



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: Ecosystem Condition (Table B2.1 p.38 CED Annual Report)

Hearing: 17 November 2025

In relation to: Ecosystem Condition

Question received: 25 November 2025

Answer Due: 02 December 2025

- 1) Ecosystem condition dropped between 2020-21 and 2022-23 and no assessments were completed in 2023-24 or 2024-25. (Table B2.1, p. 38 CED Annual Report).
Noting that ecosystem condition scores are an average - please provide the score for each ecosystem, for each year they have been completed.
- 2) Officials have said changes to the monitoring program are the reason for delays in completing current assessments. How has the monitoring program changed over time?
- 3) Is CED's goal that all ecosystem condition assessments be completed every year?
- 4) Are assessments for all ecosystems currently underway? If not, which ones are underway?
- 5) When will the next ecosystem condition assessments for all ecosystem types in Table B2.1 be completed?

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

1)

Ecosystem	Date	Score
Lowland grasslands	2017	1.80
Upland grasslands	2019	4.00
Riparian and Aquatic	2020	1.65
Bogs and Fens	2023	1.60

- 2) The original intent of the Conservation Effectiveness Monitoring Program ecosystem assessments was to aggregate existing data, to enable “best” inferences about condition and effectiveness of management, and provide recommendations for establishing fit-for-purpose monitoring. Based on experience with and outcomes of the completed ecosystem assessments, new programs and projects have been refined/established that more effectively monitor ecosystem condition and facilitates targeted question-driven evaluations of management effectiveness. No new assessments following the “Conservation Effectiveness Monitoring Program” framework are planned as they are not needed.
- 3) No. The City and Environment Directorate (CED) is seeking to report on “ecosystem condition” in a meaningful way year on year, and publish full reports as part of ecosystem Strategy and Action Plan reporting. This will begin with the five-year report on the ACT Grasslands Action Plans planned for release in early 2026), and at a more strategic level reporting against the Nature Conservation Strategy. The “Ecosystem Health” indicator on page 81 of the Annual Report provides early-version of composite indicators that CED is likely to adopt.
- 4) Assessments of the form previously undertaken are not underway for any ecosystem for the reasons previously described. However, there are now multiple programs across grasslands, woodlands, riparian and aquatic systems, and high-country bogs and fens, providing systematic data to assess condition.
- 5) See 3) and 4).

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Planning

Signature:

Date: 28/11/25

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