

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 16

3 March 2026

Question No. 886

Jo Clay MLA: To ask the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water -

In relation to Box Gum Woodlands that are not recognised under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth), and given that the ACT has a broader definition of Box Gum Woodlands than the federal definition, outside of the ACT's Reserves, do the Box Gum Woodlands protected by the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* only have any protection at all; if not, why not; if so, why do these Box Gum Woodlands receive no consideration at all in decision-making.

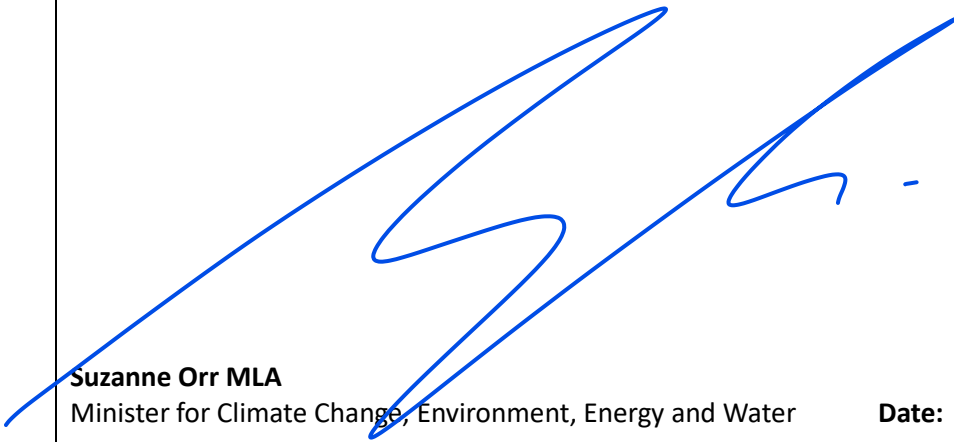
SUZANNE ORR MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The *Planning Act 2023* recognises the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* (the Act) listed Box Gum Woodland (BGW) as a "protected matter".

Proposed developments which are likely to significantly impact BGW must be referred to the Conservator of Flora and Fauna (Conservator). An Environmental Impact Statement must be prepared unless an Environmental Significance Opinion is issued. The Conservator also assesses and provides advice on *all* proposals which may affect the Act listed BGW, to ensure impacts are identified and appropriately managed.

The Act also provides additional protections for BGW through the Conservator's legislated functions. The Conservator must take reasonable steps to implement the BGW Action Plan to protect and enhance this ecological community. The Act enables the Conservator to issue legal directions to stop any activities which may impact BGW or contravene the Action Plan.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Suzanne Orr MLA

Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Date: 19/03/26

This response required 1hrs 5mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$129.61.