

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 10

19 September 2025

Question No. 638

Andrew Braddock MLA: To ask the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

1. What evidence is there to support the use of hollows in dead trees by wildlife, particularly threatened species like Superb Parrots, given that in Environmental Significance Opinion (ESO) - Removal and Relocation of Habitat Tree – Block 2 Section 11 Gungahlin (ESO202500039), the Conservator of Flora and Fauna had approved the removal and relocation of the hollow-bearing tree on site and that the ESO published online says that Superb Parrots have been observed nesting in the area.
2. How many trees must be removed for it to be deemed ‘significant’, given the Loss of Mature Native Trees Key Threatening Process says to ‘avoid tree lopping or removal’.
3. Has the native tree retention policy been developed to guide quantitative evaluation of ecological tree values to reduce the subjectivity of assessments, as recommended by the Loss of Mature Native Trees Key Threatening Process.

SUZANNE ORR MLA - The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:

1. Nest monitoring confirms that threatened species, including Superb Parrots, do use dead tree hollows. Many animal species including parrots, possums, gliders, microbats, reptiles, and a wide range of invertebrates use hollows in dead trees (also known as “stags” or “snags”) for nesting, roosting, thermal refuge, and access to food and water.

In the ACT, two threatened hollow-dependent species under active monitoring are the Superb Parrot and the Gang-gang Cockatoo. Nationally, both species have been recorded nesting in dead trees. However, within the ACT, Superb Parrots rarely do so, showing a strong preference for large, living Blakely’s Red Gums or Scribbly Gums. Gang-gang Cockatoos are less selective and have frequently been observed nesting in dead trees of various species. Annual nest monitoring for both species continues through a partnership between the ACT Government and the Australian National University.

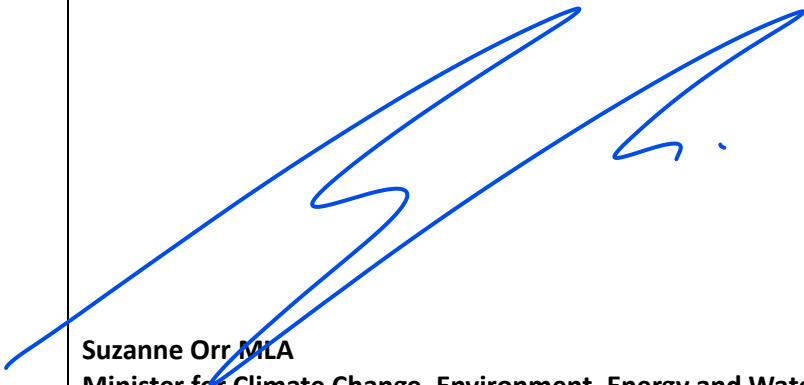
2. The determination of whether a development proposal significantly contributes to the Loss of Mature Native Trees (MNTs) Key Threatening Process (KTP) is dependent on the ecological context of the trees proposed for removal. As such, there is no defined number of tree removals that triggers the Loss of MNTs KTP. In determining the significance of any MNT losses,

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Conservator of Flora and Fauna considers several factors, including the habitat resources provided by the tree (e.g. nesting hollows for threatened species), the landscape position of the tree (e.g. the connectivity value of the tree), and whether the tree is part of a threatened ecological community. A proposal is deemed likely to result in a significant contribution to this KTP if it meaningfully contributes to the loss of important ecological values within the broader landscape.

3. The native tree retention policy as identified in the Action Plan to Prevent the Loss of Mature Native Trees (Action Plan) has not yet been completed. Irrespective, the proposed loss of any native or exotic tree is carefully considered against the statutory requirements of *Urban Forest Act 2023* as part all development proposal assessment processes.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Suzanne Orr MLA

Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Date: 17/10/25

This response required 1 hrs 45 mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$177.64.