



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES  
SUZANNE ORR MLA (CHAIR), CANDICE BURCH MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), JAMES MILLIGAN MLA

**Inquiry into referred 2017–18 Annual and Financial Reports**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by Caroline Le Couteur: To ask the Minister for Environment and Heritage

[Ref: Environment, Environment & Heritage, EPSDD Annual Report]

In relation to: Ginninderry EIS exemption and endangered species

1. What impact will the Ginninderry development have on endangered species such as the golden sun moth and earless dragon?
2. How are the overall populations of these species doing across the ACT? Are they improving or further declining?

MICK GENTLEMAN: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. The Golden Sun Moth is the only endangered species that may be directly impacted by the Ginninderry proposal. The nearest known Grassland Earless Dragon habitat is 17km to the south-east in the Majura Valley.

A proposed extension of Ginninderra Drive and bridge over Ginninderra Creek will result in the loss or shading of about 1.8ha of Golden Sun Moth habitat, largely an area where the moth is feeding on the roots of the exotic Chilean Needle Grass. The road and bridge will also act as a partial barrier, limiting movement of non-flying females. The general area has one of the highest counts of moths ever recorded with the proposal having a direct impact on about 2 -3% of the total population, but does not threaten the long-term viability of moths in the area.

Offset measures for the proposal include placing under conservation management 13.7ha of currently occupied adjoining Golden Sun Moth habitat, a further 19.4 ha of potential continuous habitat and habitat and connectivity restoration or enhancement measures in the Jaramlee-Dunlop area, including neighbouring habitat in NSW – creating one of the largest national reserves in terms of both area and population size for this species.

Measures are in place to protect and enhance riparian vegetation, with a large conservation reserve largely designed to protect all Box Gum woodland and most of the habitat of the vulnerable Pink-tailed Worm Lizard. This reserve is at least 450m wide and will continue to enhance the connectivity of vegetation along the Murrumbidgee River which may occasionally be used by the Regent Honeyeater.

This reserve and water quality measures will also avoid significant impact on habitat on native endangered fish downstream of the development.

2. The erratic emergence biology of the moth makes it difficult to detect the difference between long term population trends and short-term seasonal effects at a site. Standardised monitoring has now been initiated at this and other offset sites but it is too early for meaningful results. Habitat condition as measured by cover of moth food plant species is increasing within the ACT reserve and offset network, which comprises more than 50% of the around 1800ha of habitat remaining in the ACT. Over a quarter of the remaining habitat is on Commonwealth land.

It appears that the ACT reserve network is maintaining in the long term, viable wild populations of the moth.

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

Signature:



Date: 4/12/18

By the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Mick Gentleman MLA