

Gungahlin Strategic Assessment

Annual Report 2015-2016

Annual report for the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment and Biodiversity Plan for the period
1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate, ACT Government

January 2017

Acknowledgements

The Plan Implementation Team would like to extend appreciation to the contributions made to the Annual Report by the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, the Land Development Agency and the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate.

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List of Abbreviations

ACT	Australian Capital Territory
CEMP	Construction Environment Management Plan (interchangeable with EMP)
CMTEDD	Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
DA	Development Application
DoE	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)
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)
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 2016.

Executive summary

Plan Implementation Team chair person statement

The ACT Government continues to release land in the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment area, in accordance with the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment Biodiversity Plan (the Plan). As implementation of the project has progressed, membership and governance of the PIT has evolved to be more reliant on operational staff.

The ACT Government released more than 2000 residential dwelling sites in the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment area (Throsby and Taylor) during the 2015-2016 financial year. Gungahlin Town Centre East estate development plan (EDP) is currently under assessment. In line with development, Conservation Management Plans and Offset Management Plans have been finalised. These plans include measures for monitoring and research and continued management of MNES within the areas added to existing nature reserves.

Funding to manage an additional 120 hectares added to the north-western hills, ridges and buffers zone from the urban areas of Taylor and Jacka was secured in the 2016-17 ACT Government budget. Several research projects have been sponsored by the ACT Government, which among other things undertook the first satellite transmitter study of foraging superb parrots and translocated striped legless lizards and golden sun moths. In addition, the ACT Government has invested over \$655,000 during the last financial year in offset management. These contributions and the employment of dedicated staff to implement offset management plans reflect the ACT Governments' commitment to and investment into the environment and biodiversity conservation.

Brett Phillips

Chair – Plan Implementation Team
Executive Director, Planning Delivery
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

Background

In October 2012, the ACT and Commonwealth governments commenced a strategic assessment under Part 10 of the EPBC Act. The focus of the strategic assessment was to assess the potential impacts from development of the remaining identified green-field sites in Gungahlin, the northern-most district in the ACT, on MNES protected under the EPBC Act.

The Plan was endorsed on 20 June 2013 and the actions associated with the development were approved on 17 July 2013. As a result of the approval, the Plan has streamlined the development process by removing the need for site by site assessment of MNES.

The Plan outlines the activities required to complete the urban development of the Gungahlin district. Accordingly, the Plan is defined by the establishment and implementation of measures to effect urban development and biodiversity conservation within Gungahlin. The Plan is relevant to the following areas as they appear in the Territory Plan:

- Urban development areas of Kenny, Throsby, Moncrieff, Jacka (north), Taylor;
- Urban development areas (currently zoned Commercial (CZ2) and Mixed Use (CZ5)) in the Gungahlin Town Centre (east); and
- Conservation areas, including broad acre areas, being additions to Gorooyarroo and Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve, Kenny Nature Reserve, Horse Park north broad acre, Kenny broad acre and Kinlyside Nature Reserve.

The assessment area and Plan in summary is presented as **Figure 1**.

Annual Reporting under the Plan

This annual report is a comprehensive report on the activities related to the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment throughout the preceding year, being 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016. The annual report provides information about ACT Government activities and performance against the commitments of the endorsed Plan.

Commitments

The Plan identifies a range of commitments to be undertaken by the ACT Government targeting MNES affected by urban development in Gungahlin on the basis of analysis presented in the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment - Assessment Report. Commitments in the Plan build upon the long history of forward and strategic environmental planning in the ACT around the avoidance and mitigation of environmental impacts resulting from development.

In summary, the commitments include:

- Avoidance of areas that support habitat for MNES on land presently designated as developable (either RZ1 – Suburban (including Future Urban Area) or NUZ1 - broadacre);
- Increased investment in habitat enhancement beyond the minimum level required by ACT legislation; and
- Increased investment in research targeted at the affected MNES and guided by action planning objectives.

Direct impacts on MNES have either been avoided (pink-tailed worm-lizard, superb parrot breeding sites, important migratory bird habitat) or minimised through protecting core, well connected endangered woodland or habitat (box-gum woodland, golden sun moth or striped legless lizard habitat).

Plan Implementation Team

The PIT is responsible for both implementing the Plan and also ensuring that accurate records are maintained for all activities that are undertaken in relation to implementation of the Plan. PIT activities are described in the PIT Charter. Further information on the PIT is described in the relevant section of this report.

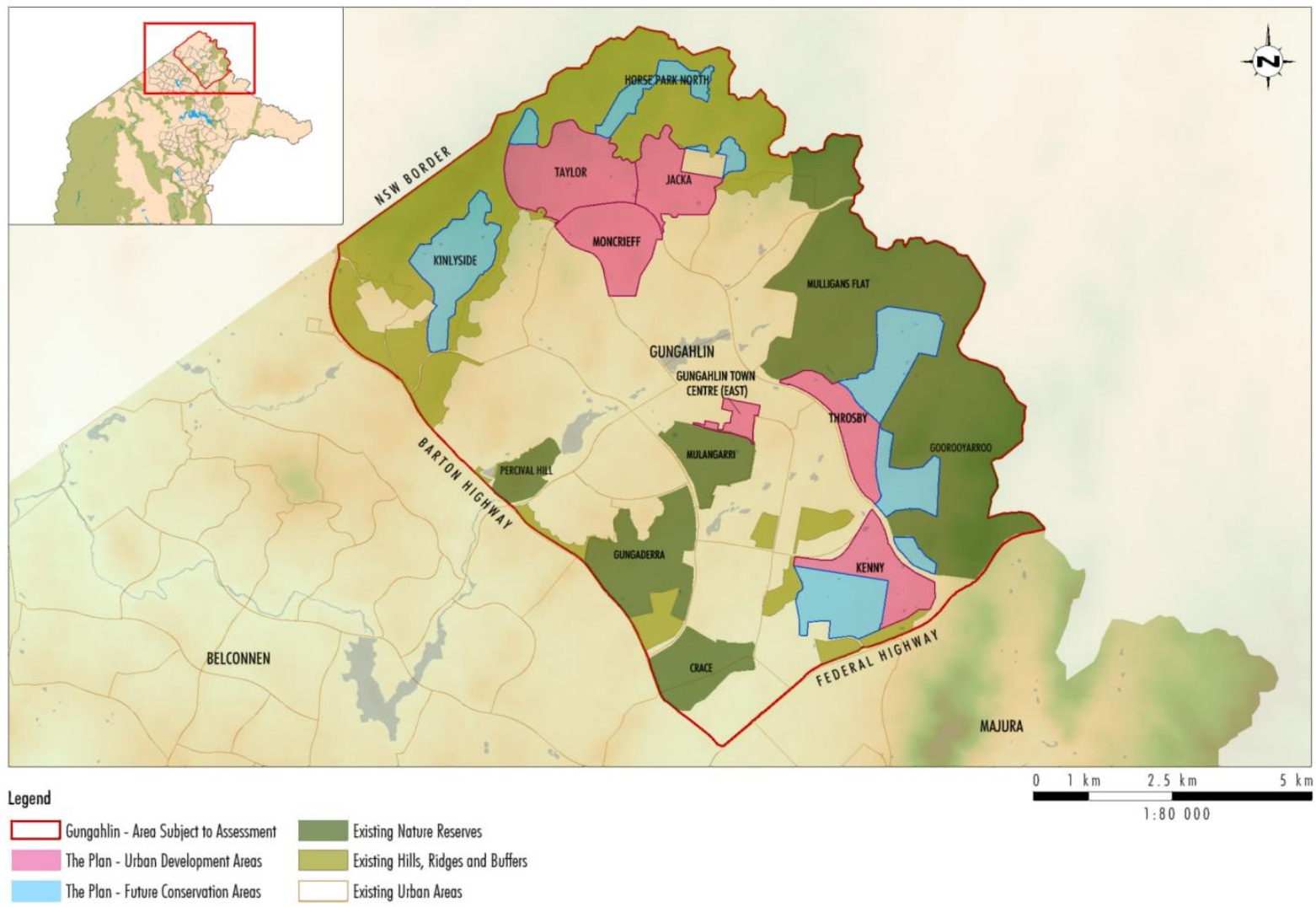


Figure 1 Overview of the Plan

Corporate outcome: Organisational effectiveness

The strategic assessment approvals monitoring and implementation is the responsibility of the PIT, which was coordinated by ED, CMTEDD during the 2015-16 financial year. Membership was established prior to the charter being finalised and as such the members were able to shape the charter to one that was operationally suitable to the ACT Government structure.

To ensure the PIT members are informed on matters for consideration, members of each Directorate have formed an informal working group to discuss issues and make recommendation to the PIT. This model has been well received by the PIT and the working group members and will continue.

Updates, changes and corrections

Correction to information and data

In December 2013 the 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 establish a 100m development buffer from most of these trees.

Updates to urban development timing and land management

Land Release Program

Each year the ACT Government prepares a four-year Indicative Land Release Program setting out the 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 Government priorities adjust. CMTEDD 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 Government to deliver on its economic and social strategies for the Territory. It also contributes to financial and environmental objectives by seeking to:

- facilitate the provision of affordable housing choices;
- meet the demand for land in the Territory;
- establish an appropriate inventory of serviced land;
- enable the operation of a competitive land development and construction market; and
- achieve satisfactory returns from the sale of unleased Territory land.

The 2016-2017 Indicative Land Release Program includes a sale target of 17,780 residential dwelling sites over the next four years which reflects a minor increase of 590 dwelling sites on the program published with the 2015-16 Budget. In 2016-17, 4,550 dwelling sites are programmed for release and the forecast for 2017- 18 is 4430. This is expected to increase to an estimated 4700 in 2018-19 before easing in 2019-20 to 4,100 dwelling sites released. The expected land release for residential dwellings in Gungahlin Strategic Assessment area in 2016-17 is 900 dwellings in Moncrieff, Taylor and Throsby.

The land released in Gungahlin and associated with the strategic assessment area for the 2015-2016 year was 842 dwelling sites in Taylor and 1099 dwelling sites in Throsby.

More information about the 2016-17 to 2019-20 Indicative Land Release Program is available on the following website:

http://www.economicdevelopment.act.gov.au/buy-land-and-build/land-release/land_supply_strategy/ilrp-2016/indicative-land-release-program

Kenny

The development of Kenny has been delayed due to development constraints identified on the site. Further work is being undertaken by the LDA to determine the most suitable outcomes and development options for this suburb. The Territory Plan Variation did not include Kenny due to the planning uncertainties in this suburb.

Kinlyside

The Nature Reserve originally proposed for Kinlyside has increased in land area with areas targeted for restoration detailed in the [Kinlyside Offset Management Plan](#).

The area of land previously zoned residential has been included in the Territory Plan Variation for conversion to Hills, Ridges and Buffer Zone to be managed within existing rural leases. The Parks and Conservation Service will provide land management assistance where required, including direction on habitat protection and improvement as well as bush fire management and protection activities.

The Kinlyside Nature Reserve was created and gazetted through a Territory Plan Variation on 6 November 2014. The Nature Reserve includes a large section of land adjacent to Casey. Some areas will remain being managed for agricultural purposes due to their low conservation value and contribution to the successful farming requirements of the rural leases. The reserve will be managed under a conservation lease by the existing rural leasee. Kinlyside Nature Reserve will be in excess of the original proposed 201ha and include a greater opportunity to protect and enhance ecological values of the area while allowing rural leases to continue some agricultural activities such as stock grazing. Funding to assist in land management has been secured through the ACT Budget process.

The area subject to the variation is shown in Figure 2 below – noting the area converted to non-urban (protected from urban development) has increased from 201ha to 290ha and the nature reserve area has been created within this area.

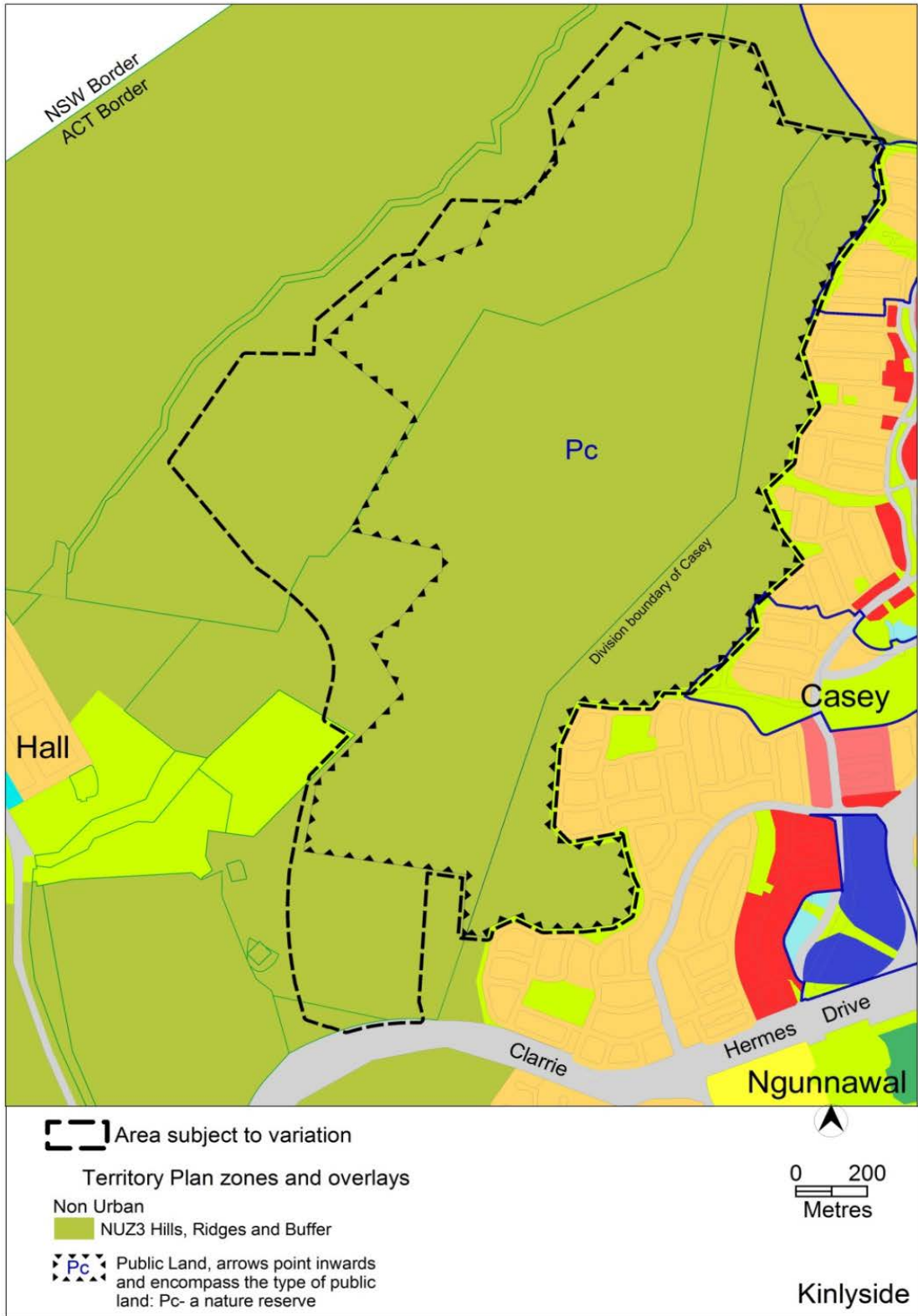


Figure 2 Kinlyside Territory Plan Map

Plan Implementation Team

Background

The PIT is responsible for all aspects of implementation of the Plan in addition to ensuring accurate records are maintained of all activities that are conducted in relation to implementation of the Plan.

Commitment 6 of the Plan describes the requirement of the ACT Government in establishing a PIT.

Commitment 6
Establishment of the 'Plan Implementation Team' (PIT) and submission of initial / indicative team membership and charter to DoE for approval. This will also include a description of the governance arrangements pertaining to the operation of the team that will guide it in the discharge of its duties.
Status
The PIT was established on 17 January 2014 with the nomination of executive representatives from each relevant Directorate. The charter was completed on 5 May 2014. As the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment project has moved into implementation phase, the PIT membership and Charter are under review to reflect the requirements for the implementation phase

The PIT was established in 2013 and it was a multi-agency group drawn from executives within TaMS, EPD, CMTEDD and coordinated by ED, CMTEDD. However, from 1 July 2016 the responsibility for compliance monitoring and reporting vests in Planning Delivery, EPSDD.

The PIT membership has been reviewed to ensure an appropriately operational focus is taken. The PIT Charter has also been revised to reflect these changes. DoE will be informed of the revised PIT membership and Charter once it is finalised.

The PIT team will continue to be guided by input from relevant ACT agencies to ensure consistency and efficiency in implementation and investment (for example, coordination of weed management activities across reserve and offset areas).

The PIT will operate for the 20 year life of the Plan. Upon conclusion of the Plan, ongoing management responsibility will divest in the appropriate ACT Government agency. The PIT will ensure the appropriate transfer and accessibility of information gathered over the life of the Plan. The PIT will operate with a mandate to ensure a whole-of-government approach to implementation of the Plan.

Membership

As of 30 June 2016 the PIT comprised:

- Land Development and Corporate, ED, CMTEDD (Lead Directorate);
- Treasury, CMTEDD;
- Planning Delivery, EPD; and
- Parks and Conservation Service, TaMS

Charter

The charter was approved by DoE on 3 June 2014. The Charter is currently under review.

Meetings

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

Table 1 PIT meeting items

No.	Date and location	Items on agenda
1	27 July 2015	Referral of final draft offset management plan for the extension of Mulligans Flat and Goorooyaroo Nature Reserve to PIT members for consideration. Nil comments received.
2.	31 August 2015	Inform PIT members of DoE's endorsement of the Improvement Plans for the Matters of National Environmental Significance.
3	10 September 2015	Referral of the final draft Annual Report 2014-2015 to PIT members for consideration. Nil comments received.
4	16 September 2015	Written Correspondence – referral of the Superb Parrot Monitoring in Gungahlin and Molonglo by Umwelt to Conservation Council.
5	29 September 2015	Referral of the final draft of the Kinlyside Offset Management Plan to PIT members for consideration. Nil comments received.
6	14 October 2015	PIT Chair informs PIT members of endorsement of the Construction Environmental Management Plans for Stage 1 Throsby Residential Estate and Gungahlin Town Centre estate development. Nil comments received.
7	23 February 2016	PIT informs EPD Customer Service there are no comments on the proposed Moncrieff school development.
8	1 March 2016	PIT provides comments to EPD Customer Service on the proposed Taylor Stage 1 EDP DA.

Working groups

Internal working group

The working group has met on a needs basis to discuss issues, clarify information, process, and commitments. Any relevant recommendations, outcomes and decisions are referred to the PIT.

In addition, the Environmental Offsets Working Group, which includes representatives from each organisation involved in the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment working group, met regularly during the 2015-16 financial year. Management of offsets in Gungahlin was discussed in these meetings.

Consultative groups

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

During the 2015-2016 financial year, the members of the PIT kept regular correspondence with the Conservation Council to either advise them of the development or to seek comments for some projects. The Woodlands and Wetlands Trust (WWT) have also been involved in consultations concerning the implementation of the Mulligans Flat and Gorooyarroo 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 Committee, employees of the Woodlands and Wetlands Trust, staff from the Parks and Conservation Service, staff from Conservation Research and staff from Design and Development. Local experts may also be invited onto the working group. This group meets fortnightly and among other things provides a forum for discussing the implementation of the offset management plan (Appendix 1 – Extended Sanctuary Working Group – Terms of Reference).

Report on performance by outcome/commitment

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

Table 2 Commitments, delivery and timing

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 document (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.	PCS (EPSDD)	The template for LMAs is currently being updated by PCS and other sections within EPSDD. These 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. The aim is that both the LMA and Service Agreement are executed in 2016-2017.
5	Implement cat containment policy in all urban development areas.	TCCS	Jacka and Throsby have been announced as cat containment areas commencing early 2017. No other cat containment areas were declared during 2015/16.	During detailed planning of each suburb.
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 17 January 2014. Charter submitted to DoE on 5 May 2014.

Item	Commitment	Responsibility (from 1 July 2016)	Comment	Timing and Date
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	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.	PCS (EPSDD)	The Kinlyside Nature Reserve and Offset Management Plan addresses management actions appropriate for MNES that occur in the reserve. The plan was developed to be consistent with the Habitat Improvement Plans for each MNES.	The Kinlyside Nature Reserve and Offset Management Plan is published on the ACT Environmental Offset Register .
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.	PCS (EPSDD)	The Mulligans Flat and Gorooyarroo Offset Management Plan, which addresses management actions appropriate for MNES, is complete and was developed to be consistent with the Habitat Improvement Plans for each MNES.	The Mulligans Flat and Gorooyarroo Offset Management Plan was published on the ACT Environmental Offset Register in May 2016.
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. CEMPs for Taylor and Throsby have been approved during 2015/16.	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		Complete. Baseline information has been collated and used to inform the Habitat/Condition Improvement Plans and Offset Management Plans.
14	Ongoing collection of key ecological information for monitoring and reporting requirements.	PCS (EPSDD)	Golden Sun Moth population and habitat monitoring for Throsby North and Kinlyside was undertaken by qualified ecologists from SMEC between October – December 2015. Results of this study are published on the EPSDD website . In the Spring of 2015, ten pairs of Superb Parrots nested in the Throsby offset area, while one pair nested within the development area. Development activity was excluded within 100m of the active nest tree, until the young had left the area. This pair laid 6 eggs, hatched 5 and successfully fledged 3 individuals. In total the eleven pairs hatched between them 50 eggs and successfully fledged 40 young.	Golden Sun Moth population and habitat monitoring commenced Spring 2015 – ongoing. Superb Parrot monitoring commenced Spring 2015 – ongoing. Box Gum Woodland condition monitoring scheduled for Spring 2016. The MNES monitoring schedule is outlined in the Habitat Improvement Plans and Offset Management Plans.
15	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. 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.	PIT	Decline in MNES values as determined by trend analysis to be investigated upon identification of the decline in the annual report. Report to DoE with recommended course of action to be submitted within 2 months.	Breaches to be investigated and the Commonwealth notified immediately. Investigation report to be finalised and submitted to DoE within 2 weeks of the incident coming to the attention of the PIT. No incidents reported for this reporting period.

Item	Commitment	Responsibility (from 1 July 2016)	Comment	Timing and Date
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.	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	Every fourth year from endorsement of the Plan (within 6 months of the end of financial year)	30 December 2017, 2021, 2025, 2029, 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	Every fifth year from endorsement of the Plan.	20 June 2018, 2023, 2028, 2033.
20	Creation of new nature reserves in Kinlyside, Gorooyaroo and Mulligans Flat.	EPSDD	This has been completed through a Territory Plan variation.	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.	PCS (EPSDD)	As above.	Prior to commencement of construction in Kenny. Construction has not commenced.
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.	PCS (EPSDD)	The nature reserve exceeds the stated 201ha. The nature reserve is approximately 226ha and the total area managed as an offset is 290ha. 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.	PCS (EPSDD)	Management of the extended Mulligans 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.	PCS (EPSDD)	Funding for the management of these areas has been committed in the 2016-17 ACT budget.	Management of the values on these sites will commence in the 2016-17 financial period.
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.	PCS (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.	20 June 2033
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 with input from PCS	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 	PCS (EPSDD)	These are being developed for each reserve as ecological considerations are provided in the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan (ACT Govt). Delays have been experienced in the preparation of the fire hazard management strategy for Throsby until the predator proof fence alignment is confirmed.	Due to be completed in 2016-17 for both Throsby and Kinlyside.

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.	PCS (EPSDD) and LDA, CMTEDD	<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 is being developed to consider access, interpretation, education and recreation opportunities that are consistent with managing the values of MNES.</p> <p>The extended Sanctuary Predator Proof Fence design (currently being negotiated with relevant stakeholders) 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>Final Predator Proof Fence design for the Throsby boundary is due for completion in 2016-17.</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 – Goorooyaroo nature reserve complex; • No domestic animals in reserves; • Management of pest species along the urban edge. 	PCS and LDA, CMTEDD	<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 Goorooyaroo 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 Interpretation Strategy is due for completion in 2016-17.</p> <p>Permanent signage will be designed and installed on the urban edge in 2016-17.</p>
31	<p>Commence planning for implementation of focused research on superb parrot habitat requirements:</p> <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. 	EPSDD (CPR) and CMTEDD	<p>Commence within 12 months of endorsement of Plan. EPSDD and CMTEDD to facilitate design of projects. PCS will provide input.</p> <p>Research and baseline data has been collected on nest tree selection, characteristics and dimensions of nesting hollows, breeding productivity, social and breeding behaviour, inter- and intra-specific competition, hollow visitation rates, foraging movements and foraging site selection.</p> <p>Wildlife cameras revealed that once they have laid eggs Superb Parrots usually ward off the frequent visits of a wide range of other hollow nesting species, from possums to kestrels, starlings to cockatoos.</p> <p>Small transmitters attached to the wings of adults feeding young found that they shared foraging areas, and mainly gleaned food from playing fields and parks in Harrison and Kaleen or from remnant or planted woodlands such as Watson Woodlands or the plantings at the Australian Institute of Sport.</p>	Ongoing.

Item	Commitment	Responsibility (from 1 July 2016)	Comment	Timing and Date
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 (CPR)	<p>This is described in the Habitat Improvement Plan for this MNES.</p> <p>Five 4 x 2.5 m plots of soil and turf were excavated from part of the proposed suburb of Taylor where high densities (in excess of 50 moths within tens of square metres) had previously been observed. The plots were transported to prepared receiving “beds” at an area within Kinlyside, that appeared to contain suitable habitat, but no moths had been observed at the location in surveys over the three previous years.</p> <p>The Taylor source area is very heavily infected with Serrated Tussock (<i>Nasella trichotoma</i>). During the work we found many Golden Sun Moth (GSM) caterpillars deeply embedded in the roots of this weed and it is fairly certain that this critically endangered moth can also feed on Serrated Tussock. This is not surprising as the moth larvae is already known to feed on the roots of the closely related Chilean Needle Grass (<i>Nasella neesiana</i>). 25 caterpillars, as well as the serrated tussock roots on which they were feeding were collected and stored in deep freeze to allow the possibility of future stomach analysis of the moth.</p>	As described in the Habitat Improvement Plans. Ongoing – moth counts and habitat mapping will be undertaken over 20 years.
33	Undertake control programs of ruderal species.	PCS (EPSDD)	PCS have engaged the services of the Canberra Indian Myna Action Group to assist with monitoring and management of Indian Myna’s.	Ongoing.
34	Undertake salvage and relocation of structural habitat elements such as rocks and logs.	Contractors	<p>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.</p> <p>A total of approximately 1000 tonnes of woody debris was salvaged and relocated to the reserve.</p> <p>A total of three mature trees were removed and relocated to the reserve as potential future stags for proposed habitat enhancement.</p> <p>A total of approximately 500 tonnes of rock has been salvaged for future structural habitat elements in the reserves.</p>	<p>Woody debris placement commenced in November 2015 and is due for completion in 2016-17.</p> <p>Tree stag relocation commenced in February 2016 and subject to engineering solutions will be raised as vertical structures in 2016-17.</p> <p>Rocks were salvaged for future use in June 2016.</p>
35	Undertake plantings to improve connectivity and wildlife movement along Gungahlerra and Sullivan’s creeks, targeting in particular superb parrot movement corridors.	LDA, ED and PCS (EPSDD)	LDA to assist in design, PCS to coordinate where it will occur on Government land.	Not commenced.
36	Undertake all bushfire management activities in line with ACT Government’s Ecological Guidelines for Fuel and Fire Management Operations.	PCS (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.	See Item 17: 30 December 2017, 2021, 2025, 2029, 2033.

Financial Reporting

The majority of work during the 2015 - 2016 financial year has been undertaken by ACT Government employees as a direct allocation through the Protecting Threatened Species ACT Government 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 2015/16 expenditure

Offset Sites	Estimated expenditure in the Plan for 2015/16 \$'000	Funding sought and received in 2015/16 Budget \$'000	Funding spent in 2015/16	Comments
Direct Offsets				
Mulligans/ Goorooyarroo offset sites (incorporating Kenny Broadacre, Throsby North and Throsby East)	Total: \$1,113 \$856 – on-ground costs \$257 - “other costs”	Total: \$911 \$678 – on-ground costs \$233 – “other costs”	\$586,753	<p>The difference between the figures in the Plan and the amount sought and received through the budget bid is due to changes in land management requirements and identified cost savings in the first few years while the offsets are 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>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>

Kinlyside	Total: \$173 \$0 – on-ground \$173 - “other costs”	Total: \$638 \$562 – on-ground \$77 – “other costs”	\$68,448	<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 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 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	Nil	n/a	<p>The associated development was not commenced until 2016. Funding was secured in the 2016/17 budget bid. The first year’s expected expenditure is approximately \$127,000.</p> <p>This differs from the figure in the Plan due to changes in land management requirements.</p>
Kenny	\$611	Nil	n/a	<p>The associated development has not commenced. No funding has yet been sought through the ACT Government budget process to manage this offset site.</p> <p>Kenny is not on the Government’s Indicative Land Release Program (2016/17 to 2019/20).</p>

Other non-site specific costs -staff -vehicles -equipment	\$670	Costed to individual sites (above)	Figures included above	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 and the cost associated with upgrading current office accommodation for the increased staff required to manage the offset sites. The current funding does not provide for a full complement of offset staff. Additional staff will be required as other GSA offsets come on line.
Indirect Offsets				
Research	\$100	\$100	\$90,000	There was an underspend in 2015-16. The research funding for 2016-17 has been fully allocated. Funding from 2017-18 onwards is being incorporated into a 5 year MNES monitoring and research plan, which will look at how both the monitoring and research funds can be best utilised to fulfil commitments and support other established and future priority ACT Government MNES monitoring and research programs.

Financial Audit

A financial audit was prepared by EPSDD Finance for expenditure in 2015-16. Summarised findings of the audit are included below. The total expenditure figures are included in Table 3 above.

Throsby	
Operational Salaries	\$55,152
Admin Salaries	\$62,982
Vehicle	\$7,567
Indirect (Insurance/Training)	\$20,123
Tools and Equipment	\$12,764
Other Operational Expenses	\$305,744
Tree Works	\$45,167
Pest Management	\$14,977
Weed Control	\$62,277
Total	\$586,753

Kinlyside	
Operational Salaries	\$55,152
Admin Salaries	\$463
Vehicle	\$6,277
Indirect (Insurance/Training)	\$331
Other Operational Expenses	\$6,225
Total	\$68,448

Projected 2016-17 Expenditure

Expenditure for 2016/2017 will focus on the relevant management actions previously identified in the individual offset management plans. For commitment 25 expenditure will focus on priority land management issues as they are identified.

Projected expenditure includes but is not limited to the following:

- Undertake strategic erosion control at several sites along Hall's Creek and continue land management actions in conjunction with leaseholders (Commitments 9 and 23)
- Ongoing operational programs such as invasive weed and animal control, as well as further development of site specific plans (Commitments 10 and 24)
- Targeting priority land management issues including reducing the impacts of invasive plants (Commitment 25)

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.

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/Goorooyarro offset sites (incorporating Kenny Broadacre, Throsby North and Throsby East)	\$2,864,404	\$5.582M (secured in 2015-16 budget)
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.

Areas of Non-Compliance

The ACT notes the following areas of non-compliance with the commitments of the Plan. There are no recorded incidences of impacts on MNES that are protected by the Plan as a result of these non-compliances.

No.	Commitment	Non-Compliance matter
8	Commitment 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 	Delays in the preparation of the fire hazard management strategies for the Mulligans Flat and Goorooyarro Offset areas (Throsby North, Throsby East and Kenny Broadacre) have been delayed until an alignment for the predator proof fence is confirmed. This strategy and one for Kinlyside will be completed in the 2016-17 period.

References

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http://www.planning.act.gov.au/topics/design_build/da_assessment/environmental_assessment/offsets_register

Umwelt (2013a) *Gungahlin Strategic Assessment Biodiversity Plan: Final*, prepared for ACT Economic Development Directorate and ACT Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate, Canberra (June, 2013)

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Umwelt (2013b) *Preliminary Risk Assessment, Gungahlin Strategic Assessment: Final*, prepared for ACT Economic Development Directorate and ACT Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate, Canberra (May, 2013)