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## GLOSSARY

km = kilometre

ha = hectare

m = metre

cm = centimetre

mm = millimetre

yr = year

## Biodiversity

The variability among living organisms from all sources (including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part) and includes diversity within and between species and the diversity of ecosystems (Australian Heritage Commission 2002).

## BP

Before present (AD1950)

## Buffer

Some type of vegetation that will act as a barrier or will absorb the effects of an activity or land use spreading to adjacent areas (McIntyre *et al.* 2002).

## Canopy

The uppermost layer in a woodland or forest, formed from leaves and branches (McIntyre *et al.* 2002).

## Connectivity

Habitat connectivity is the degree to which an organism finds it can move around the landscape due to the presence of suitable habitat. For fauna, connectivity has been defined as the 'degree to which the landscape facilitates or impedes movement among patches' (Bennett 1999).

## Crown cover density

The percentage of the sample site within the vertical projection of the periphery of the crown i.e. the whole crown is treated as opaque.

## Declining species

Species that have a reduced extent of occurrence and/or decline in abundance significant enough to raise conservation concern.

## Disturbance

An event that removes organisms and opens up space which can be colonized by individuals of the same or different species (Begon *et al.* 1990). Examples include soil cultivation, herbicide use, tree removal, fire and grazing.

## Dominant species

Species that make up a large proportion of biomass, or numbers of organisms in a community (Begon *et al.* 1990).

## Ecological community

An assemblage of species that occur together in space and time

## Ecological processes

All the processes that occur between organisms, and within and between communities, including interactions with the non-living environment, that result in existing ecosystems and bring about changes in ecosystems over time (Australian Heritage Commission 2002).

## Ecosystem

A dynamic complex of organisms and their environment, interacting as a functional unit (Australian Heritage Commission 2002).

## Ecosystem function

In a functioning (or healthy) ecosystem, processes such as nutrient, energy and water flows, and the organisms and their populations, are maintained at levels appropriate to that system. A degraded or dysfunctional ecosystem has one or more of these processes disrupted (McIntyre *et al.* 2002).

## Ecotone

Transition zone between two vegetation communities (e.g. between woodland and grassland).

## Endangered

## Means:

- (a) in relation to a community—an ecological community that is in immediate danger of extinction unless the circumstances and factors threatening its distribution, composition and viability as an ecological unit cease.
- (b) in relation to a species:
  - (i) its likely extinction unless the circumstances and factors threatening its abundance, survival or evolution cease, or
  - (ii) the reduction of its numbers or habitats to such a level that the species is in immediate danger of extinction.
 (*Nature Conservation Act 1980*).

## Evolutionary processes

Genetically-based processes by which life forms change and develop over generations (Australian Heritage Commission 2002).

## Exotic species

A species of foreign origin; not native; introduced from abroad (Delbridge et al. 1996).

## Forb

A herbaceous (non-woody) plant that is not a grass, sedge or rush (Eddy et al. 1998).

## Fragmentation

The separation into parts, of an assumed previously continuous vegetation community.

## Geodiversity

The natural range (diversity) of geological (bedrock), geomorphological (landform) and soil features, assemblages, systems and processes (Australian Heritage Commission 2002).

## Groundlayer

Ground-dwelling plants forming part of the understorey.

## Habitat

The structural environments where an organism lives for all or part of its life, including environments once occupied (continuously, periodically or occasionally) by an organism or group of organisms, and into which organisms of that kind have the potential to be reinstated (Australian Heritage Commission 2002).

## Herbs

Plants without woody stems.

## Land Management Agreement

An agreement between a lessee and the Territory establishing a co-operative management regime for non-urban land in the ACT.

## Natural integrity

The degree to which a place or ecosystem retains its natural biodiversity and geodiversity and other natural processes and characteristics (Australian Heritage Commission 2002).

## Organism

Any living being.

## Projective foliage cover

The percentage of the sample site occupied by the vertical projection of foliage only i.e. gaps in the crown are excluded.

## Protection

Taking care of a place by managing impacts to ensure that natural significance is retained (Australian Heritage Commission 2002).

## Regeneration

The natural recovery of natural integrity following disturbance or degradation (Australian Heritage Commission 2002).

## Relictual

Where a plant or animal species is now living in an environment that has changed from that which is typical for it.

## Restoration

Returning existing habitats to a known past state or to an approximation of the natural condition by repairing degradation, by removing introduced species or by reinstatement (Australian Heritage Commission 2002).

## Riparian

Any land that adjoins, directly influences, or is influenced by a body of water (Lovett and Price 1999).

## Secondary grassland

An ecological community that develops when the tree canopy cover of grassy woodland or forest is removed or suffers dieback and natural regeneration is prevented (Benson 1996).

## Species diversity

The variety of species in a place (Australian Heritage Commission 2002).

## Structural (habitat) complexity

This is created in woodland by the presence of tree hollows, trees of different ages, standing dead trees, fallen logs and a variable shrub and grassy understorey.

## Sub-shrubs

Woody plants less than 0.5 m tall.

## Taxa

Another term for species.

## Threatened

An umbrella term for various categories of risk of premature extinction.

Understorey

The vegetation layer or layers beneath the canopy of a woodland or forest. It may include a ground layer of non-woody plants, shrubs or small/young trees and/or mid level trees (McIntyre *et al.* 2002).

Vulnerable

In relation to a species, means a species that within the next 25 years is likely to become endangered unless the circumstances and factors threatening its abundance, survival or evolution cease (*Nature Conservation Act 1980*).

Weed

A plant that threatens human welfare by competing with other plants that have food, timber or amenity value (Begon *et al.* 1990). Environmental weeds are plants that threaten diversity and functioning in native ecosystems.

Woodland complex

In this Strategy, this is a recognizable assemblage of lowland woodland vegetation (including secondary grassland), in particular geographic areas of the ACT, and in general separated by major land uses, especially urban development, rural land use and arterial roads.

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