



ACT
Government

2018

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE GUNGAHLIN STRATEGIC
ASSESSMENT INDEPENDENT AUDIT**

**Presented by
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Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability**

Introduction

The Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment completed the first independent audit of the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment in November 2017.

The audit found that of the 39 Gungahlin Strategic Assessment commitments, a total of 19 (five with observations), were compliant. A total of 13 commitments were non-compliant, five of which were identified as high risk, and five were termed undetermined.

Non-compliances were largely due to timing issues for the delivery of commitments.

Five corrective actions were issued to ensure commitments are met, relating to:

- compliance and enforcement for cat containment;
- a review of the Taylor Stage 1 Construction and Environmental Management Plan;
- processes for reporting potential breaches of commitments;
- completion of fire hazard management strategies; and
- provision of educational material for future Throsby residents.

All five corrective actions have been delivered, and new processes and procedures have been implemented to improve the delivery of this strategic assessment.

A response to the key recommendations identified in the audit report is summarised below. Further information on each of the commitments is provided in the table at Appendix A.

Recommendations

No.	Recommendations
Recommendation 1	It is recommended that the ACT Government ensures the completion of the five corrective action requests detailed in the audit table on or before the critical dates.
Recommendation 2	It is recommended that the ACT Government adheres to prescribed timeframes for delivery of all commitments and/or formalises with the Commonwealth the approval process to be adopted in the event of changes to due dates on commitments.
Recommendation 3	It is recommended that the ACT Government improves the process for collection of evidence on implementation of the commitments in the Plan.
Recommendation 4	It is recommended that the ACT Government ensures that all the research undertaken as a function of the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment and the Plan is made publicly available on the web, is accessible and easy to find, and includes historical research as well as the most recent scholarship and reports.
Recommendation 5	It is recommended that the ACT Government notes the Key Risks section and incorporates the recommendations in this section into future management.
Recommendation 6	It is recommended that the ACT Government further investigate the commitments that have been termed Undetermined.
Recommendation 7	It is recommended that the ACT Government notes the Observations detailed in the Audit Table and uses this to inform future management.
Recommendation 8	It is recommended that the ACT Government ensures adaptive management principles are carefully scrutinised and considered for incorporation into implementation of the commitments for this Plan.

ACT Government Response to the key recommendations

- 1. It is recommended that the ACT Government ensures the completion of the five corrective action requests detailed in the audit table on or before the critical dates.**

Government Response: AGREED

The ACT Government has delivered all five corrective actions in accordance with the audit report. These related to:

- compliance and enforcement for cat containment;
- a review of the Taylor Stage 1 Construction and Environmental Management Plan;
- processes for reporting potential breaches of commitments;
- completion of fire hazard management strategies; and
- provision of educational material for future Throsby residents.

- 2. It is recommended that the ACT Government adheres to prescribed timeframes for delivery of all commitments and/or formalises with the Commonwealth the approval process to be adopted in the event of changes to due dates on commitments.**

Government Response: AGREED

The ACT Government is committed to delivering strategic assessment commitments on time. Where there is an unexpected delay and timeframes are unable to be met, the ACT Government will seek advice from the Commonwealth on how to proceed and agreement to revised timeframes.

The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) is coordinating the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment on behalf of the ACT Government. EPSDD is currently working with relevant agencies to implement new procedures to ensure timeframes are met.

This is also supported by the development of a new database to track critical dates and key decision points to ensure that the ACT Government is on track to meet compliance. Annual reporting processes will continue to be used to report progress and compliance.

- 3. It is recommended that the ACT Government improves the process for collection of evidence on implementation of the commitments in the Plan.**

Government Response: AGREED

EPSDD is responsible for coordinating delivery of the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment. Documents relating to the strategic assessment will be filed in accordance with government record keeping system requirements. EPSDD is also collating historical information on this strategic assessment to ensure accurate records from commencement of the strategic assessment.

The key to improving the collection of evidence and information relating to the strategic assessment commitments is to have a coordination team, and a process for maintaining consistent records and liaising with all government agencies. These are now in place.

EPSDD took on this reporting function in 2016 and is working with relevant agencies to improve procedures to ensure information is captured, reviewed and filed in a consistent manner.

- 4. It is recommended that the ACT Government ensures that all the research undertaken as a function of the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment and the Plan is made publicly available on the web, is accessible and easy to find, and includes historical research as well as the most recent scholarship and reports.**

Government Response: AGREED

The ACT government has actioned an update of the current webpage and is working on the construction of a new strategic assessment webpage to ensure research and reports are available to the public.

A new strategic assessment webpage will hold all relevant documents and guidance material relating to the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment in one location. EPSDD is working to ensure the webpage is user friendly and information is easily accessible to the public. The new webpage is expected to be completed in quarter 3, 2018.

In the interim, the ACT Government is in the process of updating the current webpage.

In addition, EPSDD is working with agencies to ensure processes and procedures are in place to provide research information to EPSDD to publish. This includes developing service delivery agreements with each agency outlining reporting requirements.

- 5. It is recommended that the ACT Government notes the Key Risks section and incorporates the recommendations in this section into future management.**

Government Response: AGREED

The audit report identified four key risks relating to five commitments for the future management of the Gungahlin strategic assessment.

These include:

- potential failure to meet the targets required for improvement of the condition of MNES within the offset areas as a result of inaction in updating Land Management Agreements;
- failure to inform prospective buyers and future residents of Throsby of the significance of ecological values in the adjacent reserves and of cat containment policy requirements which could compromise the community's buy-in to domestic animal control;
- commitment breaches that impact on MNES going undetected because of a lack of procedures for documenting and reporting breaches; and
- compromised ability to meet offset requirements by 2033.

Two of the key risks, relating to informing buyers and commitment breaches have been addressed through the completed corrective actions.

The management of leasehold land and the ability to meet offset requirements will be addressed in a Plan Review Report currently being prepared.

The Plan Review Report is part of the evaluation framework for the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment and is designed to look at how the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment is being implemented, to acknowledge what is working well, identify lessons learnt during the first five years of implementation, and identify potential challenges for delivering the remaining commitments in the Plan.

Both the recommendations and key risks outlined in the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment Audit Report will feed directly into the Plan Review Report which will guide future management of the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment.

The Plan Review Report will be finalised in July 2018. The report will be provided to the Commonwealth and will be made publically available on the EPSDD website.

6. It is recommended that the ACT Government further investigate the commitments that have been termed Undetermined.

Government Response: AGREED

A review of the commitments identified as 'Undetermined' in the audit report has been actioned.

The audit report identified commitments 3 and 12 as 'undetermined' due to a lack of evidence. Commitment 3 requires the ACT Government to provide guidance on the development of concept plans to ensure appropriate land use planning for areas adjacent to matters of national environmental significance habitat, and associated buffer to all urban development. The audit report noted that no evidence was provided to show how asset protection and buffers zones were addressed.

Asset protection and buffer zones are addressed during development applications for estate development plans. This includes an assessment of the estate development plan against the ACT Bushfire Regulation, and the commitments under the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment.

Commitment 12 requires the ACT to ensure all obligations have been met in regards to the management of matters of national environmental significance before handing over assets for ongoing operation. The audit report noted that there was insufficient evidence to make a determination on the status of this commitment.

The ACT Government is updating existing processes and developing new procedures to ensure all data relating to the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment is captured. This includes establishing service delivery agreements with each relevant agency, which will outline how such obligations are met.

The ACT Government is also undertaking a review of all the commitments as part of the Plan Review Report process.

7. It is recommended that the ACT Government notes the Observations detailed in the Audit Table and uses this to inform future management.

Government Response: AGREED

The audit report provides a number of observations in relation to achieving the conservation outcomes of the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment. The observations identified in the audit report will be addressed in the Plan Review Report.

The observations relate to management actions to achieve habitat improvement targets including benchmarks to ensure the targets are met; and consideration of planning research to ensure a strategic approach is applied in delivering future management of the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment.

The ACT Government is currently undertaking a review of all commitments to determine what is working well and lessons learnt as part of the Plan Review Report process. The Plan Review Report will also provide recommendations and guidance on future management to ensure the ACT Government is on track in meeting the objectives of the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment.

8. It is recommended that the ACT Government ensures adaptive management principles are carefully scrutinised and considered for incorporation into implementation of the commitments for this Plan.

Government Response: AGREED

The ACT Government recognises that the ecological values within the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment area will be subjected to the increasing and ongoing pressures of urban development and climate change. These pressures are not always known and their effects may be uncertain. To ensure the ACT Government is meeting its required targets, management actions are assessed on a case by case basis and where required adaptive management actions are applied to ensure conservation outcomes will be met. This will become increasingly important over time to ensure the objectives of the Plan are met over the extensive timeframes for the strategic assessment.

Adaptive management principles will be reviewed as part of the Plan Review Report.

The ACT Government is undertaking a review of the implementation of all the strategic assessment commitments over the past five years as part of the Plan Review Report.

Adaptive management is key to ensuring the ACT Government meets the conservation outcomes of the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment.

Appendix A – ACT Government response to detailed comments on each commitment

Appendix A provides information on the status of each strategic assessment commitment. Please note the information has been divided into two tables, Table 1- those commitments requiring further action; and Table 2 –no further action required.

Table 1-Gungahlin Strategic Assessment - commitments requiring action

Item	Commitment	Timeframe in Plan	GSA Audit Report Comment	Status
Compliant with observation				
4	Review and update Land Management Agreements (LMA) or management plans for all avoided areas of NUZ3 – Hills, Ridges and Buffers.	Commence review and update of Land Management Agreements within 12 months of endorsement of the Plan.	Land Management Agreements have not been finalised. While this is not a non-compliance, it represents a very high risk to delivery of commitments in all the leasehold areas.	Review commenced in accordance with commitment. Compliant.
26	Improvement in the under-storey diversity of 104 hectares of box gum woodlands that presently do not meet the definition of the listed community. Areas subject to this action will include those that are presently in nature reserves in addition to areas that will become nature reserve as a result of implementing the Plan.	Within 20 years of the endorsement of the Plan.	Observation: The Habitat Improvement Plan provides guidance to monitoring but does not provide: 1. management prescriptions in relation to improving condition of this vegetation, or 2. benchmarks over time in relation to reaching the objective in 20 years.	20 year commitment – being implemented. Compliant.
29	Protect known superb parrot nesting trees including exclusion fencing of the interface between Throsby East Reserve and the future urban area to limit pedestrian access points.	Prior to construction commencing in Throsby.	Observation: The location of walking tracks in relation to Superb Parrot nesting trees, and the associated risk to the species, requires further consideration.	Fencing installed consistent with commitment. Compliant. Fencing has been installed specifically to ensure Superb Parrot nesting trees are protected,
32	Research golden sun moth habitat requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> may include research into translocation of golden sun moths fragmentation and proximity to urban areas 	As determined by project prioritisation planning process.	Observation: There is no process that identifies and justifies what research will be or has been undertaken. Jacka and Moncrieff had Golden Sun Moth habitat according to the Figure 1 of the Golden Sun Moth Habitat Improvement Plan but no translocation has occurred from these suburbs. It is noted that this is not a requirement under the Plan but it would be of value to have a process to identify this research, to ensure a strategic approach is being applied.	Research undertaken. Compliant. In addition, PCS are preparing a research and monitoring plan to enhance the planning and delivery of ACT Government ecological monitoring and research programs on managed MNES that occur both within environmental offset sites and across the broader ACT reserve network.
Non-compliant				
35	Undertake plantings to improve connectivity and wildlife movement along Gungaderra and Sullivan's creeks, targeting in particular superb parrot movement corridors.	As determined by project prioritisation planning process.	Plantings were observed at Throsby on the 20 June 2017 site visit. Observation: While some planting has occurred, no evidence was provided of the planning necessary to meet the objective of improving connectivity and wildlife movement along Gungaderra and Sullivans Creek. The Extension to the Mulligans Flat and Gorooyaroo Nature Reserves Offset Management Plan sets out management requirements for improving connectivity and wildlife movement along creeks, however detailed strategic planning is missing.	Plantings undertaken. Compliant. Further planting and maintenance will be undertaken throughout 2018 and coordinated by PCS to improve connectivity and wildlife movement.

Item	Commitment	Timeframe in Plan	GSA Audit Report Comment	Status
6	Establishment of the 'Plan Implementation Team' (PIT); and Submission of initial / indicative team membership and charter to DoEE for approval. This will also include a Charter to describe the governance arrangements pertaining to operation of the Team that will guide it in the discharge of its duties in addition to strategies for engagement of community groups for input on the adaptive management process and MNES as appropriate.	Establishment of PIT within 3 months of Plan endorsement. PIT established 17 January 2014. Submission of charter to DoEE within 12 months of Plan endorsement.	The establishment of the PIT was 4 months late. The PIT Charter was submitted to the Commonwealth on 5 May 2014. This was within 12 months of Plan endorsement so it was on time. The amended PIT Charter was approved by the Commonwealth on 13 January 2017.	Complete. Note: An interim PIT was established in September 2013, prior to Commonwealth approval of the final PIT structure and charter.
5	Implement cat containment policy in all urban development areas.	During detailed planning of each suburb.	Gungahlin East Town Centre is non-compliant as there is no cat policy available for the area and construction commenced in January 2014. <u>Corrective Action Request:</u> Provide a plan on how to address compliance and enforcement for cat containment (due 20 December 2017).	Corrective action complete. A Cat Plan is currently in development between EPSDD and TCCS and this will aid in the development of cat management compliance strategies for the GSA area.
8	Develop and submit to DoEE for approval a program of implementation of all of the commitments in the Plan.	Within 2 months of DoEE approval of the PIT structure and Charter.	The PIT Charter was approved by the Commonwealth on 3 June 2014. The program should have been submitted to the PIT by 3 August 2014 and was submitted on 11 May 2015. This represents a 9 month delay.	Complete.
11a	Review and approve (subject to compliance with the Plan) Construction and Environmental Management Plans (CEMPs) submitted for all new construction projects within the area subject to the Plan.	This is required to occur prior to the commencement of construction in areas identified for conservation in the Plan.	OCSE noted the current work developing procedures with relevant entities to establish a procedure to ensure CEMPs are submitted, reviewed and where required, approved by the PIT. <u>Corrective Action Request:</u> The PIT will review the Taylor Stage 1 CEMP and work undertaken in relation to this CEMP to identify whether any breaches in relation to matter of national environmental significance (MNES) have occurred and develop an appropriate plan of action to address this if necessary. Due 20 January 2018.	Corrective action complete. New CEMP procedure has been implemented to ensure CEMPs for greenfield developments in the GSA area are submitted and reviewed.

Item	Commitment	Timeframe in Plan	GSA Audit Report Comment	Status
15	<p>Any action that results in a breach of commitments of the Plan and adversely affects MNES values will be investigated and reported to DoEE with identified recommendations for rectification, remediation or additional compensation.</p> <p>Remedial actions or additional compensation will be undertaken for controllable or avoidable actions which lead to a decline in MNES values with respect to the stated outcomes of the Plan.</p>	<p>Breaches to be investigated and DoEE notified immediately. Investigation report to be finalised and submitted to DoEE within 2 weeks of the incident coming to the attention of the PIT.</p> <p>Decline in MNES values as determined by trend analysis.</p> <p>To be investigated upon identification of trend in the Plan Review Report. Report to DoEE with recommended course of action to be submitted within 2 months.</p>	<p>Parks and Conservation Service advised that a temporary perimeter exclusion fence was inadvertently erected by Woden Contractors in October 2015 in the wrong location for a length of approximately 500 metres along the north-eastern boundary of Throsby. The boundary fence misalignment allowed construction to encroach onto the edge of the offset area.</p> <p>After inspection of the site, a Parks and Conservation Service staff member contacted the Commonwealth verbally on 13 June 2017 regarding the fence impinging on the offset area. This was not within the required timeframe of 2 weeks. The response from the Commonwealth was that the area impacted was too small to warrant taking any compliance action under the EPBC Act. No written evidence of this contact was available and the PIT was not informed of the issue. An investigation report was not prepared or submitted to the Commonwealth.</p> <p>On 12 May 2017, Ecological Australia inspected the land, and on 11 August 2017, noted that the impacted area was originally in low condition.</p> <p>Woden Contractors were issued with a Repair Damage Direction under section 229 of the NC Act to rehabilitate the impacted area.</p> <p><u>Corrective Action Request:</u></p> <p>Prepare a process document outlining the steps required to document or report investigations into any real or potential breaches of commitments of the Plan. Due 20 January 2018.</p>	<p>Corrective action complete.</p> <p>Procedure has been implemented to document or report investigations into any real or potential breaches of commitments of the Plan.</p>
16	<p>Prepare and submit Annual Reports (n=20). Highlighting the implementation of the actions and relevant conservation outcomes for MNES. All reports, in addition to any research related to the Plan will be published on the internet in a central location.</p>	<p>Ongoing. Every financial year (within 2 months of the end of the financial year).</p>	<p>No Commonwealth agreement to extensions have been provided for the 2013–14 and 2015–16 Annual Reports.</p> <p>EPSDD notes that the 2015–16 Annual Report was provided after the August due date as a result of the transfer of monitoring and reporting functions at the end of the 2015 financial year, and as the PIT Charter was also being revised to reflect new arrangements and changes to directorates.</p> <p>The annual reports have consistently not been delivered by the original due date with delays of up to 5 months. Ongoing untimely delivery of annual reports is a risk in meeting the commitments in the Plan.</p> <p>In addition, not all the research related to the Plan has been published on the internet.</p>	<p>Annual reports complete up to 2017/18.</p>
23	<p>Commence management of a nature reserve in Kinlyside (201 hectares) from the current extent of land in the RZ1 – Suburban zone under the Territory Plan in the location known as Kinlyside.</p>	<p>Within 2 years of Plan endorsement.</p>	<p>Funds were released in September 2015. Staff were recruited and on-ground works began in October/November 2015. Management should have commenced within 2 years of Plan endorsement, being 20 June 2015. This was 4-5 months late.</p> <p>Delay not expected to have had an impact on outcomes under the plan.</p>	<p>Complete.</p>
24	<p>Commence management of additional 300 hectares to the Mulligan's Flat – Goorooyarroo nature reserve complex. Land to be excised from the future urban area of Throsby and the 'Kenny broad acre' area and managed for the protection of MNES.</p>	<p>Prior to the commencement of construction in Throsby.</p>	<p>Funds for weed control were issued in 2015–16 as per Annual Report Financial Audit (p.23). Construction commenced in September 2015 in Throsby so management should have commenced in August 2015. EPSDD advised that commencement of on-ground management was October/November 2015 so it was approximately 2 months late. As for Commitment 23 above, work commenced after funding and resources were obtained.</p> <p>Delay not expected to have had an impact on outcomes under the plan.</p>	<p>Complete.</p> <p>Work commenced once funding and resources were available.</p>
25	<p>Commence management of additional 120 hectares to the north-western Hills, Ridges and Buffers zone from the urban areas of Taylor and Jacka in addition to the entire area of the north Horse Park broad acre area.</p>	<p>Prior to the commencement of Taylor.</p>	<p>This needed to occur prior to commencement of construction in Taylor. According to the construction commencement date for Taylor of June 2016, this work started in 2016–17, therefore being at least 1 month late.</p> <p>Delay not expected to have had an impact on outcomes under the plan</p>	<p>Complete.</p> <p>Management commenced.</p>

Item	Commitment	Timeframe in Plan	GSA Audit Report Comment	Status
27	Habitat improvement plans for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • box gum woodland (approx. 104 hectares of habitat) • golden sun moth (up to 140 hectares of habitat) • striped legless lizard (up to 111 hectares of habitat) • superb parrot 	12 month of endorsement of the Plan.	All four plans were due 20 June 2014 (refer to reminder letter from Commonwealth) but were submitted 9 months late on 4 March 2015. There is a medium risk of this moderate delay impacting on the ability to meet the objectives of the Plan as these plans are critical to the protection of MNES.	Complete. Not expected to impact on the ability to meet the objectives of the Plan, habitat improvement will be carried out over the length of the strategic assessment.
28	Fire hazard management strategies that include specific considerations for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • box gum woodland • golden sun moth • striped legless lizard • superb parrot 	Prior to any construction in areas adjoining the target MNES.	2015–16 Annual Report notes that this is a non-compliance. There is a risk that inappropriate fire management strategies are being implemented. EPSDD notes that all bushfire management activities undertaken by EPSDD are implemented under the direction of the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan. Each line item is referenced with the appropriate Ecological Guidelines. The Bushfire Operations Plan in turn is informed by the Regional Fire Plans and the overarching Strategic Bushfire Management Plan. The draft Bushfire Operations Plan is sent to Conservation Planning and Research for comment before it is signed off by the ACT Bushfire Council and Emergency Services Association Commissioner. Conservation Planning and Research check compliance with the ACT Government’s Ecological Guidelines for Fuel and Fire Management Operations. EPSDD reports that these plans are currently being prepared and will include specific ecological guidelines for MNES. However, as they are late, this represents a risk to the protection of the MNES. <u>Corrective Action Request:</u> Ensure the fire hazard management strategies are completed.	Corrective action complete Fire hazard management strategies for Throsby and Horse Park North have been completed.
Undetermined				
30	Establish educational resources including signage and guidelines for residents of east Throsby, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of ecological values and significance of the Mulligan’s Flat – Gorooyarroo nature reserve complex; • No domestic animals in reserves; • Management of pest species along the urban edge. 	Prior to sale of land to prospective residents.	EPSDD notes that the first land releases in Throsby commenced in February 2016, with the first settlements in May 2017. There are no residents currently living in east Throsby near the reserve. Occupation should commence by the end of the 2017 calendar year. General information about the ecological values and significance of the Mulligans Flat and Gorooyarroo Nature Reserves was available on the Land Development Agency Suburban Land website as part of the pre-land sales marketing process, however, nothing specific was included in the sales documentation. This information is promotional in nature, not educational. An education package is currently being prepared and will be distributed to residences. Land Development Agency Suburban Land will commence a community development program ‘Mingle for Throsby’ residents in the future. In addition, there is activities declaration signage at the entrance to the reserve stating that no cats or dogs are permitted in the reserves. Evidence that educational resources including signage were established prior to the sale of land has not been provided. Risk of not meeting objectives of the Plan is high, as buyers may not have been aware of the significance of MNES in surrounding reserve land at the time of land purchase. This potentially increases the likelihood of non-compliance by residents in relation to management of domestic animals. <u>Corrective Action Request:</u> Prepare and provide educational documentation for residents moving into Throsby and for people buying the remaining blocks in the suburb. Due 20 December 2017.	Corrective action complete. A plan for rolling out education material has been developed. The plan provides information on the values of the nature reserve and impacts associated with domestic animals on native species. This information will be provided in various forms including signage, brochures and open days.

Item	Commitment	Timeframe in Plan	GSA Audit Report Comment	Status
3	Provide documented guidance on the development of concept plans to ensure appropriate land use planning for areas adjacent to MNES habitat and associated buffers for all urban development including specific consideration of the estate design/layout. This is inclusive of requirements for Asset Protection Zones (APZ) between the buffer zone and any residential development.	Prior to lodgement of EDP for each suburb.	<p>Undetermined- medium risk</p> <p>The Guidance on Planning for Taylor, does not include any details about asset protection or buffer zones as per requirements for commitment. Note that it was endorsed by the PIT in 2014.</p> <p>The response from EPSDD identified that concerns regarding asset protection or buffer zones are addressed through the review of Estate Development Plans by relevant government agencies.</p> <p>However, no evidence was provided of how these asset protection and buffer zones were addressed.</p>	<p>Guidance documents completed for Throsby and Taylor.</p> <p>Others will be developed as required.</p> <p>Asset protection and buffer zone issues raised by the audit will be considered in the Plan Review Report.</p>
12	Coordinate with TaMS – Asset Acceptance to ensure all obligations of contractors with respect to management of MNES in accordance with the Plan have been implemented prior to hand-over of assets to the Territory.	Prior to practical completion of each development contract.	<p>Undetermined- Low risk</p> <p>EPSDD noted that this is currently undertaken outside of the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment framework.</p> <p>Development Approvals need to meet requirements of the Plan to protect MNES and conditions put into Notice of Decisions require the protection of MNES. There is currently no coordination through PIT for this action.</p> <p>Following transfer of the strategic assessment function to ESPDD in July 2016, EPSDD is working with relevant entities to establish a procedure to ensure Plan objectives and commitments are met.</p> <p>It is necessary for EPSDD to demonstrate how the obligations of contractors with respect to management of MNES are being met prior to hand-over of assets to the Territory. This is required under the Gungahlin Strategic Assessment commitments and insufficient evidence has been provided to demonstrate if this is occurring.</p>	Ongoing.

Table 2 Gungahlin Strategic Assessment – commitments not requiring action

Item	Commitment	Timing and Date	Status
Compliant			
1	Variation to the Territory Plan and amendment to the National Capital Plan for all proposed land use changes (including creation of Nature Reserves) in accordance with the Plan.	Commence variation prior to commencement of construction of any new urban areas.	Complete (all areas except Kenny where construction has not commenced)
7	Establishment of a suitable mechanism to enable management of funds provided to the PIT for implementation of the Plan.	Within 3 months of DoEE approval of the PIT structure and Charter.	Complete
9	Develop a Reserve Management Plan for all new nature reserves.	Within 6 months of reserve creation.	Complete
10	Develop amended Reserve Management Plans for existing reserves into which additional land is included as a result of the Plan.	Within 6 months of transfer of land into existing reserve.	Complete
11	Develop and submit to DoE for approval, the framework for CEMPs for areas directly or indirectly affecting MNES.	Prior to approval of any CEMP within areas subject to the Plan.	Complete
13	Collection of baseline ecological information for all new reserve areas.	Prior to dedication as nature reserve.	Complete
14	Ongoing collection of key ecological information for monitoring and reporting requirements.	As required to inform annual report.	Ongoing
19	Engage a third party to undertake an Independent Audit of the Plan's implementation (n=4).	Every fifth year from endorsement of the Plan.	Complete to date
20	Creation of new nature reserves in Kinlyside, Gorooyaroo and Mulligans Flat.	Upon Completion of variation to the Territory Plan	Complete
31	Commence planning for implementation of focused research on superb parrot habitat requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research focusing on nest site selection, nest site fidelity, fecundity, population dynamics and methods of reducing or eliminating nest hollow competition from aggressive native species or exotic pests such as common myna and European honeybee. Assisted natural regeneration to facilitate future hollow formation will be undertaken in areas likely to be suitable as future nesting sites. Removal of stock leading to a reduction in localised compaction and concentration of nutrients, improving long term tree survival. 	12 months of endorsement of Plan	Ongoing
33	Undertake control programs of ruderal species.	As indicated by monitoring program	Ongoing
34	Undertake salvage and relocation of structural habitat elements such as rocks and logs.	During construction, as specified in CEMP	Ongoing
36	Undertake all bushfire management activities in line with ACT Government's Ecological Guidelines for Fuel and Fire Management Operations.	As required	Ongoing
37	The formula for funding set out in Table 5.3 over the 20 year life of the Plan will be implemented.	Upon endorsement of the Plan and approval of the class of actions permitting urban development of Gungahlin.	Ongoing
Not applicable			
17	Prepare a Plan Review Report every fourth year from endorsement of the Plan (within 6 months of the end of financial year).	Every fourth year from endorsement of the Plan (within 6 months of the end of financial year).	Due 31 July 2018 Due date adjusted to 31 July 2018 as agreed by Commonwealth.
18	Engage a third party (outside of the PIT membership or working group) to undertake an annual audit of financial management under the Plan. Findings of the audit are to be included in the annual report.	To coincide with annual reporting	Complete to date
21	Creation of nature reserve in Kenny.	Prior to commencement of construction in Kenny.	Construction has not commenced
22	Commence management of a nature reserve in Kenny (160 hectares). Created by the excision of rural Block 775 Gungahlin from future development potential.	Prior to commencement of construction in Kenny. Construction has not commenced.	Construction has not commenced

Item	Commitment	Timing and Date	Status
38	Review the funding arrangements to ensure the Plan commitments are being met in the event of total expenditure variations of more than 5 per cent over the 20 year period (+/- \$1.325 million).	As part of the plan review process	Due 31 July 2018 Plan Review Report due 31 July 2018.