

Request for Costing an Election Commitment

Name of proposal:	Review of the Environment Protection Authority and Conservator for Flora and Fauna
Person requesting costing:	Andrew Barr MLA 
Date of request:	11 October 2024
Summary of proposal:	ACT Labor will support the Statutory Review of Nature Conservation Act with a view to making sure it is modern and fit for purpose. We will undertake a review of the Environment Protection Authority and Conservator for Flora and Fauna to ensure they are best positioned to deliver their regulatory responsibilities.
Issue the proposal will address:	With a changing climate and a growing city, it is important that the ACT Government has the right framework in place to ensure an effective conservation program for the Territory. This review will enable the Government to define the role of the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and the Conservator for Flora and Fauna in supporting a growing city.
Proposal's public announcement details (media release or policy statement published on a party website) ¹ :	This is included in ACT Labor's policy position statement under 'Environment'. https://www.actlabor.org.au/media/342plfst/act-labor-policy-positon-statement-2024-7-october-2024.pdf

What are the key assumptions that have been made in the proposal?

Note: The costing will be developed on the basis of information and assumptions provided in the costing request. The professional judgment of the Under Treasurer will determine whether these assumptions are adopted in the costing of the proposal.

- This review will compliment the 10 year review of the Nature Conservation Act 2014, which is currently underway and anticipated to be finalised in 2025.
- Following the release of the revised Act, a further review of the EPA and the Conservator for Flora and Fauna will take place to respond to the new act.
- The review will also consider the new Territory Plan and how the EPA and the Conservator can best support the objectives of the Plan.
- This review will take place in 2025-26 with a one-off expense of \$250,000. The review will be presented to the Minister for Government consideration.

¹ As per Part 2, section 5 of the *Election Commitments Costing Act 2012*

What are the estimated revenue and operating costs each year (if available) and what are the capital requirements for this proposal and estimated costs each year (if available)?

	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Revenue^(a)	0	0	0	0	0
Expenses^(a)	0	-250	0	0	-250
Capital^(a)	0	0	0	0	0
Depreciation^(a)	0	0	0	0	0
Offset - Expenses^(a)	0	0	0	0	0
Offset - Capital^(a)	0	0	0	0	0
Full-time equivalent employees	0	0	0	0	0

(a) A negative number indicates a decrease in revenue or an increase in expenses, depreciation or capital outflows. A positive number indicates an increase in revenue or decrease in expenses, depreciation or capital inflows. The expenses row is not to include depreciation costs.

Has any specific information or data been utilised in generating the proposal? Please provide links or attach information/data sources referenced.

No.

Where relevant, is funding for the proposal to be demand driven or a capped amount?

Capped.

Will third parties, for instance the Commonwealth or other State/Territories, have a role in funding or delivering the proposal? Does the proposal provide additional funding to, or redirect, any existing Commonwealth/State or Territory funding arrangements?

No

Will funding/the cost require indexation?

No

Who will administer the proposal?

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD).

How will the proposal be administered?

The review will be undertaken by the Directorate. Support may be provided by external resources, either through consultation with stakeholders or data collection.

Is the proposal part of a broader package? If so, please identify the other elements of the package.

No.

Has an allowance been made for expenses necessary to support the implementation of this proposal?

- If no, will the government agency be expected to absorb expenses associated with this proposal?
- If yes, please specify the key assumptions.

No, EPSDD will be expected to absorb expenses associated with this proposal.
Will the proposal generate savings or offsets? If so, please quantify any savings or offsets.
No
Has the proposal been previously costed by an external (third) party? If so, will a copy of this material, including any assumptions, be made available to Treasury?
No
What are the community impacts associated with the proposal? Who and how many people will be affected?
There are a number of stakeholders that have an active interest in the work of the Conservator and the EPA. This includes the Conservation Council ACT and volunteer environment groups, and as well the Dhawura Ngunnawal Caring for Country Committee, the ACT Scientific Committee, research experts and relevant internal stakeholders.
Are there any transitional considerations associated with implementation of the proposal? If so, how will they be managed?
No
What is the intended implementation date of the proposal?
The review is expected to take place from 1 July 2025.
When is the proposal expected to be fully operational? Please provide details such as the start and end dates, the level of commitment during each period etc.
The review is expected to be completed by 1 July 2026, taking 12 months to complete. The review is expected to be delivered to the Minister from 1 July 2026.
Will the proposal cease, and if so, when?
The review is expected to be completed by 1 July 2026.
Is there any additional information relevant to this proposal?
No.