



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–24

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Braddock, Andrew MLA

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

In relation to: Schedule of when assessments will be completed on the condition of each ecosystem through the Conservation Effectiveness Monitoring Program framework.

Hearing: **14 February 2025**

Uncorrected Proof Transcript: **14/02/2025, p 62.**

Transcript provided: **19 February 2025**

Answer Due: **26 February 2025**

Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water took on notice the following question(s):

MR BRADDOCK: Thank you. And also the report says there were no assessments completed in 21-22, and 23-24. Can you please explain why there were no assessments completed then?

Dr Cooney: Primarily because these assessments take a really long time. So this is a whole new condition assessment program. And what it requires is actually pulling together a whole lot of data sources from across the whole organisation and across citizen science and community groups. And what was found in that process of doing each of these for the first time, was that a lot of data was in very poor condition, needed a huge investment of effort in data cleaning, data management, standardising the way the data was presented to allow those sort of comparisons and evaluations to be made.

MR BRADDOCK: Can you please, on notice, just provide a schedule when the assessments will be completed for each of those ecosystems going forward?

Dr Cooney: Yes, certainly can.

MR BRADDOCK: Thank you.

Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The ecosystem condition score reported in the EPSDD Annual Report represents an average of scores from all completed ecosystem assessments. Its change over time, broken down by ecosystem, can be viewed in the [ACT Wellbeing Framework portal](#).

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A schedule of completed and forthcoming ecosystem assessments is provided below:

CEMP ecosystem	Initial Assessment	First update assessment
Upland Grasslands	<u>2019</u>	2028 (combined)
Lowland Grasslands	<u>2017</u>	
Aquatic and Riparian	<u>2022</u>	2029
Bogs and Fens	<u>2023</u>	2030
Upland/Lowland Woodlands	2025	2031
Upland/Lowland Forests	2026/27	2032

Moving forward, the Conservation Effectiveness Monitoring Program (CEMP) condition assessments reporting will be integrated into 5 year reporting on the ACT ecosystem strategies and associated Action Plans (Woodlands, Grasslands, and Aquatic & Riparian) in order to link more directly into management planning and implementation.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment, Planning, Transport and City Services

Signature:

Date: 25/02/25

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