

**Chris Steel MLA**

Treasurer

Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development

Minister for Heritage

Minister for Transport

Member for Murrumbidgee

**RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE****Questions on Notice Paper No 1****6 December 2024****Question No. 78****MS CLAY MLA** - To ask the Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development:

- (1) How many hectares of land are classified as nature reserve.
- (2) How many hectares of the land classified as nature reserve are within urban areas.
- (3) Can the Minister provide a map showing the land classified as nature reserve within urban areas.

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

- (1) There are 20,137 ha of land in the ACT classified as 'Nature Reserve', being one type of reserve in the ACT (Territory Plan Overlay Zones GIS layer 9 Dec 2024).

Under the [Nature Conservation Act 2014](#), section 169, the word "reserve" means and includes wilderness areas, national parks, nature reserves, catchment areas and other areas prescribed by regulation to be a reserve. These types of public land may be reserved in the [territory plan](#), under section 385 of the [Planning Act 2023](#). With the total extent of land reserved for conservation (all reserve types) being much larger.

ACT Park and Conservation Services' (PCS) sum of land reserved for conservation is 143,838ha (61% of the Territory).

Namadgi National Park and Bimberi Wilderness Area account for over 75% of the conservation area and around 47% of the total area of the ACT.



Nature Reserves (including Canberra Nature Park) account for around 14% of the conservation estate, water supply 4%, and special purpose reserves around 6% (ACT State of the Environment Report 2023).

The ACT's protected area extent represented in the national [Collaborative Australian Protected Areas Database \(CAPAD\)](#) is 131,904ha (55.94% of the Territory). The difference between what is reported through CAPAD and what is represented in the ACT Government's spatial database of conservation reserves, is explained by the omission of the Lower Cotter Catchment from the current national CAPAD report.

- (2) In order to create a map articulating the number of hectares of land classified as 'Nature Reserve' within the urban area, inclusions incorporate the following conditions:
- Reserves managed as Canberra Nature Park (CNP); or
  - Reserves within or immediately adjoining suburbs

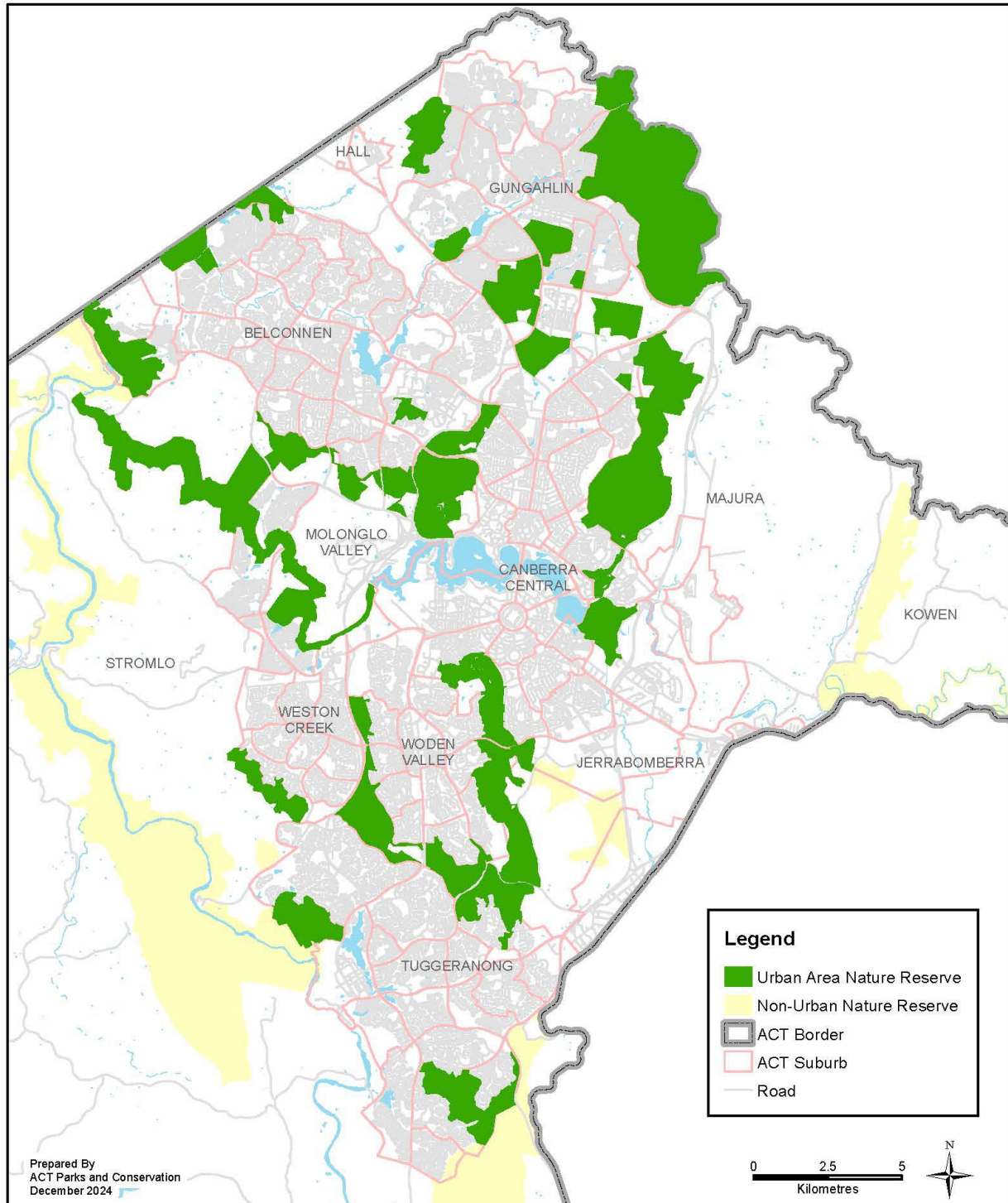
Based on this, there are 9,525ha of Nature Reserve within the urban area.

However, the following reserves that meet this definition have been excluded for the reasons specified below:

- Rob Roy Nature Reserve: Part of CNP and adjoins the suburban edge for a small section but the vast majority of the reserve is distant from the urban area and difficult for the public to visit due to extensive areas of private lease.
- Bullen Range Nature Reserve: Adjoins the urban edge for a small section but the bulk of the reserve is distant from the urban area.
- Woodstock Nature Reserve: Adjoins a suburb boundary but is not close to the urban area
- Molonglo Gorge, Kowen Escarpment Nature Reserves: Part of CNP but not close to urban area.
- Melrose Nature Reserve: Part of CNP but not close to urban area.
- McQuoids Hill Nature Reserve: Part of CNP but not close to urban area.
- Jerrabomberra West Grasslands Nature Reserve: Part of CNP but not close to urban area.

(3)

## ACT Urban Area Nature Reserves



Environment Protection and Sustainable Development Directorate  
Parks and Conservation

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Chris Steel MLA

Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development

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This response required 9hrs 15mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$930.92.