 2019
<i>Pseudomys novaehollandiae</i>	New Holland Mouse	11 May 2019
<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>	Grey-headed Flying-fox	11 May 2019
<i>Litoria aurea</i>	Green and Golden Bell Frog (locally extinct)	11 May 2019
<i>Litoria raniformis</i>	Southern Bell Frog (locally extinct)	11 May 2019
<i>Litoria verreauxii alpina</i>	Alpine Tree Frog	11 May 2019
<i>Eucalyptus aggregata</i>	Black Gum	11 May 2019
<i>Pomaderris pallida</i>	Pale Pomaderris	11 May 2019
<i>Thesium australe</i>	Austral Toadflax	11 May 2019
<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>	White-throated Needletail	26 May 2020

REGIONALLY CONSERVATION DEPENDENT

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	DATE OF LISTING
<i>Bettongia gaimardi</i>	Eastern Bettong	11 May 2019

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES

NAME	DESCRIPTION	DATE OF LISTING
Natural Temperate Grassland	The ACT Natural Temperate Grassland ecological community is consistent with the 'Natural Temperate Grassland of the South Eastern Highlands' ecological community listed under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 . The ecological community in the ACT predominantly occurs on plains at altitudes up to approximately 1200 m. It is a naturally treeless or sparsely treed community characterised by a dominance of native perennial tussock grasses. The tallest stratum is typically up to 1.0 m in height, when present. There is usually a second, lower stratum of shorter perennial and annual grasses and forbs growing between the taller tussocks, and there may be a third discontinuous stratum of even smaller forbs, grasses and cryptogams. Sedges and rushes may also occur, particularly in seasonally wet areas. The community may contain a tree and shrub stratum, with up to 10% projective foliage cover.	27 May 2020 (15 Apr 1996 – Endangered)
Yellow Box – Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland	The ACT Yellow Box – Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland ecological community is consistent with the 'White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Derived Native Grassland' ecological community listed under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 . The ecological community in the ACT is dominated by Yellow Box (<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>) and/or Blakely's Red Gum (<i>Eucalyptus blakelyi</i>); with Apple Box (<i>Eucalyptus bridgesiana</i>) and Candlebark (<i>Eucalyptus rubida</i>) the most common co-dominant trees. The community has a species-rich understorey of native tussock grasses, herbs and scattered shrubs. Remnants of the community in good condition have a ground cover dominated (50% or more of the perennial species) by native grasses and forbs. Derived (secondary) grasslands develop when the tree canopy cover is removed (or suffers dieback) but a relatively diverse understorey remains intact.	27 May 2020 (30 May 1997 – Endangered)

ENDANGERED ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES

NAME	DESCRIPTION	DATE OF LISTING
High Country Bogs and Associated Fens	The ACT High Country Bogs and Associated Fens ecological community is consistent with the 'Alpine Sphagnum Bogs and Associated Fens' ecological community listed nationally under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 but includes some bogs and fens at lower elevation. The ACT High Country Bogs and Associated Fens community is defined by a peat substratum on which Sphagnum spp. may or may not occur. Sphagnum spp. do not generally occur in fens as conditions do not favour growth and may not always be a major floristic component of bogs due to disturbance resulting in depletion or loss. In these cases, the site is considered part of the community if other key species are present (see Conservation Advice) and a peat substratum is evident.	8 Feb 2019

KEY THREATENING PROCESSES

NAME	DATE AND LISTING
The loss of mature native trees (including hollow-bearing trees) and a lack of recruitment	27 Sep 2018
Unnatural fragmentation of habitats	19 Dec 2020

