

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 4

21 March 2025

Question No. 229

MR CAIN MLA - To ask the Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development:

- (1) How many environmental offset sites have been established in the ACT since 2019-2020.
- (2) How much land, in hectares, has been dedicated to environmental offset sites in the ACT since 2019-2020.
- (3) Can the Minister advise the number of environmental offset sites in the ACT as at the end of 2024.
- (4) Can the Minister provide a list of the (a) locations, (b) size in hectares and (c) ecological condition of each environmental offset site in the ACT as at the end of 2024.

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

- (1) Two environmental offset sites have been established since the end of the 2019-2020 financial year: Nadjung Mada Nature Reserve and West Kenny. Another two, the Pinnacle Nature Reserve Second Extension and the Rob Roy Nature Reserve Extension, have been approved by the Commonwealth, but are yet to be established.
- (2) Since the end of the 2019-2020 financial year, the two established environmental offsets have added approximately 172 ha to the ACT's conservation estate. The two additional offsets (approved but not yet established) are expected to add approximately 158 ha to the estate.



- (3) As at the end of 2024, there are 28 environmental offset sites in the ACT which have been approved by the Commonwealth. One site and a portion of an additional site fall on the NSW side of the border. Both are associated with the Ginninderry development.

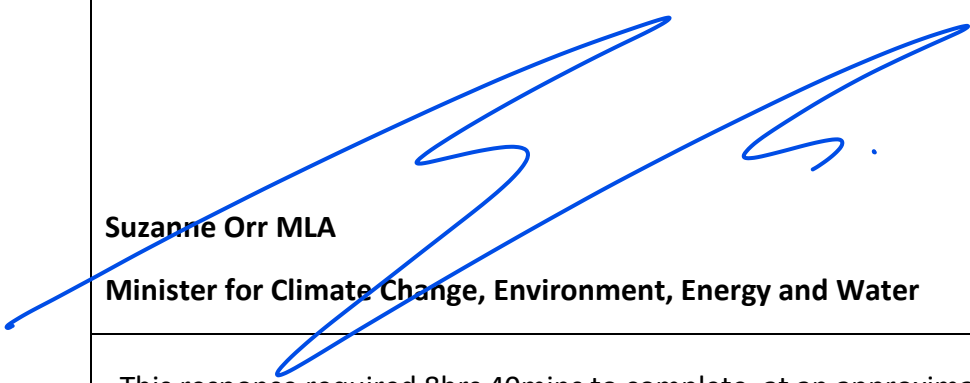
Additional sites are managed for future use as environmental offsets, including sites proposed under the Eastern Broadacre Strategic Assessment and Bonshaw. The ACT Government has not yet sought Commonwealth approval for these proposed offsets.

- (4) The ACT Government maintains records of the location and size of all environmental offset sites within the ACT. This information is available through the [ACTMapi Environment Map](#). The ACT Government is responsible for monitoring the ecological condition of offsets where this is a requirement under the respective Offset Management Plan (OMP), and only for those offsets managed by Parks and Conservation Services (PCS) or Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS).

OMPs set out the commitments that must be met over the offset lifetime as a condition of approval for the associated development, made under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth).

The ecological condition requirements vary within and between each offset depending on the specific values and objectives the site is being managed for. For instance, parts of an offset may be managed to maintain high-quality conditions, while other areas may be managed to improve lower-quality conditions. Ecological monitoring is conducted annually across the majority of offset sites. However, the schedule for assessing progress against commitments varies between sites, as per the OMP requirements, and often spans extended periods. As such, point-in-time ecological condition assessments are not readily available.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.


Suzanne Orr MLA

Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Date: 06/05/25

This response required 8hrs 40mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$741.50.