



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–25

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA

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

Redirected to: N/A

Reference: Environmental Conservation

Hearing: 17 November 2025

In relation to: WOMBATS

Question received: 25 November 2025

Answer Due: 02 December 2025

- 1) Does the ACT Government intend to reclassify wombats as a controlled native species? If so, why?
- 2) What public consultation has been undertaken to inform this potential reclassification?
- 3) What further public consultation is planned?
- 4) Can you please provide a copy of the consultant's recent report on this matter commissioned by the Office of the Conservator of Flora and Fauna?
- 5) How many wombats does the ACT Government estimate are on private land in the ACT? How is this data collected, and how are the numbers of wombats distributed across the Territory?
- 6) Please provide all wombat survey data for public and private land over the last 5 years.

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

- 1) Whilst the Government has no immediate plans to classify wombats as a controlled native species under the *Nature Conservation Act 2014*, it is one option that may be explored to support the holistic management of Bare-nosed wombats in the ACT.
- 2) Not applicable.
- 3) The Office of Nature Conservation has released the draft technical report on wombat management, prepared for the Conservator of Flora and Fauna (the Conservator), for targeted community consultation. Key stakeholders invited to review and provide feedback include rural

lessees, the Rural Lands Association of Farmers, the Conservation Council ACT, ACT Wildlife, the ACT Scientific Committee, Wombat Rescue, Humane World of Animals Australia, and Animal Liberation ACT.

- 4) Yes, a copy is attached.
- 5) The ACT Government does not have an estimate for the number of wombats on private land. This would be a highly resource-intensive program to determine.
- 6) Wombats were surveyed in a limited and trial capacity in the winters of 2023 and 2024. These surveys provided a snapshot of wombat and mange prevalence at a few sites. The results are not sufficient to determine overall wombat population trends in the ACT, and the data in a format that is not suitable for release. Further studies would be required to determine robust trends in wombat populations and mange prevalence.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Planning

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several sweeping, connected strokes.

Signature:

Date: 02/12/25

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