

Suzanne Orr MLA

Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs
Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water
Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services
Minister for Seniors and Veterans

Member for Yerrabi

RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE
Questions on Notice Paper No 1
6 December 2024
Question No. 137

MS CLAY MLA - To ask the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water:

How many hectares (a) are currently undergoing active habitat restoration as part of a conservation program, (b) are classified as environmental offsets and (c) have been identified as a priority for needing habitat restoration as part of future government programs.

MINISTER ORR MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

(a) Approximately 2,784 ha of ACT land are under active habitat restoration.

This includes 2,495 ha of environmental offsets under active restoration, comprising:

- Gungahlin Strategic Assessment = 841 ha
- Molonglo Strategic Assessment = 823 ha
- Grassland Restoration Project = 599 ha
- Individual environmental offsets projects = 232 ha

A further 235 ha are under active restoration across Mount Majura, Mount Ainslie, Urambi Hills and Namadgi Nature Reserves, as well as along the Murrumbidgee River Corridor following investment from the 2023-24 ACT Budget.

Under ACT Natural Resource Management (NRM), approximately 55 ha are undergoing active restoration across a variety of locations and ecological habitats. This includes restoration undertaken under Australian Government funding via the Regional Delivery Partners program but also includes some works undertaken under ACT Government funding.

- (b) There is a total of 2,722 ha of land classified as environmental offsets in the ACT. This comprises offsets under active restoration and avoidance offsets. Of this total, 2,593 ha are within the ACT and two sites are in NSW. These are Lot 2 Wallaroo Road and the Ginninderry Conservation Corridor.
- (c) In addition to the restoration activities occurring at Mount Majura, Mount Ainslie, Urambi Hills and Namadgi Nature Reserves, a further 505 ha have been identified as priority sites for restoration.

722 ha have been identified for habitat restoration across potential offsets sites under the proposed Eastern Broadacre Strategic Assessment.

As part of investment for conservation activities from the 2022-23 ACT Budget, the Government is developing a cross-tenure spatial platform that prioritises areas for restoration (by government or community), as well as providing guidance for restoration activities.

The prioritisation is based on Plant Community Type (PCT) mapping that has been undertaken across 15,437 ha of urban areas, including urban reserves, as well as consideration of other ecological attributes such as connectivity. Prioritisation is expected to be completed in early 2025, at which point it will be possible to indicate how many hectares are a priority for restoration, and estimated restoration costs.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.


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

Date: 20/12/24

This response required 3hrs 20mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$307.20.