

ACT Nature Conservation Strategy 2026 – 2036

Snapshot: Building a network for nature

We are developing a new Nature Conservation Strategy (the Strategy). The Strategy will:

- layout the long-term vision and goals for nature conservation in the ACT, shaping legal, policy and program development
- guide how government and community partners work together
- support a nature positive future for the ACT.

A 'Nature Positive' approach means that our natural values are not only protected from further loss but are actively recovering and regenerating in clear, measurable ways.

How the Strategy links to the Act

The Nature Conservation Strategy is developed in accordance with the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* (the Act). The Act sets out the objectives for conservation in the ACT. The Strategy outlines priority steps to achieve them and ways to measure success. The Act is currently under revision in alignment with the Strategy review.

Engagement to date

Since 2022 we have been engaging with the community. This engagement has been both on the review of the Act and the development of a new Strategy. Public consultation on the Nature Conservation Act took place through YourSay during mid-2024. The consultation also asked people to comment on the Strategy. It had 133 total submissions.

Since work began on the draft in 2024, we have been committed to co-developing the Strategy. Since this time, we have undertaken significant consultation. We engaged with over 200 partners (individuals, groups, environmental organisations and internal agencies) and received more than 180 responses. This has included 11 environment partner organisations through direct engagement.

Overview of the draft Strategy

The Draft Nature Conservation Strategy details how we will care for the ACT's environment. It sets out a clear nature-positive plan for looking after nature across the whole landscape. The Strategy aims to protect and recover our most valuable natural areas while adapting to the impacts of climate change.

The ACT community is an important part of the Strategy, which aims to bring Canberrans together to care for nature and improve wellbeing and liveability in the Bush Capital. The Strategy also recognises the cultural, social and economic benefits of caring for Country. It supports shared decision making between the community, Traditional Custodians, leaseholders and government agencies.



Our vision

Canberra is a city thriving within a healthy and flourishing natural environment, where the aspirations for conserving nature reflect Canberrans' love for their Bush Capital.



Our mission

To embed a Nature Positive approach to protecting and restoring our natural values through proactive conservation and collective stewardship.



Our purpose

To have ecosystems that are biodiverse, connected, functioning, and valued by the community, enabling nature to thrive in a rapidly growing city and changing climate.



Our guiding principles

- Make sure **nature is improving**, not just protected on paper.
- Create **safe spaces for all ACT ecosystems** to recover and thrive.
- **Avoid harming** our most important natural areas when we plan new developments.
- **Plan for the impacts** that come with a changing climate.
- Respect and work with **Ngunnawal people** as Traditional Custodians.
- Stand up for **everyone's right** to a clean, healthy environment.



Our goals

- **Partnership:** Everyone working together to care for nature.
- **Recovery:** Nature has space to adapt and thrive, now and into the future.
- **Lasting Impact:** We stay flexible, learn as we go, and improve how we care for the environment.



Strategic Targets

Our targets are statements for what we aim to accomplish within the next 10 years. The strategy has 44 targets across the following 5 key areas:

- Helping nature cope with climate change
- Working with community and Ngunnawal Traditional Custodians
- Restoring nature and having funding to do it
- Using fit-for-purpose policy, science and data
- Controlling weeds, pests and helping threatened species



Measuring success

A strong strategy is a good first step, but we need to make sure it works. That's why we have an implementation framework and roadmap.

- The framework will measure conservation progress using specific indicators.
- The roadmap details the actions that need to happen, how partners are involved and where money is coming from.

We will share progress with the community through regular reporting.

What we want your feedback on

We have released the draft Strategy and want your feedback to help finalise it. Areas that we want your feedback on are:

Guiding Principles

- Does the nature-positive direction of the draft Strategy support your aspiration for the ACT?

Strategic Targets

- Are the proposed strategic targets realistic and achievable?
- What do you consider to be a priority within the identified targets?
- Do you think the proposed targets cover key elements of nature conservation in the ACT? Do you have feedback on these?
- Is community participation and action supported by the draft Strategy?

Have your say

There are many ways to provide feedback on the draft Nature Conversation Strategy:

- speak to one of our team at an info session on 17 February or 6 March 2026
- provide a quick comment on YourSay
- complete the survey at any time on YourSay
- provide a submission at any time through YourSay.



Find out more, ask your questions and have your say by visiting <https://yoursayconversations.act.gov.au/nature-conservation-strategy-2025>