



STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Leanne Castley MLA

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021
QUESTION ON NOTICE

Nicole Lawder MLA: To ask the Minister for Environment

Ref: Biodiversity Research and Monitoring Program (BRAMP)

In relation to:

1. What is the current state of the BRAMP?
2. Did we ever have a 2019-2021 BRAMP?
3. Did we have a current BRAMP? If not, why not?
4. Why hasn't the ACT Government put together a comprehensive framework for both our ecosystems both in reserve and off-reserve? Please provide an update of any progress on this.
5. Why is it that after almost 5 years we only have two Conservation Effectiveness Monitoring Program Plans finished and a promise that the Riparian one will be out soon?
6. How can we use this as one "ecosystem Indicator" when only 2 plans are ready and there are six underway?
7. Is this indicator intended to average out performance across all eight ecosystems?
8. What is the timetable for completion of the remaining plans?
9. Will we have a separate budget indicator for off-reserve ecosystems?

MINISTER VASSAROTTI: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1, 2 and 3) The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) Science Plan is available at <https://www.environment.act.gov.au/nature-conservation/science-platform>. The Science Platform provides biodiversity research and monitoring information to the public.

The information contained here fulfils the requirements under section 25 of the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* for the Conservator of Flora and Fauna to prepare Biodiversity Research and Monitoring Program and associated reporting.

4 and 5) The Nature Conservation Strategy, including the 2019 to 2023 Implementation Plan, provides a comprehensive framework. The Nature Conservation Strategy applies across all tenure. The Strategy is available at: <https://www.environment.act.gov.au/nature-conservation/conservation-strategies/nature-conservation-strategy/nature-conservation-strategy> and the Implementation Plan is available at:

https://www.environment.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/1428363/ACT-Nature-Conservation-Strategy-Implementation-Plan-2-201923.pdf.

The Science Platform demonstrates the volume and comprehensive nature of the research and evaluation programs delivered.

6, 7, 8 and 9) This is a new indicator to measure ecosystem condition as an outcome. There has been no previous measure of ecosystem health. This measure shows the health conditions of ACT ecosystems. It is based on an overall score from combined ecosystem condition monitoring metrics. For further metrics and information, see the wellbeing dashboard, available at:
<https://www.act.gov.au/wellbeing/explore-wellbeing-data/environment-and-climate/healthy-and-resilient-natural-environment>.

This measure shows the health conditions of ACT ecosystems. It is based on an overall score from combined ecosystem condition monitoring metrics from the Conservation Effectiveness Monitoring Program. The tracked values are native flora and fauna, threatened flora, native temperate grasslands, water quality, stream channels, riparian vegetation, native fish and other aquatic fauna and connectivity.

EPSDD has a comprehensive program of work to further establish a range of efficiency, effectiveness and outcomes measures. This program of work is ongoing.

- Efficiency indicators are quantitative measures of actions allowing evaluation of management in terms of quantity of treatment, timeliness and cost. Efficiency indicators are monitored as part of routine management and results are observed in the short term (at least annually). For example, dollars spent.
- Effectiveness indicators are quantitative or qualitative measures of the outcomes of management actions and may take several years to show a response. For example, the reduction in density of a pest species over time.
- Outcome (condition) indicators are quantitative or qualitative measures of the effects or outcomes of management strategies. Trends may only be discernible in the longer term e.g. 5 – 10 years. For example, improved condition of a vegetation community as a result of a weed treatment.

There is no requirement for additional indicators as ecosystems occur across all tenures.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity

Signature: 

Date: 11/3/2022

By the Minister for Environment, Rebecca Vassarotti MLA