



ACT
Government

Environment, Planning and
Sustainable Development

Gungahlin Strategic Assessment

Annual Report 2017-2018

Annual Report for the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment and Biodiversity Plan for the period
1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate, ACT Government

September 2018

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List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
CEMP	Construction Environment Management Plan (interchangeable with EMP)
CMTEDD	Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
DA	Development Application
DoEE	Department of the Environment and Energy (Commonwealth) formerly SEWPaC
ED	Economic Development (Part of CMTEDD)
EDP	Estate Development Plan
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EP Act	<i>Environment Protection Act 1997 (ACT)</i>
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwth)</i>
EPD	Environment and Planning Directorate (previously Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate)
EPSDD	Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (previously EPD)
LDA	Land Development Agency (under CMTEDD) (active until 30 June 2017)
LMA	Land Management Agreement
MNES	Matters of National Environmental Significance
NC Act	<i>Nature Conservation Act 2014 (ACT)</i>
NCA	National Capital Authority
NCP	National Capital Plan
NSW	New South Wales
PALM Act	<i>Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988 (Cwth)</i>
PD Act	<i>Planning and Development Act 2007 (ACT)</i>
PIT	Plan Implementation Team
SEWPaC	Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (now Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Energy)
SLA	Suburban Land Agency (established from 1 July 2017)
TaMS	Territory and Municipal Services Directorate (now TCCS)
TCCS	Transport Canberra and City Services (formerly TAMS)
the Plan	Gungahlin Strategic Assessment Biodiversity Plan

Note: References to Department and Directorate names in the body of this report are accurate as at the end of the reporting period, 30 June 2018.

1. Updates, changes and corrections

Correction to information and data

As reported in previous annual reports, in December 2013, the former Land Development Agency (LDA) determined that there were trees within the urban development area and close to the proposed estate boundary of Throsby that did not exist. This was determined to be a data error caused by a misreporting of GPS location. This error was discussed with DoE and the author of the report that recorded the data.

After substantial review, further survey and data reconciliation the DoE agreed that the development area as described in the Throsby Estate Development Plan is consistent with the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment and continues to protect all trees known to contain Superb parrot breeding behaviour, as well as establishing a 100m development buffer from most of these trees.

Updates to urban development timing and land management

Land Release Program

As reported in previous annual reports, each year the ACT Government prepares a four-year Indicative Land Release Program setting out the ACT Government's intended program of residential, commercial, industrial and community land releases. The Program is indicative and is subject to change as market conditions alter or as the ACT Government priorities adjust. The Land Supply and Policy Branch of EPSDD is responsible for preparing the Program in conjunction with other relevant Territory Directorates.

The ACT Government plans for the supply and release of land, taking account of factors such as forecast population changes, household changes, demand for land and the capacity to cost effectively deliver key infrastructure and services.

The four year Indicative Land Release Program enables the ACT Government to deliver on its economic and social strategies for the Territory.

The 2018-19 to 2021-22 Indicative Land Release Program includes the following release targets for Gungahlin:

- 4,644 dwellings
- 60,000m² of mixed use site area
- 62,000m² of commercial site area
- 90,900 m² community facility site area

More information about the Indicative Land Release Program is available on the following website:

[Land Supply Release Program 2018-19 to 2021-22](#)

2. Plan Implementation Team (PIT)

Meetings

The PIT was officially formed in January 2014. Records of correspondence issued during the reporting period are detailed in the table below.

Table 1 PIT Correspondence

No.	Date	Subject
1	1 August 2017	Letter from DoEE regarding the timeframes for the Independent Audit of the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment and Plan Review Report (Commitments 17 and 19).
2	6 January 2017	Letter to DoE regarding 2015-16 Annual Report and revised PIT Charter.
3	13 December 2018	Email to PIT members providing the completed Independent Audit of the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment report.
4	18 December 2018	Provided DoEE with a copy of the Independent Audit of the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment.
5	29 January 2018	PIT Response to the Independent Audit for the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment Corrective Action 15.
6	22 January 2018; 2 March 2018	Email to PIT members seeking comments on the Independent Audit for the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment Corrective Action 11a.
7	20 February 2018	Email to PIT members seeking comments on the Independent Audit for the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment Corrective Action 28.

Working groups

The Gungahlin Strategic Assessment working group comprises members from multiple divisions within EPSDD. The working group meets quarterly to discuss implementation and delivery of the commitments under the Plan.

Consultative groups

Several meetings were held with representatives from the Conservation Council since the Plan was approved.

During the 2017-2018 financial year, the Woodlands and Wetlands Trust (WWT) have been involved in consultations concerning the implementation of the Mulligans Flat and Goorooyaroo Nature Reserves Offset Management Plan (for the Throsby North, Throsby East and Kenny Broadacre offset areas).

An Extended Sanctuary Working Group was established in September 2015 and includes members of the Mulligans Flat Management sub-committee, employees of the Woodlands and Wetlands Trust, staff from the Parks and Conservation Service and staff from Conservation Research, EPSDD. Local experts may also be invited onto the working group. This group meets fortnightly and provides a forum for discussing the implementation of the offset management plan.

3. Report on performance by outcome/commitment

Table 2 describes the commitments from the Plan and the status of each commitment.

Item	Commitment	Responsibility (from 1 July 2016)	Comment	Timing and Date
1	Variation to the Territory Plan and amendment to the National Capital Plan for all proposed land use changes (including creation of Nature Reserves) in accordance with the Plan.	EPSDD/NCA	Timing for the establishment of nature reserves is linked to relevant development activities.	Completed 7 November 2015 for all areas except Kenny.
2	Develop and submit to the Department of the Environment (DoE) for approval, the framework for investment in offsets, monitoring, reporting, adaptive management, compliance and enforcement. This will identify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) indicative monitoring program for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. all MNES affected by the Plan; ii. newly created nature reserves; iii. Land Management Agreements for avoidance areas on NUZ3 – Hills Ridges and Buffers; b) reporting requirements and frequency for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. standard activities including monitoring, financial performance, measured outcomes; ii. reporting requirements for unanticipated or unapproved incidents. c) process for review, improvement, approval and incorporation of new procedures within an adaptive management framework; d) compliance and enforcement procedures associated with design, construction and operation phase activities. 	PIT	The framework for investment in offset management was approved by DoE on 2 November 2014. (DoE reference SA/20)	Complete.
3	Provide documented guidance on the development of concept plans to ensure appropriate land use planning for areas adjacent to MNES habitat and associated buffers for all urban development including specific consideration of the estate design/layout. This is inclusive of requirements for Asset Protection Zones (APZ) between the buffer zone and any residential development.	PIT	Concept plans or a similar planning documents (structure plans or planning and design frameworks) may not be required for all suburbs. Guidance documents have been prepared for Throsby and Taylor. The PIT provided direct comment on the EDPs for Moncrieff to ensure all commitments were met. Guidance documents for Jacka and Kenny will be prepared as required.	Ongoing. Prior to lodgement of EDP for each suburb. The specific timing will be determined as required by each development area.
4	Review and update Land Management Agreements (LMA) or management plans for all avoided areas of NUZ3 – Hills, Ridges and Buffers to ensure consistency with, and application of commitments of the Plan. As a part of this action, baseline condition assessment of all avoided areas including NUZ3 will be undertaken and LMAs will include conditions for compliance and enforcement.	EPSDD	The template for LMAs is currently being updated by PCS and other sections within EPSDD. The template will be negotiated with the relevant rural lessees. Delays have been experienced in the formal roll out of the updated LMA template particularly incorporating an LMA rural lease with a nature reserve overlay.	Negotiations for review and update of LMAs are continuing between PCS (EPSDD) and rural lease holders. Licences have been prepared under section 273 of the <i>Nature Conservation Act 2014</i> to enable rural lease holders to undertake various land management activities within Kinlyside Nature Reserve. A Service Agreement has been drafted for the Kinlyside rural lease holders to complement the updated LMAs.
5	Implement cat containment policy in all urban development areas.	TCCS	In early 2017 Jacka and Throsby commenced as cat containment areas. No other cat containment areas were declared during 2016/17.	See DI2015-58 - Domestic Animals (Cat Containment) Declaration 2015 (No 2). The following cat containment areas are currently in the process of being notified- Strathnairn, Macnamara and Gungahlin Town Centre East under the <i>Domestic Animals Act 2000</i> .

Item	Commitment	Responsibility (from 1 July 2016)	Comment	Timing and Date
6	Establishment of the 'Plan Implementation Team' (PIT); and Submission of initial / indicative team membership and charter to DoE for approval.	Whole of ACT Government	Establishment of PIT within 3 months of Plan endorsement Submission of Charter to DoE within 12 months of Plan endorsement.	Complete. PIT established on 17 January 2014. Charter submitted to DoE on 5 May 2014. Amended Charter was approved by DoE on 13 January 2017.
7	Establishment of a suitable mechanism to enable management of funds provided to the PIT for implementation of the Plan.	ACT Government	Funding to implement the actions as described in the Offset Management Plans was included in the 2016 ACT Government Budget.	Complete.
8	Develop and submit to DoE for approval a program of implementation of all of the commitments in the Plan.	PIT	The Program of Implementation was submitted on 11 May 2015. This is being negotiated and reviewed annually with the PIT.	Ongoing.
9	Develop a Reserve Management Plan for all new nature reserves in order to provide for adaptive management and condition improvement of the reserve in accordance with the objectives and commitments of the Plan.	EPSDD	The Kinlyside Nature Reserve and Offset Management Plan has been completed and is published on the ACT Environmental Offset Register .	Complete.
10	Develop amended Reserve Management Plans for existing reserves into which additional land is included as a result of the Plan in order to provide for adaptive management and condition improvement of the reserve in accordance with the objectives and commitments of the Plan.	EPSDD	The Mulligans Flat and Goorooyaroo Offset Management Plan is completed and was published on the ACT Environmental Offset Register in May 2016.	Complete.
11	Develop and submit to DoE for approval, the framework for CEMPs for areas directly or indirectly affecting MNES. This shall include the monitoring, reporting and compliance requirements of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> contractors undertaking physical works; and ACT Government officers or its representatives in auditing performance under the CEMP. 	PIT	Within 3 months of establishment of the PIT.	Completed on 20 December 2013
11a	Review and approve (subject to compliance with the Plan) CEMPs submitted for all new construction projects within the area subject to the Plan.	PIT	This is required to occur prior to the commencement of construction in areas identified for conservation in the Plan. A new CEMPs procedure has been implemented to improve efficiency and to ensure CEMP for greenfield developments in the GSA area are submitted and reviewed.	Ongoing.
12	Coordinate with TaMS – Asset Acceptance to ensure all obligations of contractors with respect to management of MNES in accordance with the Plan have been implemented prior to hand-over of assets to the Territory.	PIT	Prior to practical completion of each development contract. TCCS (formerly TaMS) will engage with the appropriate persons within their Directorate to ensure this requirement is achieved.	Ongoing.
13	Collection of baseline ecological information for all new reserve areas.	PIT	Baseline information was collated and used to inform the Habitat/Condition Improvement Plans and Offset Management Plans	Complete.
14	Ongoing collection of key ecological information for monitoring and reporting requirements.	EPSDD	Golden Sun Moth Results of GSM studies will be published on the EPSDD website	The MNES monitoring schedule is outlined in the <i>Managed MNES Ecological Monitoring and Research Plan</i> that is being finalised by ACT Government ecologists. GSM habitat mapping was undertaken at all offsets in 2017. GSM population monitoring was conducted in 2017 at Kinlyside and Throsby North, and will continue in 2018 and 2019. GSM habitat condition monitoring will take place at all offsets in 2018, 2019 and 2020.
			Superb Parrot Superb parrot monitoring is described at Item 31	Superb parrot monitoring was undertaken during 2016-17.

Item	Commitment	Responsibility (from 1 July 2016)	Comment	Timing and Date
			<p>Box Gum Woodland (across most offset areas)</p> <p>2017 BGW mapping was not consistent with 2014 mapping. Inconsistencies related to the type and location of woodland mapped (Horsepark North and Kenny Broadacre), changes in floristic diversity of the ground layer (Throsby North and East), and whether woodland is natural or plantation (Taylor).</p> <p>Results of this study will be published on the EPSDD website</p>	In 2017, BGW condition monitoring was delayed for a year so detailed mapping of woodland type and condition could be completed, and monitoring plots appropriately located across all woodland condition classes.
			<p>Pink-tailed Worm-lizard</p> <p>The extent of potential low, moderate and high quality PTWL habitat was mapped within Kinlyside in November 2016. 25 ha of potential moderate and high quality PTWL habitat was described. Remapping of PTWL habitat will take place in 2024.</p> <p>Population monitoring will not take place until a less invasive method is established.</p> <p>Results of this study will be published on the EPSDD website.</p> <p>The PTWL is not a MNES with commitment targets in the GSA Plan. Notwithstanding, data is being collected on the habitat of this species to inform land management planning and operations.</p>	No mapping or monitoring of PTWL habitat was undertaken in 2017-2018. Remapping of the site for PTWL will be undertaken in 2024, in line with the <i>Managed MNES Ecological Monitoring and Research Plan</i> .
15	<p>Any action that results in a breach of commitments of the Plan and adversely affects MNES values will be investigated and reported to DoE with identified recommendations for rectification, remediation or additional compensation.</p> <p>Remedial actions or additional compensation will be undertaken for controllable or avoidable actions which lead to a decline in MNES values with respect to the stated outcomes of the Plan.</p>	PIT	A new procedure has been implemented in response to the Audit Report and internal review of procedures. The new procedures set out responsibilities and timeframes for reporting a potential breach; and investigation process.	<p>Breaches to be investigated and the Commonwealth notified immediately.</p> <p>Investigation report to be finalised and submitted to DoE within 2 weeks of the incident coming to the attention of the PIT.</p> <p>No incidents reported for this reporting period.</p>
16	Prepare and submit Annual Reports (n=20). Highlighting the implementation of the actions and relevant conservation outcomes for MNES. All reports, in addition to any research related to the Plan will be published on the internet in a central location.	PIT	This is the responsibility of the lead Directorate for the PIT. In accordance with the Plan the 2017-2018 Annual Report will form part of the Plan Review Report.	Ongoing. Every financial year (within 2 months of the end of the financial year). 30 August each year until 2033.
17	Prepare and submit Plan Review Report (n=5). The final Plan Review Report will include a summarised synthesis of all knowledge gained over the life of the Plan in order that it represent a complete description of actions taken under the Plan, requirements for ongoing management and opportunities for future enhancement beyond the life of the Plan.	PIT	Commonwealth granted an extension to submit the Plan Review Report to 30 September 2018. This allowed the finding of the audit report to be incorporated into the Plan Review Report. The extension also allowed for an analysis of the most recent and historical ecological records.	Every fourth year from endorsement of the Plan (within 6 months of the end of financial year) until 30 August 2033.
18	Engage a third party (outside of the PIT membership or working group) to undertake an annual audit of financial management under the Plan. Findings of the audit are to be included in the annual report.	PIT	To coincide with annual reporting. This will be undertaken by an officer from Treasury or EPSDD Finance.	30 August each year until 2033.
19	Engage a third party to undertake an Independent Audit of the Plan's implementation (n=4).	PIT	The independent audit of the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment was undertaken by the Office of the Commissioner of Sustainability and the Environment. Completed November 2017.	20 June 2023, 2028, 2033.
20	Creation of new nature reserves in Kinlyside, Gorooyarroo and Mulligans Flat.	EPSDD	This has been completed through a Territory Plan variation.	Complete. The variation to the Territory Plan has been completed. See NI2014-501
21	Creation of nature reserve in Kenny.	EPSDD	This will be undertaken as required and relevant. Kenny is not on the Government's Indicative Land Release Program (2016 -17 to 2019-20).	Prior to commencement of construction in Kenny.
22	Commence management of a nature reserve in Kenny (160 hectares). Created by the excision of rural Block 775 Gungahlin from future development potential.	EPSDD	As above.	Prior to commencement of construction in Kenny. Construction has not commenced.

Item	Commitment	Responsibility (from 1 July 2016)	Comment	Timing and Date
23	Commence management of a nature reserve in Kinlyside (201 hectares) from the current extent of land in the RZ1 – Suburban zone under the Territory Plan in the location known as Kinlyside.	EPSDD	The nature reserve exceeds the stated 201 ha. The nature reserve is approximately 226 ha and the total area managed as an offset is 290 ha. The area is managed in accordance with the Kinlyside Offset Management Plan. This included negotiation of a services agreement with the existing leaseholder.	Complete. Management of Kinlyside Nature Reserve and offset area commenced in July 2015.
24	Commence management of additional 300 hectares to the Mulligan's Flat – Gorooyaroo nature reserve complex. Land to be excised from the future urban area of Throsby and the 'Kenny broad acre' area and managed for the protection of MNES.	EPSDD	Management of the extended Mulligans Flat and Gorooyaroo nature reserves commenced in July 2015. These areas are currently managed in accordance with the Canberra Nature Park Plan of Management 1999 (currently under review) and the Mulligans Flat and Gorooyaroo Reserves Offset Management Plan.	Complete. Management commenced in July 2015.
25	Commence management of additional 120 hectares to the north-western Hills, Ridges and Buffers zone from the urban areas of Taylor and Jacka in addition to the entire area of the north Horse Park broad acre area.	EPSDD	Funding for the management of these areas has been committed in the 2017-18 ACT budget.	Management of the values on these sites commenced in the 2016-17 financial period. Serrated Tussock control has continued at these 3 sites. Approximately \$82,000 in 2017-18 financial year. Stock has been removed from Block 826 portion of Horse Park North and a new fence has been erected. A new agistment licence has been prepared dictating conservation grazing in this area.
26	Improvement in the under-storey diversity of 104 hectares of box gum woodlands that presently do not meet the definition of the listed community. Areas subject to this action will include those that are presently in nature reserves in addition to areas that will become nature reserve as a result of implementing the Plan.	EPSDD in consultation with the PIT	This is described in the relevant Habitat Improvement Plan and is required to be completed within 20 years of endorsement of the Plan.	Ongoing. Vegetation monitoring was completed between September and November 2016 with full details of the monitoring contained in the ACT Box - Gum Woodland Offset Monitoring Report.
27	Habitat improvement plans for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • box gum woodland (approx. 104 hectares of habitat) • golden sun moth (up to 140 hectares of habitat) • striped legless lizard (up to 111 hectares of habitat) • superb parrot 	EPSDD	All habitat improvement plans are completed.	Complete.
28	Fire hazard management strategies that include specific considerations for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • box gum woodland • golden sun moth • striped legless lizard • superb parrot 	EPSDD	These are being developed for each reserve as ecological considerations are provided in the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan (ACT Gov). Delays have been experienced in the preparation of the fire hazard management strategy for Throsby until the predator proof fence alignment is confirmed. A farm fire wise plan is being developed by the ESA to identify fuel management requirements for Kinlyside. Farm fire wise plans are required for land under a rural lease. A Fire Management Strategy for Throsby and Horse Park North was completed on 20 February 2018.	Ongoing. The Fire Management Strategy for Taylor 2 is currently being prepared.

Item	Commitment	Responsibility (from 1 July 2016)	Comment	Timing and Date
29	Protect known superb parrot nesting trees including exclusion fencing of the interface between Throsby East Reserve and the future urban area to limit pedestrian access points.	EPSDD	<p>The Throsby EDP was approved in April 2016 including exclusion fencing to ensure that development activity did not impact on superb parrot nesting trees.</p> <p>A concept plan for the extended Mulligans Flat Sanctuary considers access, interpretation, education and recreation opportunities that are consistent with managing the values of MNES.</p> <p>The extended sanctuary predator proof fence design takes into consideration restricted pedestrian access points on the urban interface.</p>	<p>The Concept Plan is due for completion in 2016-17.</p> <p>Detailed design and construction and environmental approvals for the Throsby section of the predator proof fence (PPF) were completed in 2016-17.</p> <p>The Commonwealth Government announced funding of \$600,000 for the Mulligan's Flat Woodland Sanctuary. The ACT Government announced funding of \$162,000 in the 2017-18 budget to provide a grant to the Woodland and Wetlands Trust to work on design of the Mulligans Flat EcoTourism Centre.</p> <p>The final Predator Proof Fence (PPF) construction for the Throsby boundary is anticipated to be completed by October 2017, with construction currently focusing on the section of fencing closest to superb parrot nesting trees.</p> <p>Monitoring for the superb parrot was completed. Superb parrots were first detected at Throsby East on 21/09/2017. Bird surveys (monitoring) started on 27/09/2017. As far as I was aware, all work on the PPF stopped shortly prior to this. There was no indication that PPF construction impacted superb parrot breeding.</p> <p>Detailed design for the Gorooyarroo section of PPF is currently underway with construction programmed for completion by end June 2018.</p>
30	<p>Establish educational resources including signage and guidelines for residents of east Throsby, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of ecological values and significance of the Mulligan's Flat – Gorooyarroo nature reserve complex; • No domestic animals in reserves; • Management of pest species along the urban edge. 	EPSDD	<p>An interpretation strategy for the extended Mulligans Flat Sanctuary is being developed to identify priorities and opportunities for communicating the values of the Mulligans Flat and Gorooyarroo reserves.</p> <p>Temporary activities declaration signage in accordance with the <i>ACT Nature Conservation Act 2014</i> has been installed on the reserve boundary. The interpretation strategy will inform more formal signage designed for the urban edge.</p>	<p>The Mulligan's Flat Interpretation Strategy was completed in August 2016. Permanent signage will be designed and installed on the urban edge in 2016-17.</p> <p>A digital app will be developed and publically released in conjunction with the opening of the Learning Centre in 2019.</p> <p>Residents of Throsby have been communicated with directly through the installation of banners along the PPF and distribution of brochures advertising the values of the sanctuary.</p>

Item	Commitment	Responsibility (from 1 July 2016)	Comment	Timing and Date
31	Commence planning for implementation of focused research on superb parrot habitat requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research focusing on nest site selection, nest site fidelity, fecundity, population dynamics and methods of reducing or eliminating nest hollow competition from aggressive native species or exotic pests such as common myna and European honeybee. Assisted natural regeneration to facilitate future hollow formation will be undertaken in areas likely to be suitable as future nesting sites. Removal of stock leading to a reduction in localised compaction and concentration of nutrients, improving long term tree survival. 	ESDD	Superb parrot numbers, breeding behaviour, nesting attempts and productivity were monitored at Throsby East during the breeding season, from September 2017 to January 2018.	Ongoing.
32	Research golden sun moth habitat requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> may include research into translocation of golden sun moths fragmentation and proximity to urban areas 	EPSDD	Addressed in the Habitat Improvement Plan for this MNES. Moth counts, pupae counts and vegetation condition monitoring at translocation and control plots was undertaken in November/December 2017 and will be undertaken again in November/December 2018.	Ongoing.
33	Undertake control programs of ruderal species.	EPSDD	PCS have engaged the services of the Canberra Indian Myna Action Group to assist with monitoring and management of Indian Myna's. The project is now complete and an end of project report is due to be submitted quarter 4, 2018	Ongoing.
34	Undertake salvage and relocation of structural habitat elements such as rocks and logs.	Contractors	PCS has worked directly with the Throsby developers to stockpile woody debris, vertical stags (trees removed from the Throsby development) and rocks for habitat enhancement in the reserve. A total of approximately 1000 tonnes of woody debris was salvaged and relocated to the reserve. A total of three mature trees were removed and relocated to the reserve as potential future stags for proposed habitat enhancement. A total of approximately 500 tonnes of rock has been salvaged for future structural habitat elements in the reserves.	Ongoing. Woody debris placement in BGW was completed in the 2016-17 financial year. Tree stag relocation is complete. Raising the stags as vertical structures has been put on hold until the results are available of a similar structure at Molonglo Valley. Rocks are stockpiled for future use in dam rehabilitation scheduled for 2018-2019. Additional rock has been sourced and will be stockpiled for future use. The rock that was salvaged has been used in the Molonglo offset and the second engineered log jam at Tharwa. If possible additional rocks will be sourced for dam rehabilitation.
35	Undertake plantings to improve connectivity and wildlife movement along Gungahlerra and Sullivan's creeks, targeting in particular superb parrot movement corridors.	EPSDD	Woodlands and Wetlands Trust in conjunction with PCS undertook plantings throughout 2016-17. Approximately 6000 plantings (tree, shrubs and plant) were undertaken over three community planting days. The planting locations were selected to enhance connectivity and wildlife movement. Also the species selected are used by superb parrots, both for food foraging and habitat. Planting species also included rare and threatened species such as the Button Wrinklewort. The plantings were also able to contribute to the rehabilitation of Sullivan's creek through erosion control and stabilization.	Ongoing. All plantings along Sullivan's Creek have been completed. A full extent towards the suburb could not be achieved due to potential fire risk.
36	Undertake all bushfire management activities in line with ACT Government's Ecological Guidelines for Fuel and Fire Management Operations.	EPSDD	As required.	Ongoing.
37	The formula for funding set out in Table 5.3 over the 20 year life of the Plan will be implemented.	PIT	Upon endorsement of the Plan and approval of the class of actions permitting urban development of Gungahlin.	Ongoing.
38	Review the funding arrangements to ensure the Plan commitments are being met in the event of total expenditure variations of more than 5 per cent over the 20 year period (+/- \$1.325 million).	PIT	As part of the Plan Review Report process.	<u>See Item 17:</u> 30 December 2017, 2021, 2025, 2029, 2033.

4. Financial reporting

The majority of work during the 2017 - 2018 financial year has been undertaken by ACT Government employees as a direct allocation through the 'Protecting Threatened Species' budget initiative. This initiative has committed funding for the continued management of Throsby North, Throsby East, Kinlyside and Kenny Broadacre for MNES. Table 3 provides a comparison of the estimated expenditure for the offset sites in the Plan compared to the funding secured in the ACT Budget. An explanation of the difference in the figures is provided.

Table 3. Comparison of estimated expenditure between the Plan, the funding secured in the ACT Budget and 2016/17 expenditure

Offset Sites	Estimated expenditure in the Plan for 2017/18 \$'000	Funding spent in 2017/18	Comments
Direct Offsets			
Mulligans/ Goorooyarroo offset sites (incorporating Kenny Broadacre, Throsby North and Throsby East)	\$1,113	\$286,767	<p>The difference between the figures in the Plan and the amount estimated in the plan is due to changes in land management requirements and identified cost savings in the first few years while the offsets were being established.</p> <p>The original budget included costs to undertake works that are no longer required. This included large amounts (\$800,000 over 3 years) to rehabilitate potentially contaminated land. Investigations determined that this was not needed.</p> <p>While the amount spent in the initial establishment phase is less than what was first estimated, the total costs are likely to be spread out over the years to account for the planned environmental restoration programs linked to meeting conditions improvement targets.</p> <p>The overall funding secured within the ACT Budget to manage the offsets over 20 years is however, greater than the amount in the Plan. The amount secured provides assurance that the ACT Government is committed to delivering on the commitments in the Plan.</p>

Offset Sites	Estimated expenditure in the Plan for 2017/18 \$'000	Funding spent in 2017/18	Comments
Kinlyside	\$0	\$496,082	<p>The ACT Government has committed to retaining the rural leases and engaging the rural lessees to assist in the delivery of offset commitments.</p> <p>Both lessees have managed their rural leases for over 50 years. Over this time, they have protected the conservation values within their land, including the golden sun moth and box gum woodland community.</p> <p>The ACT Government is committed to retain both rural leases and will provide resources (funding) to the lessees and specialised contractors to undertake land management activities. This includes activities required to deliver on the commitments within the Plan and approved Habitat Improvement Plans, as well as other works to improve site condition (e.g. gully erosion abatement).</p> <p>This explains the funds spent on site over this reporting year.</p> <p>This approach is consistent with the ACT Environmental Offsets Policy and the ACT Environmental Offsets Policy Delivery Framework.</p>
Jacka, Taylor and Horse Park north	\$204	\$240,180	<p>The associated development was not commenced until 2016. Funding was secured in the 2016-17 budget bid. The funding received and spent differs from the figure in the Plan due to changes (increased) land management requirements.</p>
Kenny	\$611	n/a	<p>The associated development has not commenced.</p> <p>No funding has yet been sought through the ACT Government budget process to manage the offset site.</p>

Offset Sites	Estimated expenditure in the Plan for 2017/18 \$'000	Funding spent in 2017/18	Comments
Other non-site specific costs -staff -vehicles -equipment - monitoring	\$670	\$597,751	This is for the “other” non-site specific costs associated with delivering the commitments in the Plan. It includes staff, vehicle and machinery leases, monitoring. Some funding allocated to staff has been included in the research figures below.
Indirect Offsets			
Research	\$100	\$168,222	The research funding for 2017-18 has been fully allocated. This included funding to deliver research assessing the breeding and foraging behaviour of the superb parrot (including the engagement of a Woodland Ecologist) and Stage 2 of the GSM translocation project.

5. Financial audit

A financial audit was prepared by EPSDD Finance for expenditure in 2017-18. Summarised findings of the audit are included below. The total expenditure figures are included in Table 3 above.

Throsby	
Professional services	\$10,261.00
Fencing	\$77,303.00
Pest Management	\$62,702.00
Kangaroo Management	\$136,500.00
Total	\$286,767

Kinlyside	
Professional services	\$8,390.00
Fencing	\$211,923.00
Pest Management	\$25,528.00
Erosion Management	\$240,451.00
Lessee Management	\$9,790.00
Total	\$496,082

Jacka, Taylor and Horse Park North	
Fencing	\$72,740.00
Pest animals	\$15,308.00
Pest plants	\$78,030.00
Planning	\$25,987.00
Professional services	\$7,329.00
Revegetation	\$65,628.00
Track works	\$5,158.00
Total	\$240,180

Projected 2018-19 Expenditure

Expenditure for 2018-2019 will focus on continuing to deliver the relevant management actions previously identified in the individual offset management plans.

Projected expenditure includes but is not limited to the following:

- Continue to implement erosion control along Hall’s Creek (including maintenance of existing plantings). Land management actions to be delivered in conjunction with leaseholders (Commitments 9 and 23).
- Planning and commencement of targeted box gum woodlands restoration works (Commitment 26).
- Ongoing operational programs such as invasive weed and animal control, will continue in 2018-19 (Commitments 10, 24 and 25).
- Continuing to deliver on the superb parrot and golden sun moth translocation research projects (Commitment 27).
- Continue deliver the MNES monitoring program.

Future Funding

The total amount currently secured through the ACT Budget is \$9.4M (see table below). This funding is to manage all GSA offset sites (except Kenny) over the first four years.

The Table below identifies the total estimate expenditure for each offset site (calculated from the amounts in Table 5.3 in the GSA Biodiversity Plan) compared to the funding secured in the ACT Government budget. The total amount secured for the first four years is greater than the estimated expenditure.

The fourth year of funding also includes a recurrent budget, which provides on-going funding from year five and beyond. With these funds and the expected funding to manage the Kenny offset site in the future, the ACT Government is on track to fulfil its full funding commitments as per the GSA Biodiversity Plan.

For ease of reporting against ACT Government financial systems, the “other costs” (ie staff, vehicles, equipment etc) have been attributed to individual sites.

The recurrent (on-going) funding for GSA sites is estimated at \$1.4M per annum, noting that the total amount may vary depending on annual land management and restoration requirements. The GSA offset sites are funded by two separate business cases, which also included funds to manage other PCS managed offset sites. The total amount of recurrent funds secured within these business cases totals \$3M per annum

Offset Sites	Estimated expenditure in the Plan (first four years)*	Funding secured through the ACT Budget (first four years)^ \$'000
Direct Offsets		
Mulligan’s Flat/Goorooyarroo offset sites (incorporating Kenny)	\$2,864,404	\$5.582M (secured in 2015-16 budget)

Offset Sites	Estimated expenditure in the Plan (first four years)*	Funding secured through the ACT Budget (first four years)^ \$'000
Broadacre, Throsby North and Throsby East)		
Kinlyside	\$0.00	\$2.201M (secured in 2015-16 budget)
Jacka, Taylor and Horse Park north	\$723,200	\$1.172M (secured in 2016-17 budget)
Kenny	\$2,002,437	Nil to date
Other costs	\$2,462,243	Costed to individual sites (above)
Indirect Offsets		
Research	\$399,997	\$0.415M (secured in 2015-16 budget)
Total (first four years)	\$8,452,281*	\$9.370M

* calculated from figures in Table 5.3 in the GSA Biodiversity Plan

^ Figures have been given for the first four years only. This funding includes three years capital funding and one year recurrent funding. Recurrent funding will continue in the fifth year and beyond, however, figures are only reflected here for the first four years to be consistent with the secured funding identified in the ACT Budget papers.

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