

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Australian Capital Territory

Release of Conservation Action Plans for Threatened Species

The Act Minister for Urban Services, Brendan Smyth, announced on 20 October the release of eleven action plans for threatened flora and fauna—the last of a series of twenty-four action plans for the ACT. The Minister said that the ACT is ‘the first Australian jurisdiction to complete conservation action plans for its threatened flora and fauna’.

The eleven action plans—for one ecological community and ten declared species—are:

Action Plan No 10	Yellow Box/Red Gum Grassy Woodland
Action Plan No 15	Hooded Robin (<i>Melanodryas cucullata</i>)
Action Plan No 16	Swift Parrot (<i>Lathamus discolor</i>)
Action Plan No 17	Superb Parrot (<i>Polytelis swainsonii</i>)
Action Plan No 18	Brown Treecreeper (<i>Climacteris picumnus</i>)
Action Plan No 19	Painted Honeyeater (<i>Grantiella picta</i>)
Action Plan No 20	Regent Honeyeater (<i>Xanthomyza phrygia</i>)
Action Plan No 21	Perunga Grasshopper (<i>Perunga ochracea</i>)
Action Plan No 22	Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby (<i>Petrogale penicillata</i>)
Action Plan No 23	Smoky Mouse (<i>Pseudomys fumeus</i>)
Action Plan No 24	Tuggeranong Lignum (<i>Muehlenbeckia tuggeranong</i>)

Action plans may be purchased at ACT Government shopfronts and the ACT Environment Information Centre, Lyneham. They are also available on the Environment ACT home-page at: <http://www.act.gov.au/enviro>

Competition Policy Review of Land Act

The Minister for Urban Services, Brendan Smyth, announced on 16 November that a National Competition Policy review of key parts of the *Land Act* was underway. The two areas being

reviewed are the granting of leases and aspects of the development application process.

Consultation with industry and the community will begin in December, with the release of an Issues Paper and a call for public submissions. Public meetings and workshops are to be held in early 2000. It is expected that the review will be completed by mid-2000.

Mr Smyth said that 'the review will analyse the Act for any anti-competitive components or inefficiencies that may affect the ACT economy. Should any be demonstrated they will be assessed against the costs and benefits for the ACT community'.

The review is being undertaken by the Allen Consulting Group. The terms of reference and the consultant's brief are available from the ACT Planning and Land Management Customer Information Centre and on the PALM web-site: <www.palm.gov.au>

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