



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Reference: City and Environment Directorate – Conservation and protection of flora and fauna

Hearing: 31 July 2026

In relation to: Nature conservation Strategy

Question received: 3 August 2026

Answer Due: 17 August 2026

1. What is the status of the Draft Nature Conservation Strategy?
2. What is the expected release of the final Nature Conservation Strategy?
3. What is the total funding committed in the 2026-2027 Budget for measures in the Nature Conservation Strategy?
4. Given the last Strategy expired in 2023, why has there been a significant delay in releasing the next Strategy?

Ms Suzanne Orr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The final draft ACT Nature Conservation Strategy 2026-2036 (the Strategy) is currently being progressed for Government consideration.
2. Subject to Government agreement, the Strategy is expected to be released in the final quarter of 2026.
3. No specific funding has been allocated to the Strategy at this time. The Strategy's targets will initially be delivered through better coordination, prioritisation and sequencing of existing ACT Government efforts across land management, nature conservation operations, science and policy functions.
4. The Nature Conservation Strategy 2013-23 remains in force under DI2013-211 and continues to guide the ACT Government's nature conservation efforts across the Territory. Development of the new Strategy has involved the statutory review requirements under Section 60 of the *Nature Conservation Act 2014*, extensive stakeholder and public consultation in early 2026, and coordination across multiple ACT Government agencies.

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Considerable effort has been undertaken in developing the new Strategy, including workshops and internal and external reviews, to deliver a robust policy direction ready to meet the needs of the ACT into the future.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2026–2027

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of fluid, connected strokes that form a stylized representation of the letters 'S' and 'O'.

Signature:

Date: 13/08/26

By the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water, Suzanne Orr MLA