

Gungahlin Strategic Assessment

Annual Report 2014-2015

Annual report for the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment and Biodiversity plan for the period of
1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, ACT Government

October 2015

Acknowledgements

The Plan Implementation Team would like to extend appreciation to the contributions made to the Annual Report by the Office of the Coordinator General, Economic Development, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, representatives of the Territory and Municipal Services Directorate, Environment and Planning Directorate, and the Land Development Agency.

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List of Abbreviations

ACT	Australian Capital Territory
APZ	Asset Protection Zone (includes both inner and outer APZ)
CEMP	Construction Environment Management Plan (interchangeable with EMP)
CPR	Conservation Planning and Research unit (under EPD)
CMTEDD	Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
DA	Development Application
DoE	Department of the Environment (Commonwealth) previously 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 Agency
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwth)</i>
EPIP Act	<i>Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974 (Cwth, repealed)</i>
EMP	Environment Management Plan (interchangeable with CEMP)
ESA	Emergency Services Authority
EPD	Environment and Planning Directorate (Previously Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate)
ILRP	Indicative Land Release Program
LDA	Land Development Agency (under CMTEDD)
LMA	Land Management Agreement
MNES	Matters of National Environmental Significance
NC Act	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1980 (ACT)</i>
NCA	National Capital Authority
NCP	National Capital Plan
NSW	New South Wales
PA	Preliminary Assessment
PALM Act	<i>Australian Capital Territory (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988 (Cwth)</i>
PCG	Project Control Group
PD Act	<i>Planning and Development Act 2007 (ACT)</i>
PDF	Planning and Design Framework
PIT	Plan Implementation Team
SBMP	Strategic Bushfire Management Plan (Version 3, 2014)
SEWPaC	Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (currently Commonwealth Department of the Environment)
TaMS	Territory and Municipal Services Directorate

Executive summary

Plan Implementation Team statement

The ACT Government continues to prepare land for release into the market in the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment area. In line with development, large areas of ecologically valuable land has been committed to Nature Reserve or been transferred into Hills, Ridged and Buffer areas under the Territory Plan. This contribution reflects the ACT Government's commitment to and investment into the environment and biodiversity conservation.

In addition to the contribution to the management of reserves, the Land Development Agency has sponsored a research project on the Superb parrot, *Polytelis swainsonii* and the Environment and Planning Directorate has begun designing projects for Golden Sun Moth, *Synemon plana*. The Territory and Municipal Services Directorate has drafted Offset Management Plans that include bushfire management for each of the newly created reserves as well as the components added to existing Nature Reserves.

Habitat Improvement Plans have been prepared for each of the four targeted Matters of National Environmental Significance. The finalisation of these plans mark an important milestone in achieving the anticipated conservation gains in the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment area.

In relation to development, the ACT Government released land for sale to prospective residents in Moncrieff. The ACT Government's Indicative Land Release Program has identified 1800 dwelling sites for Moncrieff with 500 sites being released and the public able to purchase sites in November 2014.

Ben Ponton

Chair – Plan Implementation Team

Deputy Director General, Land Development and Corporate, Economic Development
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

Background

In October 2012, the ACT and Commonwealth Governments commenced a Strategic Assessment under Part 10 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (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 assessment area and Plan in summary is presented as Figure 1.

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 the District of 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 Goorooyaroo and Mulligans Flat Nature Reserve, Kenny Nature Reserve, Horse Park north broad acre Kenny broad acre; and Kinlyside Nature Reserve.

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 2014 to 30 June 2015. The annual report will give interested people information about the ACT Government activities and performance against the commitments of the approved Gungahlin Strategic Assessment.

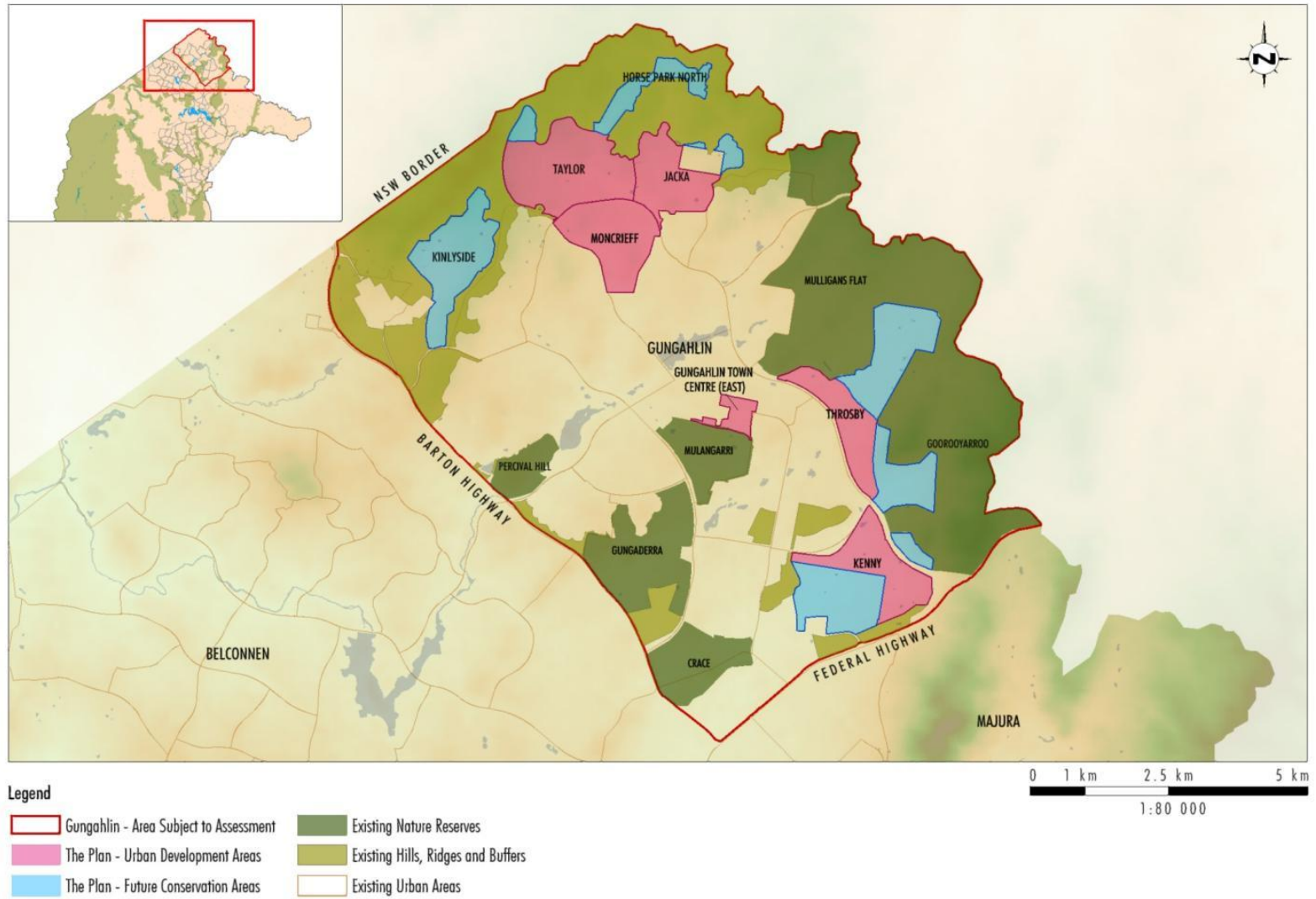
Commitments

The Plan identifies a range of commitments to be undertaken by the ACT Government targeting the MNES affected by urban development in the Gungahlin district 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 under the ACT's statutory obligation; 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).

Figure 1 Overview of the Plan



Corporate outcome: Organisational effectiveness

The Strategic Assessment approvals monitoring and implementation is the responsibility of the PIT, which is lead by Economic Development, CMTEDD. 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 be continued into the future.

Updates, changes and corrections

Updates to nomenclature

There have not been any changes over the 2014 – 2015 reporting period.

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.

Further information on this matter can be sought by contacting the Office of the Coordinator General.

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. The Economic Development portfolio is responsible for preparing the Program in conjunction with other 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 2015–16 Indicative Land Release Program includes a sale target of 17,190 dwelling sites between 2015–16 and 2018–19. This reflects an increase of 3,690 dwelling sites on the program published with the 2014–15 Budget. The annual number of dwelling sites expected to be sold has increased from 3,300 to 3,513 in 2015–16, increased from 3,300 to 3,713 in 2016–17, increased from 3,300 to 4,566 in 2017–18, and is at 5,398 in 2018–19.

The land released in Gungahlin and associated with the Strategic Assessment area for the 2014 – 2015 year were 500 dwelling sites in Moncrieff.

The projected developments that were anticipated but delayed or not delivered and associated with the Strategic Assessment area are 300 dwellings sites in Throsby.

For more information please follow this link [Indicative Land Release Program 2015-16 to 18-19](#).

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. The protection of MNES in Kenny will occur as is required by the Plan but will not be in line with the indicative timing provided. A revised indicative timeframe is included in this report.

Kinlyside

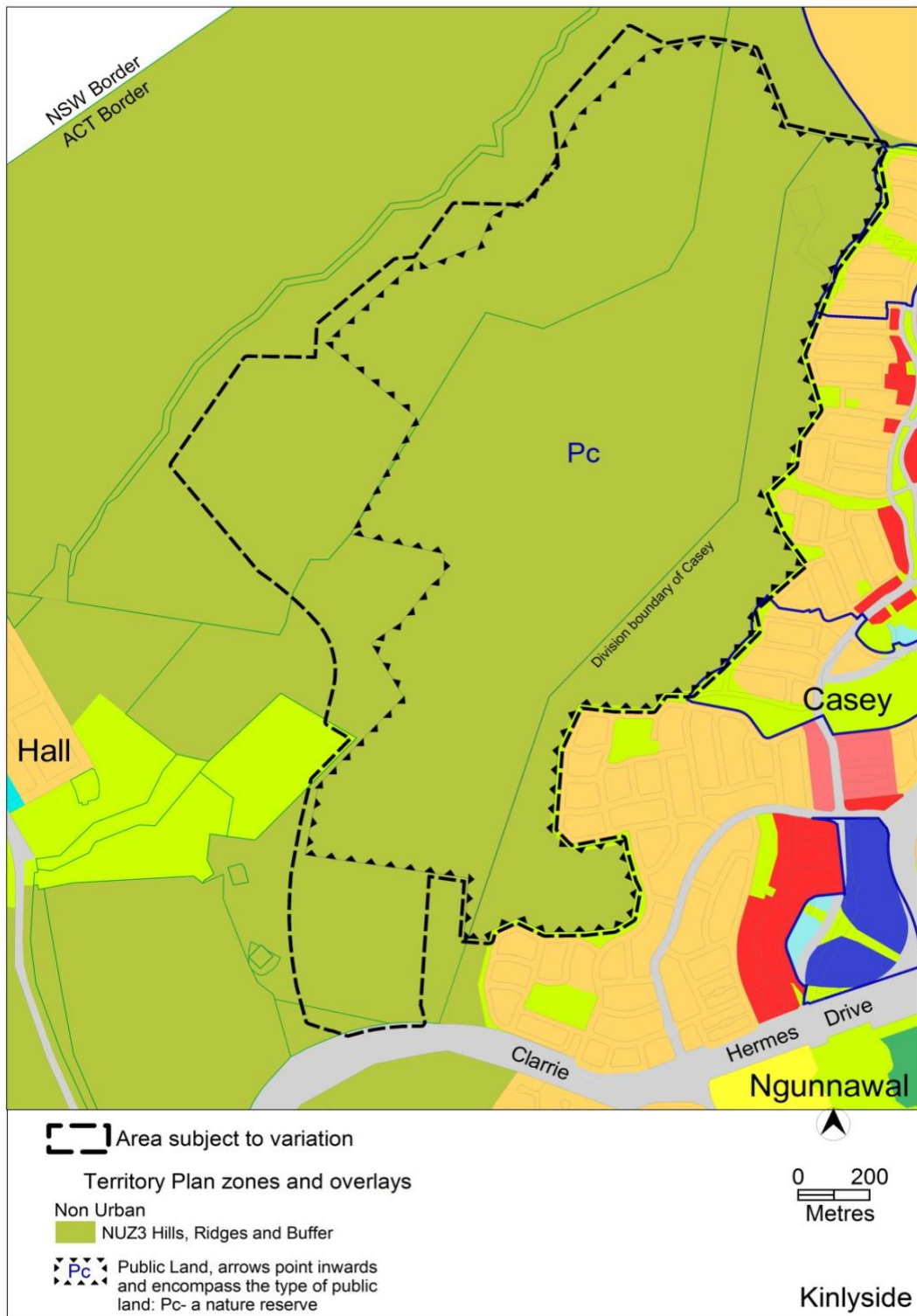
The Nature Reserve originally proposed for Kinlyside has increased in land area with areas targeted for restoration and protections being detailed in the Kinlyside Offset Management Plan (under preparation).

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 by the existing rural leases. TAMSD will provide land management assistance where required, including providing 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 area of the 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 2015 ACT Budget process.

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

Figure 2 Kinlyside Territory Plan Map



Plan Implementation Team

Background

The PIT is be 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.

The PIT has been established and is a multi-agency group drawn from executive within TaMS, EPD, CMTEDD and lead by ED, CMTEDD. The team will be guided by expert input from relevant agencies across the government to ensure consistency and efficiency in implementation and investment (e.g. coordination of weed management activities across reserve / offset areas).

The PIT will operate for the 20 year life of the Plan. Upon conclusion, the ongoing management responsibilities will be divulged to the appropriate ACT Government directorate (or equivalent department, agency, etc.). The PIT will be responsible for ensuring full knowledge 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

The PIT is currently made up of representatives from:

- Land Development and Corporate, ED, CMTEDD, (Lead Directorate)
- Strategic Policy and Cabinet, CMTEDD,
- Planning Delivery, EPD and
- Parks and Territory Services, TAMSD

Membership has been amended twice in the reporting period, where the member from CMTEDD and TAMSD were both replaced by suitable representatives.

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 discussion and consideration items

No.	Date	Items on agenda
1	27 October 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Written Correspondence - Status update and request for review of the Annual Report for 2013 – 2014. - Nil comments received.
2	26 November 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PIT informed of decision to endorse the Framework for Investment (commitment 2). An email from the PIT was referred to the Conservation Council providing a status update.
2	18 March 2015 31 March 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Referral of Guidance for Taylor sent to PIT members for consideration. - Out of Session decision – endorse Guide for the Planning of Taylor sent to the LDA for reference in their preparation of Estate Development Plans.
3	11 May 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Out of session decision – endorse and refer the Program of Implementation (commitment 8) to the Commonwealth for consideration and endorsement.

Working groups

Representative meetings

19 August 2014: A site visit to Gungahlin to show DoE assessment team some of the key areas for conservation, in particular the location of the recorded Superb Parrot nesting trees in Throsby, Goorooyarroo Nature Reserve, Kenny and Taylor/Kinlyside.

28 January 2015: A meeting at the Department of the Environment to discuss the changes to the Throsby Estate and protection on Superb Parrot. Agreement was sought that the development would not have any addition impact on Superb Parrot noting that there was a data error that caused incorrect assumptions to be made around the location of protective buffers.

Internal working group

The working group has formalised as part of the Environmental Offsets Working Group. This group meets approximately every six weeks and the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment is a standing item.

Dates and discussion items are included in Table 2 below.

Table 2 Internal working group meetings

Date	Discussion Items
19 May 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Offsets management - Status update on commitments
24 March 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Offsets management - Status update on commitments
10 March 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update on research projects

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update on land management outcomes including Broadacre areas - Changes to the size (increase) of Kinlyside Nature Reserve
23 February 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Offsets management - Status update on commitments - General item – transferring responsibility for complying with conditions made on decisions under the EPBC Act.
4 December 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Offsets management - Status update on Habitat Improvement and - Status update on Superb Parrot nesting trees data correction
23 October 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Offset management - Status update on Habitat Improvement and - Status update on Superb Parrot nesting trees data correction
21 July 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Specific meeting about research topics

Consultative groups

The Habitat Improvement Plans were circulated to the Conservation Council, the ACT Flora and Fauna Committee and the ACT Natural Resource Management Advisory Committee for comment prior to their referral to the Commonwealth. Comments were received from the Conservation Council and used in the consideration of these plans.

A copy of the Framework for investment in offsets, monitoring, reporting, adaptive management, compliance and enforcement (Commitment 8) was forwarded to the Conservation Council for information.

The Mulligan’s Flat/Goorooyarroo Nature Reserve (Offset) Management Plan was circulated to the Mulligan’s Flat Sanctuary Management Committee and the Conservation Council for comment. These comments will be considered in the drafting of these management (offset) plans.

No formal meetings were held with consultative groups in the annual reporting period.

Report on performance by outcome/commitment

Table 3 describes the commitments from the Biodiversity Plan and the status of each commitment.

Table 3 Commitments, delivery and timing

Item	Commitment	Comment	Timing and Date
1	<i>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.</i>	<i>The variation for Kenny is outstanding.</i>	<i>Completed 7 November 2015 for all areas except Kenny.</i>
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: a) indicative monitoring program for: 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: iv. standard activities including monitoring, financial performance, measured outcomes; v. 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.	This was drafted and submitted to DoE on 4 August 2014 and endorsement provided on 25 November 2015.	Pending approval.
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.	Concept plans or a similar planning document (structure plans or planning and design frameworks) may not be required for all suburbs.	Ongoing. Prior to lodgement of EDP for each suburb. The specific timing will be determined as required by each development area. <i>Moncrieff, Throsby and Taylor – complete</i> Guidance documents for Jacka and Kenny will be prepared as required
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.	TaMs are continuing to review the LMAs to ensure they are consistent with the commitments in GSA Plan, the Habitat Improvement Plans and the Offset Management Plans. To ensure consistency with the management program for the offset areas, the LMAs must reflect the actions in the Offset Management Plans, which are also progressing. In addition, the revised template for the LMAs is yet to be approved. The review of the LMAs will therefore be completed once that process is also finalised.	Review and update of LMAs is continuing
5	Implement cat containment policy in all urban development areas.	During detailed planning of each suburb.	During 2014/15 the following areas have been declared Cat Containment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moncrieff • Jacka (to commence January 2017, the commencement for Jacka has been delayed to allow time for existing residents to make the necessary changes) • Throsby
6	<i>Establishment of the 'Plan Implementation Team' (PIT) and Submission of initial / indicative team membership and charter to DoE for approval.</i>		<i>Complete 17 January 2014</i> <i>Complete 5 May 2014</i>
7	<i>Establishment of a suitable mechanism to enable management of funds provided to the PIT for implementation of the Plan.</i>	<i>Funding to implement the actions as described in the Offset Management Plans was included in the 2015 ACT Government Budget.</i>	<i>Complete.</i>
8	Develop and submit to DoE for approval a program of implementation of all of the commitments in the Plan.	This is being negotiated and reviewed annually with the PIT.	This is ongoing.

Item	Commitment	Comment	Timing and Date
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.	Each Offset Management Plan (see table 1 for details on nomenclature) will address management actions appropriate for MNES that occur in that particular reserve. These will be developed in conjunction with the Habitat Improvement Plans for each MNES.	The Draft OMP for the Kinlyside Nature Reserve is currently in preparation and will be submitted in accordance with the timeframe agreed to by the Commonwealth.
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.	Each Offset Management Plan will address management actions appropriate for MNES that occur in that particular reserve. These will be developed in conjunction with the Habitat Improvement Plans for each MNES.	The Draft OMP for the Offset extending the Mulligans Flat and Goorooyarroo Nature Reserves is complete and has been submitted to the Commonwealth for approval.
11	<i>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:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> contractors undertaking physical works; and ACT Government officers or its representatives in auditing performance under the CEMP. 		<i>Completed 20 December 2013</i>
11a	Review and approve (subject to compliance with the Plan) CEMPs submitted for all new construction projects within the area subject to the Plan.	This is required to occur prior to the commencement of construction in areas identified for conservation in the Plan.	Ongoing. The PIT has considered CEMPs for Throsby Estate Development in June 2015. This development application is currently under assessment by the Environment and Planning Directorate as required by the <i>Planning and Development Act 2007</i> .
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.	Prior to practical completion of each development contract. TAMS will engage with the appropriate persons within their Directorate to ensure this requirement is achieved.	Ongoing.
13	<i>Collection of baseline ecological information for all new reserve areas.</i>		<i>Complete. Baseline information has been collated and used to inform the Habitat/Condition Improvement Plans and Offset Management Plans.</i>
14	Ongoing collection of key ecological information for monitoring and reporting requirements.	As required to inform annual report.	Ongoing and required prior to July 30 each year. For 2014 – 2015, this information is under preparation as it informs the Reserve (Offset) Management Plans for the conservation areas.
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.	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;
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.	This is the responsibility of the lead Directorate for the PIT (CMTEDD at present).	Ongoing. Every financial year (within 2 months of the end of the financial year) 31 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.	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.	To coincide with annual reporting. This will be undertaken by an officer from Treasury or ED Finance. As all costs to date have been absorbed by existing and internal arrangements this activity was not undertaken.	31 August each year until 2033
19	Engage a third party to undertake an Independent Audit of the Plan's implementation (n=4).	Every fifth year from endorsement of the Plan	20 June 2018, 2023, 2028, 2033
20	<i>Creation of new nature reserves in Kinlyside, Goorooyarroo and Mulligan's Flat</i>	<i>This has been completed through the Territory Plan variation.</i>	<i>Completed. See NI2014-501</i>
21	Creation of nature reserve in Kenny	This will be undertaken as required and relevant	Prior to commencement of construction in Kenny

Item	Commitment	Comment	Timing and Date
22	Commence management of a nature reserve in Kenny (160 hectares). Created by the excision of rural Block 775 Gungahlin from future development potential.	As above.	Prior to commencement of construction in Kenny
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.	The proposed Reserve Area exceeds the stated 201ha and the area managed as a Reserve will be approximately 226ha.	Complete. Land Management is underway by the rural land holder and conjunction with TAMS
24	Commence management of additional 300 hectares to the Mulligan's Flat – Goorooyaroo 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.		Complete – the land has been gazetted at Nature reserve and is currently being managed as a Nature Reserve by TAMS. Specific requirement for management of offsets will be details in the relevant Reserve (Offset) Management Plan.
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.	This is currently being negotiated with the rural landholders and TaMS.	Prior to commencement of construction in Taylor.
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.	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 	The final versions of the documents were referred to the Commonwealth on 4 March 2015.	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 	These are being developed for each suburb as ecological considerations are provided in the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan (ACT Govt). Specific strategies will be included in the Reserve (Offset) Management Plans.	Prior to any construction in areas adjoining the target MNES.
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.	Prior to construction commencing in Throsby. PIT and TAMS will review EDP for this estate to ensure trees are adequately protected.	Approximately mid 2015
30	Establish educational resources including signage and guidelines for residents of east Throsby, including: <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. 	Signs to be placed at the entrances to the reserve.	Prior to sale of land to prospective residents.
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. 	12 months of endorsement of Plan. EPD and CMTEDD to facilitate design of projects. TaMS will provide input. This is underway with a research project proposed that describes a repeatable and robust methodology for observing and recording Superb Parrots in an unobtrusive way. This will inform future studies and research projects.	Underway/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 		As described in the Habitat Improvement Plans. Possible translocation may be more appropriate in Taylor or other suitable habitat areas.
33	Undertake control programs of ruderal species.	This will be undertaken by TaMS operational staff.	As required indicated by Reserve (Offset) Management Plans
34	Undertake salvage and relocation of structural habitat elements such as rocks and logs.	Details on how to undertaken this was included in the tender documentation for the Throsby developers. It will be undertaken in consultation with TAMS staff.	During construction of Throsby (2015-16)

Item	Commitment	Comment	Timing and Date
35	Undertake plantings to improve connectivity and wildlife movement along Gungaderra and Sullivan's creeks, targeting in particular superb parrot movement corridors.	LDA to assist in design, TaMS to coordinate where it will occur on Government land.	As part of the EDP process for Throsby and as determined by TaMS. The Throsby EDP is currently under assessment by EPD. It will also be undertaken within the Offset Areas pursuant to the Habitat Improvement Plans and the OMP.
36	Undertake all bushfire management activities in line with ACT Government's Ecological Guidelines for Fuel and Fire Management Operations	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	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).	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 2014 - 2015 financial year has been undertaken by ACT Government employees and is not a direct allocation through the ACT Budget. ED, CMTEDD is provided funding for dedicated resources to undertake specific duties related to achieving the Commitments.

Areas of Non-Compliance

The ACT notes the following areas of non-compliance with the commitments of the Plan as described in Table 5. There are no recorded incidences of impacts on MNES that are protected by the Plan as a result of these non-compliances.

Table 4 Areas of non-compliance

No.	Commitment	Non-Compliance matter
1	Commitment 9 and 10 Offset Management Plans	An extension of time to prepare and complete these plans was requested. These plans are anticipated to be completed in the 2015 – 2016 year for the Mulligan’s Flat-Goorooyaroo Nature Reserve and Kinlyside Nature Reserve.

References

ACT Government (2013) *Environmental guidelines for preparation of an Environment Management Plan* Environment Protection Authority, Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate (May 2013)

ACT Government (2008) *Territory Plan – Current Version*, ACT Government, Canberra (September, 2013)

ACT Government (2012d) *ACTMAPi: ACT Government Online Interactive Maps ‘Significant Plants and Animals Mapping’*, Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate, Canberra

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

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

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)

Appendices

1. Consideration of Throsby and Superb Parrot data corrections



Australian Government
Department of the Environment

Our reference: SA20

Contact Officer: Vanessa Place
Telephone: (02) 6274 2769
Email: EPBCMonitoring@environment.gov.au

Mr Dan Stewart
Chair- Plan Implementation Team
Economic Development
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
GPO Box 158
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Stewart

Gungahlin Strategic Assessment- Superb Parrot nesting trees in Throsby

Thank you for your letter of 17 February 2015 regarding a misidentification of two Superb Parrot habitat trees within the Throsby development area, and the subsequent identification of an error in mapping details for a buffer for the species within the endorsed *Gungahlin Strategic Assessment-Biodiversity Plan June 2013* (endorsed Plan).

I note that since my last correspondence on this matter to you on 17 December 2014 regarding possible referral of the action, the ACT Government has provided further information on how the above action was not inconsistent with the endorsed Plan or significant for the Superb Parrot. I am aware that there have been ongoing discussions about this issue, and how matters such as these can be dealt with for future strategic assessments.

Officers of the Department have reviewed the additional information that ACT Government has provided to support the claim that the correction will not alter commitments made in the endorsed Plan, namely to retain a 100 metre buffer between urban development and the majority of Superb Parrot nesting trees. The Department considers that the information demonstrates this view.

I note that ACT Government will undertake consultation with the Conservation Council to ensure stakeholder concerns are addressed. I also note that under the endorsed Plan, the ACT government will be undertaking research into the management of the Superb parrot in proximity to urban development and looks forward to receiving this information in due course.

As there are no greater impacts on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) than those already approved under the Strategic Assessment, and all actions are to be undertaken as per the wording of the endorsed Plan, I am of the view that the development of Throsby can continue as per the information given to us on 17 February and in line with the wording of the endorsed Plan.

If you have any questions, or wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Vanessa Place on 02 6274 2769.

Yours sincerely



Shane Gaddes
Assistant Secretary
Compliance and Enforcement Branch
Environment Assessment and Compliance Division
5 March 2015

2. Extension of time to complete Reserve (Offset) Management Plans



Australian Government
Department of the Environment

Our reference: EPBC SA20

Contact Officer: Vanessa Place
Telephone: (02) 6274 2769
Email: EPBCMonitoring@environment.gov.au

Mr Dan Stewart
Deputy Director-General
Economic Development Directorate
ACT Government
GPO Box 158
CANBERRA ACT 2603

Dear Mr Stewart

Gungahlin Strategic Assessment Biodiversity Plan (EPBC SA20) – Request for extension to submit Reserve Management Plans required under commitments 9 and 10 in the endorsed Plan

Thank you for your letter of 29 May 2015 regarding commitments 9 and 10 of the *Gungahlin Strategic Assessment Biodiversity Plan June 2013*, endorsed 20 June 2013 (the endorsed Plan).

These commitments required the ACT Government to prepare and submit Reserve Management Plans (RMP) for the newly created Kinlyside Reserve and an amended RMP for the Gorooyaroo/Mulligan's Flat Reserve. A further RMP for the proposed Kenny Reserve is required within six months of that reserve creation.

I note that these first two RMP's were due 15 April 2015 but due to delays resulting from the requirement to undertake further consultation with key stakeholders, the finalisation of these plans has been delayed.

Under commitment 21, the reservation of Kenny is to be undertaken prior to commencement of construction in Kenny, with the RMP due within six months of reserve creation. I understand that this has been considered still achievable by your Department.

I agree to your request to provide the Gorooyaroo/Mulligan's Flat RMP by 31 July 2015; the Kinlyside RMP by 30 September 2015; and the Kenny RMP within six months of the creation of the Kenny Nature Reserve.

If you have any questions, or wish to discuss this matter further, please contact
Vanessa Place on 02 6274 2769.

Yours sincerely



Shane Gaddes

Assistant Secretary
Compliance and Enforcement Branch
Environment Assessment and Compliance Division

14 June 2015

Note: Under s 491 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* it is an offence to knowingly provide false and/or misleading information to a departmental officer.

