



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–25

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

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

Redirected to: N/A

Reference: First Nations environment engagement p 41

Hearing: 17 November 2025

In relation to: First Nations Environment Engagement p41

Question received: 25 November 2025

Answer Due: 02 December 2025

- 1) P.41 says 2025 put a number of threatened species on 'more secure footing'. Which species does this refer to?
- 2) What measurable improvement in their condition has been observed?
- 3) For the 7 species that have seen a year-on-year decline in relative abundance, have any new programs or funding been put in place to address this? If yes, please detail those programs and funding.

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

- 1) This statement refers to the Canberra Grassland Earless Dragon, the Small Purple Pea, the Two-spined Blackfish and the Northern Corroboree Frog.
- 2) Boosting recovery actions for the Canberra Grassland Earless Dragon has only recently commenced therefore it is too early to expect an observable response. The additional capacity (bespoke housing) at Melbourne Zoo is due for completion in December 2025 after which additional animals can be transferred to the facility and captive breeding capacity increased.

To date 800 Small Purple Pea have been translocated into various locations in Canberra Nature Park, boosting the tiny and fragmented remnant wild population, and in 2025 there was confirmed recruitment at one site. Survival is estimated to be around 76% for translocation plants. It is planned that a total of 1000 plants will be planted by autumn 2026.

Monitoring of two-spined Blackfish in 2025 has shown that recovery has commenced after the devastating impacts of the 2020 bushfires. Blackfish 'bungalows' were installed in the Cotter River to aid in recovery. Monitoring has shown that both juvenile and adult fish are using these artificial structures at high levels.

Monitoring of translocated Northern Corroboree Frogs at a new lower elevation "assisted migration" (i.e. outside of known range) site is showing that released individuals are persisting and breeding in the wild, with 2025 surveys recording the highest number of calling males to date. Frogs were also rediscovered at two known-range sites where they had not been detected for several years, likely the result of earlier translocations.

- 3) While seven species have experienced a year-to-year decline (status relative to the previous year), only four experienced decline over multiple recent years (page 81). This include the Superb Parrot, Broad-toothed Rat, Brindabella Midge Orchid and Tarengo Leek Orchid.

Monitoring of Superb Parrot breeding success is undertaken annually as part of the City and Environment Directorate's (CED) business as usual monitoring program. This identified predation on breeding hollows in Goorooyaroo Sanctuary by Brush-tailed Possums as a major threat. To reduce this predation, barriers were installed around trees, preventing access to nestlings and eggs by mammalian predators, including Brush tailed possums. This project is internally funded.

CED continues its long-standing collaboration with the National Recovery Team and the ANU's Difficult Bird Research Group. In partnership, CED supports ongoing research to (i) track the movements of Superb Parrots to better understand their habitat selection and resource use, (ii) implement a range-wide population monitoring program to understand regional drivers of decline, and (iii) model regional responses of the species to climate change and other landscape pressures (e.g. land clearing) to develop regionally-tailored conservation and habitat restoration advice. Funding for these joint programs come from the Australian Government's *Renewable Environment Research Initiative* and indirect offsets associated with NSW wind farms.

The Broad-toothed Rat is associated with upland bogs and fens and was severely impacted by the 2020 Orroral Valley Fire. A new bogs and fens program commenced in 2024-25 focused on condition monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of bushfire recovery actions. This program includes monitoring the recovery of the Broad-toothed Rat post fire and is funded through a combination of Commonwealth funding and reprioritised internal resources.

Terrestrial orchid numbers fluctuate very significantly across years. Orchids may remain dormant (not flowering) some years, so trajectories need to be interpreted with caution and over extended time periods. The Tarengo Leek Orchid is found at only one site in the ACT (Hall Cemetery) and a small number of NSW sites. In 2025 drafting of a new management plan for the population commenced, and eco-burning was applied to manage biomass, as high biomass is a key threat to the species. Genetic material has been taken from the population to support research and conservation of the species. For Brindabella Midge Orchid, threatening processes such as fire and road management activities are excluded from known habitat. Two new locations of Brindabella Midge Orchid have been identified in 2025, increasing knowledge of this species' distribution. These numbers will be reflected in future iterations of this indicator. Orchid monitoring and management programs are funded from within CED existing financial resources.

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Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Planning

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Signature:

Date: 28/1/25

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