



Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2021-2022 **ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

Asked by Dr Marisa Paterson MLA on 1 November 2022: Mr Bren Burkevics took on notice the following question(s):

Reference: Hansard uncorrected proof transcript 1 November 2022, Page 33

In relation to: Assessment of the eco-system condition

THE CHAIR: We might move on now.

My question is about the recent assessment of the eco-system condition in the ACT. So it was a score of 2.5 out of 5. I was wondering if you could detail how this result is calculated?

Ms Vassarotti: That is one that I will look to officials to support.

Mr Burkevics: Thanks, Dr Paterson.

We will have to take that one on notice. The technical approach to calculating the score includes a range of factors. And so I will need to take that on notice to get the specific means and measure that the team uses to assess that method.

Rebecca Vassarotti MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The *Ecosystem Condition* measure within the ACT Wellbeing Framework is calculated from the outcomes of the most recent ecosystem condition assessment for each ecosystem addressed by the Conservation Effectiveness Monitoring Program (CEMP). Each individual ecosystem condition assessment can be accessed via the CEMP webpage.

Ecosystem condition assessments are based on condition ratings which are assigned to indicators of an ecosystem (e.g. native fauna, habitat, water quality, ecosystem threats), which are then averaged to give an overall ecosystem condition rating. While the CEMP uses categories to represent condition, these have been converted to a numerical value for the purposes of the ACT Wellbeing Framework (i.e. Good=4, Good with Concerns=3, Moderate=2, Poor=1).

The *Ecosystem Condition* measure in the ACT Wellbeing Framework is the average score across all ecosystems, which are: Grasslands, Aquatic & Riparian, Bogs & Fens (*in draft*), Woodlands (*to be completed*) and Forests (*to be completed*). To date, *Grasslands* (split into Upland & Lowland) and *Aquatic & Riparian* ecosystems have progressed to a point where they can be included the initial ACT Wellbeing Framework assessment

A short summary on how each measure is assessed and current status on the ACT Wellbeing Framework website. The *Ecosystem Condition* measure is currently scored as 2.49 out of 4.00. This score equates to a moderate to 'good with some concerns' overall condition rating for ecosystems in the ACT, for which assessments have been completed.

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

Signature: 

Date: 10/11/2022

By the Minister for the Environment, Rebecca Vassarotti MLA