

From: Sch 1 1.14
Sent: 28/10/2024 1:57 PM
To: @act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Wombat review document
Attachments: Review of wombats in the ACT_DRAFT_RB half comments.docx

FYI

From: Sch 1 1.14
Sent: Friday, 27 September 2024 4:24 PM
To: Sch 2.2(a)(ii)
Cc: Sch 1 1.14
Subject: Wombat review document

Hi Sch 2.2(a)(ii),

How are you? First apologies for taking this long to get back to you. I have worked my way through about half the wombat review document (see attached) and have run out of time before I go on leave again for a week.

In summary, there is a lot of great information captured in the document, but it needs substantial editing. I have also attempted to restructure the review to improve the flow. My editing/comments are only up to where I have highlighted in blue. It's taken me two days of reviewing to get to here, and so it may take me another 2 days to complete. I wanted to get this back to you so you could start to address some of my (and Stephs) comments in the meantime.

My main comment is that stakeholder views and opinions belong in the stakeholder section, for anything that you use that expresses these views and opinions please cite pers. comm. We can't make general statements like "farmers think" because not all farmers think that way – so cite who you obtained the information from and when. Be careful to reference as appropriate any scientific information (I've copied your formatting of putting "ref" in brackets where you need a reference).

My second comment would be that you need to cover off on ALL stakeholders, not just the main two. I have made a list of those who are missing in the comments.

I'm likely to have other comments in the second half but know that while the edits and comments look like a lot, you have given me a great canvas to shape so to speak!

This should give you plenty to work until I get a chance to review the second half of the document. I'll try and do so before the 14th October.

Thanks so much, have a great weekend.

Regards

Sch 1 1.14

Djan Yimaba Yara (*Thank you and Bye in Ngunnawal language*),

Sch 1 1.14

Office of Nature Conservation, Environment and Heritage Division
Environment, Planning & Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD), ACT Government
480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

Sch 1 1.14

Adjunct Ass. Prof., Institute for Applied Ecology, University of Canberra

From: Sch 1 1.14
Sent: 28/01/2025 8:50 AM
To: Sch 1 1.14
Subject: RE: ACT Wombat Review

Hi Sch 1 1.14

Great, I'll tee up a time with Sch 2.2(a)(ii) for you to discuss ideas and perspective.

Thanks for the additional stakeholder ideas, especially the Planning and utility contacts!

Cheers,

Sch 1 1.14

From: Sch 1 1.14
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2025 2:28 PM
To: Sch 1 1.14
Subject: RE: ACT Wombat Review

OFFICIAL

Thanks Sch 1 1.14

Absolutely, happy to help out. Myself and Sch 1 1.14 would be the main contacts for OCFF. Looking at your table below, looks like you've captured most of the key stakeholders. The only others I'd suggest would be Sch 2.2(a)(ii) from Capital Ecology who undertakes a lot of the ecology work for the developers within the ACT, someone from Planning (Like Sch 1 1.14) to give any insights from the Planning side of things and maybe someone from a utilities company like Sch 2.2(a)(ii) from EvoEnergy or Sch 2.2(a)(ii) from Icon Water?

Thanks!

Sch 1 1.14

Conservator of Flora and Fauna | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

Sch 1 1.14

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | ACT Government
480 Northbourne Canberra ACT 2601 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.environment.act.gov.au |
www.planning.act.gov.au

I acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

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From: Sch 1 1.14
Sent: Thursday, 23 January 2025 11:07 AM
To: Sch 1 1.14
Subject: FW: ACT Wombat Review

OFFICIAL

Hi Sch 1 1.14

We have been working with an external consultant to prepare an ACT Wombat Review that evaluates current practices, policies, and challenges associated with wombat management in the ACT to align conservation goals with practical management strategies.

Central to the review process has been connecting the consultant with relevant stakeholders to obtain ideas and perspectives relating to wombats. One element that the consultant was keen to understand more were perspectives around the urban development spaces – to this end, could we setup a time to discuss wombat issues with OCFF and/or do you have any Urban Development / Industry stakeholders that you think it would be worth connecting with. All discussions will be facilitated by the consultant without anyone from ONC present.

Cheers,

Sch 1 1.14

From: Sch 2.2(a)(ii)
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2025 5:33 PM
To: Sch 1 1.14
Subject: RE: ACT Wombat Review

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UNOFFICIAL

Hi Sch 1 1.14

This is the first I am hearing of Sch 1 1.14

In her comments Sch 1 1.14 has also mentioned Defence (not sure what they have to do with wombats) but I haven't been provided any contacts.

Group	Organisation/name	Role
ACT Gov	Office of the Conservator of Flora and Fauna, Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate	Acts on issues that affect the conservation matters embodied in the NC Act, particularly protecting native plants and animals
	Policy ONC	
	Office of Nature Conservation, Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate	Undertake a range of nature conservation programs in the ACT, including research on local flora and fauna, preparing scientific advice on ecological and natural resource management, conducting ecological surveys, biodiversity monitoring
	Transport Canberra and City Services	Deliver a range of services, including shop and playground upgrades, road and path maintenance, domestic animal services, and the management of urban open spaces including tree planting and grass mowing
	Natural Resource Management ACT, Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate	Integrated management of ACT's natural resource, including biodiversity, sustainable agriculture and cultural history
	DP	

	Parks and Conservation service	Land management of conservation estate Licensing and compliance under the Nature Conservation Act 2014
	Veterinarians	Administering treatment and care of animals including wildlife within the ACT
	Icon Water	Supplier of water and sewage services in the ACT
Industry	Developers	Construction of new developments within the ACT in compliance with Conservator Guidelines for Burrowing Animals.
Agriculturalists	Rural leaseholders	Land management and agricultural production
	ACT Farmers association	Advocates for farmers and best practice farming within the ACT
Wildlife carers	Wombat Rescue	Caring for injured wombats and treating mange infected populations within the ACT. Advocate for wombat conservation.
	ACT Wildlife	
Researchers	Prof Scott Carver	Conducting research on wombat ecology, biology and management
Ngunnawal		

Cheers

Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

From: Sch 1 1.14
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 1:28 PM
To: Sch 2.2(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: ACT Wombat Review

OFFICIAL

Hey Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

DNCCC = Dhaura Ngunnawal Caring for Country Committee, which a representative body for the Ngunnawal community to enable better communication with ACT Government. It is currently paused, but the contact point is Sch 1 1.14, who would have been a stakeholder recommended to you.

Sch 2.2(a)(ii) sent through the attached monitoring update – please let me know if you have any further questions.

Have reached out to our Urban Wildlife team about that mange procedure; I have not heard about it before, but will send through if I can track it down.

Yes, I can certainly help with the roles and responsibilities table – do you want to send me the table and I can fill it out? Thanks for sending through the basic info summary, I'll connect you with some of the missing stakeholder groups to get the ball rolling with a time to talk.

Cheers,

Sch 1 1.14

From: Sch 2.2(a)(ii)
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2025 12:12 PM
To: Sch 1 1.14
Subject: RE: ACT Wombat Review

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UNOFFICIAL

Hello,

A few things to follow up on:

Apparently there is a decision sheet for the euthanasia of wombats inflicted with mange that rangers follow pulled together by the chief vet.

Are you able to send me a copy?

[REDACTED] was going to send me through data from this year's surveys but hasn't has she provided the data to you? . She was concerned it would be used to justify the need for culling wombats and said she wouldn't share it if she thought that's what it was being used for but I think I convinced her it wasn't suitable for that purpose.

What is the acronym DNCCC????

Can you please help me with the stakeholders table and roles and responsibilities?

As per your question I've been sending the following

I am doing a review of wombat management in the ACT for the EPSDD.

This review aims to evaluate the current practices, policies, and challenges associated with wombat management in the ACT. It serves as a resource for policymakers, and other stakeholders seeking to align conservation goals with practical management strategies. Specifically, the review explores:

1. **Legislation and Policy:** An overview of the legal frameworks governing wombat management in the ACT and other jurisdictions. A comparative analysis of wombat management frameworks across Australian states and territories.
2. **Threats to Wombat Populations:** An assessment of key threats, including sarcoptic mange, road collisions, habitat fragmentation, and climate variability.
3. **Complexities of Management:** An exploration of the ecological, social, and economic factors that make wombat management challenging. Insights into the diverse and often conflicting priorities of stakeholders, ranging from rural leaseholders and developers to conservationists and indigenous communities.
4. **Management Tools and Strategies:** An evaluation of available methods, including fencing and burrow modifications, and their effectiveness in mitigating wombat-related damage.
5. **Recommendations for Action:** Evidence-based proposals to improve wombat management while ensuring ecological sustainability and stakeholder cooperation.

You have been identified as a stakeholder and I'd like to have a chat with you about your experiences with wombats in the ACT.

Fridays are easiest for me as they are generally meeting free.

Cheers

Sch 2.2(a)(i)

From: [REDACTED] Sch 1 1.14
Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 12:13 PM

To: [Redacted] Sch 2.2(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: ACT Wombat Review

OFFICIAL

Hey [Redacted] Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

Circling back to the ACT Wombat Review work.

Now that we're all back on deck for 2025, I was going to tee up those stakeholder discussions for you. Did you have a basic note with background and the sort of questions you would like to ask, so that I can provide some context?

I'll ensure you are looped into the emails I send out to people so that you lock in a meeting time; are there general dates/times that you are likely able to do?

Cheers,

[Redacted] Sch 1 1.14

From: [Redacted] Sch 1 1.14
Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 11:01 AM
To: [Redacted] Sch 2.2(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: ACT Wombat Review

Hey [Redacted] Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

Here is the Urban Wildlife callout data available for Wombats.

Have had a conversation with [Redacted] Sch 1 1.14 and please follow her layout structure; if you include a brief paragraph introducing the Legislation section, I would include mention of the three wombat species there as they related to the different jurisdictions.

Cheers,

[Redacted] Sch 1 1.14

From: [Redacted] Sch 2.2(a)(ii)
Sent: Sunday, December 8, 2024 2:01 PM
To: [Redacted] Sch 1 1.14
Subject: RE: ACT Wombat Review

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UNOFFICIAL

Hi [Redacted] Sch 1 1.14

I agree the current structure doesn't flow very well.
I'm not sure if you have seen this, but I was working to the outline attached.

Happy to change it up, but I don't want to spend my time doing that if the above is what Renee wants and I have to put it all back.

[Redacted] told me not to spend my time including background information on bare nosed wombats. I'm not sure if that extends to your comments on section 2 about wombats in Australia.

I've looked extensively on Trove and found very little except lots of footy scores for a team from a place called wombat but I was searching under the ACT and Canberra so maybe that is why.
I had no idea it was called the Federal Territory. I thought it was odd there wasn't much

I intend to add all the things you would usually find in a gov doc – exec summary, glossary etc.
This was very much a first unpolished draft, that I would rather have had the time to polish, but [redacted] wanted to see my progress.
The recommendations section is just a bunch of brain farts

I have been having informal chats with people online or over the phone. I find it's the best way to get people to open up and say what they really think.
They might not do that if you are there. I've been using my uni email so they don't associate me with government.
I'll have another go reaching out to Bradley but as I got no response from NRM maybe that one would be good for you to try and push along.

Cheers

Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

From: [redacted] Sch 1 1.14
Sent: Friday, December 6, 2024 12:43 PM
To: [redacted] Sch 2.2(a)(ii) [u>](#)
Subject: RE: ACT Wombat Review

OFFICIAL

Hey [redacted] Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

To avoid confusion with all of the detailed comments and feedback that [redacted] Sch 1 1.14 and [redacted] Sch 1 1.14 have already provided to you, I will await an updated version before making detailed comments. I do have several general comments from reading through the document:

- I think the document will flow much easier if you structure so that:
 - Section 1 is an introductory section that outlines the purpose, scope and structure of the document.
 - Section 2 provides an overview of wombats in Australia, the different species and their ranges, and more focussed details about wombats in the ACT. This will help to frame discussion of legislative environment in other jurisdictions, especially when talking about HNWs.
 - Section 3 legislation
 - Section 4 explains who the stakeholders are and why they have a vested interest in wombats populations and their management, and how the species' ecology feeds these issues
 - Section 5 talking about wombat management complexities, drawing on the issues flagged by stakeholders and how these conflicts cause complexities
 - Section 6 onwards as you have laid out already.
- On a side note, there is not shortage of evidence the wombats were present in the ACT region pre/post settlement - Trove is an excellent source of information. You just need to bear in mind that the territory was only set aside in 1913 (prior to being large rural leases + travelling stock routes), when it was then often referred to as the "Federal Territory" until 1984 when we had self-government.
- You will need to tighten up the language in the Legislation section to be able to clearly articulate what legislative mechanisms resulted in each key change relating to wombats; this means identifying the acts/lists/policies and what the different labels means in each context (e.g. noxious, pest, unprotected, open/close season, etc).
- I feel a list of defined terms or glossary would be useful where there are certain terms that keep being mentioned but that would be good to clarify what these mean and scope of the terms (e.g. noxious, pest, unprotected, open/close season, etc).

- I think it would be clearer if the recommendations section was restructured so that each recommendation is a separate point, with an emphasis on what needs doing (justification for each should be in the main document). It would be useful to think about the core gap or issue that you are trying to communicate, rather than trying to specify exactly how the gap should be addressed (e.g. better communicate x, instead of make a webpage like the kangaroo program).

To facilitate engagement with the outstanding stakeholder groups, do you have a standard proforma that you have sent to stakeholders you have already contacted that I could use in making the connection – scope of discussion, framing questions, how the meeting will be setup (e.g. online meeting for 1-2hrs(?) for formal/informal/structured discussion, etc)?

Cheers,

Sch 1 1.14

From: Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

Sent: Monday, December 2, 2024 7:14 PM

To: Sch 1 1.14

Subject: RE: ACT Wombat Review

OFFICIAL

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UNOFFICIAL

Hello,

I've spoken to most stakeholders but perhaps haven't captured the information Sch 1 1.14 was after or in the way she had in mind.

I've incorporated what they've told me throughout the document rather than having a dedicated spot where I've included all the information the stakeholders gave me to avoid too much repetition throughout.

Also for some sections where information is otherwise lacking stakeholder input was all I had to go on.

I haven't spoken to Ngunnawal – I tried to set up a meeting Sch 2.2(a)(ii) was going to coordinate a time with Sch 2.2(a)(i) and Sch 2.2(a)(ii) and let me know but we never got there.

I haven't spoken to any developers and was never provided with any contacts. So don't have their opinions to incorporate.

The other one would be Sch 2.2(a)(ii) – who palmed me off to Sch 2.2(a)(ii) but I never got a response from them.

I was never sent roadkill data from the urban wildlife team that Sch 1 1.14 had asked them to pull together.

Also if you have any additional info on the toxicity of moxidectin in waterways that would be good as I haven't found any papers on it.

The report is getting there. Apologies it's taking me much longer than I would have liked.

Work has been intense this year and when I said yes to doing this I still had a manager and was planning to be able to take a few days off here and there to work on it.

Cheers

Sch 2.2(a)(i)

From: Sch 1 1.14
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2024 11:47 AM
To: Sch 2.2(a)(ii)
>
Subject: ACT Wombat Review

OFFICIAL

Hey Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

Now that we're in business hours, reaching out to see what the current status of the ACT Wombat Review is.

I understand you are still waiting on comments from [redacted] on the second half of the documents, but do you have any questions or require information/data relating to the feedback provided so far? [redacted] mentioned that she might have talked to you about additional stakeholder engagement(?), in which case let me know if you need me to connect you with anyone.

I'll hopefully get to the current draft edition myself this week 😊

Cheers,

Sch 1 1.14

Djan Yimaba Yara (Thank you and Bye in Ngunnawal language).

Sch 1 1.14

Fauna Ecology | Office of Nature Conservation

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | ACT Government

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From: Sch 1 1.14
Sent: 29/01/2025 3:12 PM
To: Sch 1 1.14
Subject: FW: ACT Wombat Review
Attachments: Review of wombats in the ACT_DRAFT.obr

OFFICIAL

Hey Sch 1 1.1 – All good to continue with providing comments on second half of the wombat review with the version you have already started working through.

Sch 2.2(a)(i) has not sent through an updated version, my apologies, because I provided the general comments below with a promise to make detailed comments to an updated version that captured your, Sch 1 1.14 feedback.

Probably best if you can review the Objective version for visibility – link attached.

Cheers,

Sch 1 1.14

From: Sch 1 1.14
Sent: Friday, December 6, 2024 1:13 PM
To: Sch 2.2(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: ACT Wombat Review

Hey Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

To avoid confusion with all of the detailed comments and feedback that Sch 1 1.14 and Sch 1 1.14 have already provided to you, I will await an updated version before making detailed comments. I do have several general comments from reading through the document:

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- I feel a list of defined terms or glossary would be useful where there are certain terms that keep being mentioned but that would be good to clarify what these mean and scope of the terms (e.g. noxious, pest, unprotected, open/close season, etc).

From: Sch 2.2(a)(ii)
Sent: 04/07/2025 5:56 PM
To: Sch 1 1.14
Subject: Wombat review

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Sch 1 1.14

Thanks for the email response

Our farm which has a portion of Spring Station Creek has massive erosion and access problems due in part to an over abundance of wombats.

And yes I would appreciate an opportunity to contribute to the Review, and of course see it when it is finished.

Kind regards

Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

From: Sch 1 1.14 >
Sent: Friday, 4 July 2025 4:45 PM
To: Burkevics, Bren <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>; Sch 2.2(a)(ii)
Cc: Sch 1 1.14
Subject: RE: FYI

OFFICIAL

Thanks Bren

Hi Sch 2.2(a)(ii) how are you?

Yes, unfortunately wombats tend to be vulnerable to car strike this time of year as they access pick along the roadside. We do know that that the area around Tharwa has one of the highest densities of wombats in the ACT. They do love the river corridors!

We are currently preparing a wombat review, which includes a synopsis on how other jurisdictions manage bare-nosed wombats, management options and stakeholder concerns. I believe the document has had rural leaseholder input. If the consultant didn't approach you directly and you would like to have input, please contact Sch 1 1.14 (cc'ed in here) to make sure all your concerns are captured.

Regards

Sch 1 1.14

From: Burkevics, Bren <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 4 July 2025 4:14 PM
To: Sch 2.2(a)(ii)
Cc: Sch 1 1.14
Subject: RE: FYI

OFFICIAL

Hi Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

Many thanks for your email.

I have included **Sch 1 1.14** re the wombats issue, and **Sch 1 1.14** regarding the identified weeds.

Thanks

Bren Burkevics | Executive Group Manager

Sch 2.2(a)(ii) | **Sch 2.2(a)(ii)**

Executive Support: Tegan Patience | 02 6207 5216 | tegan.patience@act.gov.au
Environment, Heritage and Parks Group | City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government
480 Northbourne Avenue Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601
act.gov.au/environment

From: **Sch 2.2(a)(ii)**
Sent: Friday, 4 July 2025 2:10 PM
To: Burkevics, Bren <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>
Cc: **Sch 1 1.14**
Subject: FYI

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Hi Bren
Just letting
you know

2 things:

Out of Scope

2. Wombat over abundance

In recent weeks there have been 6 adult wombats hit by vehicles along the Tidbinbilla Road between Tharwa and Point Hut Road intersection.

Yes it is seasonal - they are seeking the longer grass beside the road (on my place they just demolish the more juicy garden!)

This is almost 1 animal per kilometre, so looking forward to the Control of Native Animal Mgt Plan before there is a fatal accident.

Kind regards

Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

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From: "Open Space" <OpenSpace@nca.gov.au>
Sent: 24/07/2025 8:22 AM
To: 'Sch 1 1.14'
Cc: Sch 2.2(a)(ii) "Open Space" <OpenSpace@nca.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Wombats on NCA managed land [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Hi
Sch 1 1.14

Thank you

for your inquiry.

I've spoken with the Open Space contractors who are regularly working across the NCA Estate, and they've reported no signs of wombat activity on the Estate.

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Regards,

Sch 2.2(a)(i)

National Capital Authority| Open Space Team

Sch 2.2(a)(i)

National Capital Authority

GPO Box 373, CANBERRA ACT 2601 | www.nca.gov.au | Twitter: @NCA_Media



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From: Sch 2.2(a)(ii)
Sent: Friday, 18 July 2025 2:58 PM
To: Sch 2.2(a)(ii)
Cc: Open Space <OpenSpace@nca.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Wombats on NCA managed land [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Sch 2.2(a)(i)

Can you please take carriage and keep me posted.
Thanks

Sch 2.2(a)(i)

OFFICIAL

From: Sch 1 1.14
Sent: Thursday, 10 July 2025 2:16 PM
To: Sch 2.2(a)(ii)
Subject: Wombats on NCA managed land

Hi Sch 2.2(a)(i)

I am an ecologist with the ACT Government's Office of Nature Conservation. We are conducting a review of bare-nosed wombats in the ACT and wanted to capture your input as a potential stakeholder in this space. We would be interested in understanding whether:

- Wombats occur on NCA-managed land
- Whether wombats are a species of interest for NCA land managers
- Any positive or negative impacts wombats have on NCA-managed land
- Any other thoughts you or your team would like to share on the topic

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or would like further clarification.

Kind Regards,

Office of Nature Conservation

City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government
480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson | [Office of Nature Conservation](#)

I acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

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From: Sch 2.2(a)(ii)
Sent: 12/08/2025 3:48 PM
To: Sch 1 1.14
Subject: RE: ACT Wombat Review

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OFFICIAL

Hi Sch 1 1.14

I have no problem with this.

Cheers

Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

From: Sch 1 1.14
Sent: Tuesday, 12 August 2025 3:06 PM
To: Sch 2.2(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: ACT Wombat Review

OFFICIAL

Hi Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

Thank you for sending through an updated draft ACT Wombat Review the other week; although I was on leave at the time, my colleagues greatly appreciated your updated version and have now circulated the document for internal review.

We anticipate that the release of the document for external review will result in strong feedback being received from key stakeholder groups. To protect those involved in the preparation of the review document, including yourself, we are proposing that the ACT Wombat Review is published in a manner consistent with the ACT Government technical report series, that is:

- the document author will be listed as 'ACT Government'
- the acknowledgements section will be updated to the following effect:
 - *This document was prepared by [redacted], who retains intellectual property rights over its content, including all data, analyses, and interpretations presented herein, unless otherwise stated. The Office of Nature Conservation has revised earlier versions of this document. Reproduction, distribution, or use of any part of this material requires prior written permission from the ACT Government.*

Please let me know if this raises any concerns for you, and we can discuss further.

Kind Regards,

Sch 1 1.14

Djan Yimaba Yara (*Thank you and Bye in Ngunnawal language*).

Sch 1 1.14

Fauna Ecology | Office of Nature Conservation
City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government
480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson ACT 2602 | www.act.gov.au/environment

I acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

From: Sch 2.2(a)(ii)
Sent: Friday, 11 July 2025 10:04 AM
To: Sch 1 1.14
Subject: RE: ACT Wombat Review

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

OFFICIAL

Hi Sch 1 1.14

Please find attached a revised copy of the wombat review incorporating your suggested changes.

Half way through I realised I shouldn't have deleted your comments once I had responded to them so unfortunately some of them are missing from the attached document.

I have expanded the stakeholder section, hopefully this is more in line with what you were wanting. I have done my best to complete the table on stakeholders but will need some help on that one particularly for all the government departments that are involved as I do not have a thorough understanding of your department structure.

Apologies this took so long to produce.
If you have any further questions or comments please feel free to contact me.

Kind regards
Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

From: Sch 1 1.14
Sent: Tuesday, 8 July 2025 9:14 AM
To: Sch 2.2(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: ACT Wombat Review
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

We need to urgently finalise the ACT Wombat Review in order to contribute to several upcoming opportunities and decision points on wombat conservation and management in the territory.

One of my team has read through the most recent document version provided on 12 June, and in the interests of finalising this document, can you please urgently send through information or notes that you have on the following gaps:

- All stakeholder discussion notes to ensure that all perspectives are represented in the document

My notes are scrawled on paper and it will take me a while to write them all out in a legible format. I won't be able to get this to you for several weeks. Hopefully the revised report will suffice.

- How were stakeholder discussions lead by you? Can you please send through any core/leading questions that you used to guide the stakeholder workshops so as to provide some context.

My discussions with stakeholders were informal. When on a first meeting basis I find it best to allow stakeholder to talk about the issues most important to them. More often than not they want somebody to listen to them. I did touch on all relevant topics in the document with each stakeholder being management measures, mange, damage caused and legislation. The questions I asked were open ended to allow them to tell me what they wanted on each topic and were different for each stakeholder. E.g. for landholders Tell me about your experience with wombat related damage

- A copy or link for the NSW Code of Practice for Humane Destruction of Wombats by Shooting in NSW. While this is referenced in the landholder permit application forms, we are unable to find a physical copy of this CoP.

It is only supplied to permit holders I do not have a copy

- Section 2.1.8 – missing references and details for the permit application paragraph

All references have been included in the attached document

- Missing data for Table 4 (SA permit outcomes in Section 2) and other tables that are currently incomplete.

This data has been lost, I originally obtained it from a greens senator Tammy Franks and though I emailed her office to obtain another copy they were not forthcoming this time. I also trawled through the FOIs but was unable to find the information, unfortunately

- Missing figures that are currently represented by placeholder text – i.e. Section 3.1 (Figures x 2, Map x 1)

All figures have been included in the attached report

- Notes from discussion with wildlife carer groups to clarify some of the procedures used for mange treatment.

See comment on 1st point

- Notes relating to insights provided on the NSW Fauna Protection Act 1948, NSW Pastures Protection Act 1934 and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, where these contradict the legislation (i.e. perhaps due to a subsidiary regulation).

Information on this came from a paper Temby (1998) which is referenced in the document

If you could also provide a general reference list/bibliography of relevant literature, such as an endnote library, to assist with the numerous locations that are currently denoted 'ref'.

Kind Regards,

Sch 1 1.14

Djan Yimaba Yara (*Thank you and Bye in Ngunnawal language*).

Sch 1 1.14

Fauna Ecology | Office of Nature Conservation
City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government
480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson ACT 2602 | www.act.gov.au/environment

I acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

From: Sch 1 1.14
Sent: Thursday, 12 June 2025 3:38 PM
To: Sch 2.2(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: ACT Wombat Review

Hey Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

Please find attached the very belated, but full feedback on the draft ACT Wombat Review document for you.

We apologise for the significant delay in getting this back to you, and note that I still need to return the stakeholder table to you with brief roles/responsibilities for each one.

Please let me know if any further issues/roadblocks to wrapping up this body work.

Cheers,

Sch 1 1.14

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, 7 February 2025 1:34 PM
To: [redacted] Sch 1 1.14
Subject: RE: ACT Wombat Review

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

UNOFFICIAL

Hi [redacted] Sch 1 1.14

I'm happy to have another go at rescheduling with Ngunnawal. Fridays are still the best day for me but I could also do a Tuesday or Thursday morning next week.

Given this project has expanded beyond the initial scope I was provided I have already exceeded the amount of time I budgeted.

I am at this point working for free. I am not keen on continuing to engage the expanding list of stakeholders and would rather focus on getting the report finished.

I have already spoken with the following people:

ICON water - [redacted] Sch 2.2(a)(ii)
ACT Farmers - [redacted]
National Parks Association - [redacted]
ACT Farmer Rep - [redacted]
Landholders - x 2
Parks and Conservation Service - [redacted] Sch 1 1.14
[redacted]
Wombat rescue - [redacted] Sch 2.2(a)(ii)
ACT wildlife - [redacted]
WomSAT - [redacted]
Chief Vet - [redacted] Sch 1 1.14
Licencing and compliance - [redacted] Sch 1 1.14
[redacted]
Mange Researcher - Scott Carver

Cheers

Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

From: [redacted] Sch 1 1.14
Sent: Tuesday, 28 January 2025 11:13 AM

To: [Redacted] Sch 2.2(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: ACT Wombat Review

OFFICIAL

Hi [Redacted] Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

Sorry again about the Ngunnawal engagement meeting, [Redacted] Sch 2.2(a)(ii) [Redacted].

There are a few other stakeholders that have been suggested would be good to represent the develop and utility industry perspectives:

- Office of the Conservator for Flora & Fauna
- Statutory Planning (ACT Gov.)
- Evo Energy, Icon Water (External utility providers)

Before I look to organising suitable times, I wanted to check what your capacity is for more stakeholder meetings and availability over the next few Fridays (I'll try to remember the time difference this time!). Would you mind if we tried to reschedule a time to meet with Ngunnawal community again?

Cheers,
[Redacted] Sch 1 1.14

From: [Redacted] Sch 2.2(a)(ii)
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2025 5:33 PM
To: [Redacted] Sch 1 1.14
Subject: RE: ACT Wombat Review

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

UNOFFICIAL

Hi [Redacted] Sch 1 1.14

This is the first I am hearing of [Redacted] Sch 1 1.14

In her comments Renee has also mentioned Defence (not sure what they have to do with wombats) but I haven't been provided any contacts.

Group	Organisation/name	Role
ACT Gov	Office of the Conservator of Flora and Fauna, Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate	Acts on issues that affect the conservation matters embodied in the NC Act, particularly protecting native plants and animals
	Policy ONC	
	Office of Nature Conservation, Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate	Undertake a range of nature conservation programs in the ACT, including research on local flora and fauna, preparing scientific advice on ecological and natural resource management, conducting ecological surveys, biodiversity monitoring
	Transport Canberra and City Services	Deliver a range of services, including shop and playground upgrades, road and path maintenance, domestic animal services, and the management of urban open spaces including tree planting and grass mowing

From: Sch 1 1.14
Sent: 25/08/2025 9:11 AM
To: Sch 1 1.14
Cc:
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] RE: Inquiry regarding wombat management in the ACT

To add to our list of external stakeholders for the wombat review. [redacted] when you have a chance would you mind making a list?

Thanks

Sch 1 1.14

From: Burkevics, Bren <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 25 August 2025 8:22 AM
To: Sch 2.2(a)(ii)
Cc: Sch 1 1.14
ConservatorFloraFauna <ConservatorFloraFauna@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Inquiry regarding wombat management in the ACT

Hi Sch 1 1.14

Thanks for offering the support and input of the Humane World for Animals Australia (HWAA) to the general review of wombat matters being processed by the ACT.

The purpose of the internal review is to help inform ACT Government discussions about management of wombat populations in the ACT, accounting for varied stakeholder views, including scoping of options for addressing key issues moving forward.

Noting HWAA interest in this matter, I'd be happy to share a copy of the report to assist HWAA determine their interest. I expect that we will make it available to stakeholders no later than October.

Please let me know if you need any further information in the meantime. I have included officials from the Office of Nature Conservation in this email who are progressing the internal review for their early awareness.

Kind regards

Bren Burkevics | Executive Group Manager

Environment, Heritage and Parks Group | City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government
480 Northbourne Avenue Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601
act.gov.au/environment

From: Sch 2.2(a)(ii)
Sent: Friday, 22 August 2025 11:53 AM
To: Burkevics, Bren <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>
Cc: Sch 2.2(a)(ii)
ConservatorFloraFauna <ConservatorFloraFauna@act.gov.au>; Sch 1 1.14 EPSDD
PCS LC <PCS.LicensingandCompliance@act.gov.au> Sch 1 1.14
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Inquiry regarding wombat management in the ACT

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Bren,

Thank you for your reply and for clarifying that there are no current plans to recommend listing wombats as a controlled native species under the Act.

You mentioned that the ACT is progressing a "general review of wombat matters in the ACT". Could you please provide some further detail on the scope of this review, including its aims and timelines? I would also be grateful to know whether there will be opportunities for external organisations such as Humane World for Animals to provide input, given the significant public interest in wombat welfare and management. As you may know, wombats are a flagship species in our Licence to Kill campaign, and much of our work focuses on improving coexistence outcomes between wombats and landholders.

We are keen to better understand how this process will unfold, particularly in light of the concerns you raised from parts of the rural community, and to ensure that any approaches adopted consider both animal welfare and evidence-based alternatives to lethal control.

Thank you again for your time, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Warm regards,

Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

Humane World for Animals Australia

A. Garival Country, PO Box 439, Avalon NSW 2107

Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

humaneworld.org.au



**Humane
World for
Animals™**

Together, we tackle the root causes of animal cruelty and suffering to create permanent change. Stay up to date with our work to help animals and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#), [YouTube](#) and subscribe to our [blog](#)

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia. We recognise and respect the enduring relationship they have with their lands and waters, and we pay our respects to Elders past and present.

This email and any files transmitted with it may be confidential and legally privileged. If you are not the intended recipient of this email, you must not disclose or use the information contained in it. If you have received this email in error, please notify us by return email and permanently delete the document.

From: Burkevics, Bren <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2025 3:58 PM

To: Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

ConservatorFloraFauna <ConservatorFloraFauna@act.gov.au>; Cooney, Rosie <Rosie.Cooney@act.gov.au>; EPSDD PCS LC <PCS.LicensingandCompliance@act.gov.au>; Sch 1 1.14

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Inquiry regarding wombat management in the ACT

OFFICIAL

Dear Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

Thank you for your enquiry on behalf of HWAA.

As the statutory entity responsible under the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* (Act), I have no plans to recommend to the Minister that wombats should become a controlled species under the Act.

I am aware however that the ACT's rural community continue to express concerns about wombat numbers in rural/riparian areas and the potential damage they are causing to restoration efforts. The ACT is progressing a general review of wombat matters in the ACT.

Should there be a particularly problematic wombat that cannot be relocated, I do have the option of issuing a one-off licence for destruction.

I should mention to avoid any misunderstanding/confusion, the ACT is progressing the development of a controlled native species plan for the Dingo. See:
https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/open_government/inform/act_government_media_releases/vassarotti/2024/genetic-study-reveals-the-ancestry-of-dingoes-in-namadgi
<https://www.act.gov.au/environment/animals-and-plants/animals/wildlife-management/waragul-dingoes-wild-dogs>

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Regards

Bren Burkevics | Conservator of Flora and Fauna

Phone 02 6207 8628 | Sch 1 1.14

Sch 1 1.14

Environment, Heritage and Water Division | City and Environment Directorate (CED) | ACT Government
480 Northbourne Avenue Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601
act.gov.au/environment

From: Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

Sent: Thursday, 21 August 2025 1:16 PM

To: Sch 1 1.14; Burkevics, Bren <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>

Cc: Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

Subject: Inquiry regarding wombat management in the ACT

Some people who received this message don't often get email from Sch 2.2(a)(ii). [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Sch 1 1.14
and Bren,

My name is at Humane World for Animals. I stepped into this role earlier this year, taking over from my colleague, who I believe you may already know.

We have recently been informed that the ACT Government may be considering the inclusion of wombats as a controlled native species, alongside kangaroos, and that this could potentially allow for culling. We are concerned about this possibility and would be grateful if you could provide clarification on whether such a measure is under consideration, and if so, what factors or motivations have informed this decision.

As you can imagine, this is an issue of significant importance to us, and we would welcome the opportunity to understand the context and rationale more clearly.

Warm regards,

Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

Humane World for Animals Australia

A: Garigal Country, PO Box 439, Avalon NSW 2107

Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

From: Sch 1 1.14
Sent: 25/08/2025 9:53 AM
To: Sch 1 1.14
Subject: FW: Sch 1 1.14 REVIEW - Exploring options for a designated Wombat Conservation Sanctuary for the ACT.

OFFICIAL

Internal input for wombat review – Ngunnawal.

Sch 1 1.14

From: Sch 1 1.14
Sent: Monday, 25 August 2025 9:23 AM
To: Sch 1 1.14
Subject: FW: Sch 1 1.14 REVIEW - Exploring options for a designated Wombat Conservation Sanctuary for the ACT.

OFFICIAL

HI Sch 1 1.14 – TC feedback on the Wombat review doc below.

With thanks

Sch 1 1.14

Conservator of Flora and Fauna | City and Environment Directorate
Sch 1 1.14 conservatorflorafauna@act.gov.au
City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government
Level 2, 480 Northbourne Ave, Dickson ACT 2604 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601
www.environment.act.gov.au

From: Sch 1 1.14
Sent: Friday, 22 August 2025 5:16 PM
To: Sch 1 1.14
Cc: EPSDD Traditional Custodian Engagement <EPSDDTCE@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Sch 1 1.14 REVIEW - Exploring options for a designated Wombat Conservation Sanctuary for the ACT.

OFFICIAL

Yuma Sch 1 1.14

Thanks for that, a couple of additions to your comment below is that we should probably have an Acknowledgement of Country at the beginning and that the use of indigenous should be changed to First Nations if using a broad ACT context or Ngunnawal if referring to Traditional Custodians. Sch 1 1.14
Are you the person this needs to go back to? I am sorry for the delay on my end, I have been swamped this week and didn't get to it last Friday.

Hope you all have a great weekend 😊

Kind regards,

Sch 1 1.14

From: Sch 1 1.14
Sent: Thursday, 14 August 2025 5:02 PM
To: Sch 1 1.14
Cc: EPSDD Traditional Custodian Engagement <EPSDDTCE@act.gov.au>
Subject: Sch 1 1.14 REVIEW - Exploring options for a designated Wombat Conservation Sanctuary for the ACT.

OFFICIAL

Hi Sch 1 1.14

I have reviewed the attached – big read! It is now ready for your review/comments.

I have a couple of comments for your attention in relation to the First Nations language used.

There was one paragraph that I think could do with a change of wording – see below.

'Bare-nosed Wombats were widely used by First Nations people in many parts of southeast Australia. Much of the traditional knowledge has been disrupted due to the impacts of colonisation. We are unable to comment on the importance of Bare-nosed Wombats to the Ngunnawal community specifically in this review due to the availability of relevant contacts. Reviving and incorporating Indigenous perspectives into contemporary conservation efforts can help honour cultural importance and provide holistic approaches to managing Bare-nosed Wombat populations in the ACT.'

I recommend the below changes:-

*'Bare-nosed Wombats were widely used by First Nations people in many parts of southeast Australia. Much of the traditional knowledge has been disrupted due to the impacts of colonisation. **Unfortunately, limited access to relevant contacts has constrained our ability to assess the importance of Bare-nosed Wombats to the Ngunnawal community at this stage.** Reviving and incorporating Indigenous perspectives into contemporary conservation efforts can help honour cultural importance and provide holistic approaches to managing Bare-nosed Wombat populations in the ACT.'*

Over to you 😊

Kind regards,

Sch 1 1.14

Environment, Heritage & Parks (EHP)

Sch 1 1.14

City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government

From: Sch 1 1.14 **On Behalf Of** EPSDD Traditional Custodian Engagement
Sent: Tuesday, 12 August 2025 10:13 AM
To: Sch 1 1.14
Subject: FW: Exploring options for a designated Wombat Conservation Sanctuary for the ACT.

OFFICIAL

Kind regards,

Sch 1 1.14

City & Environment Directorate | 480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson

Office of Nature Conservation: OfficeofNatureConservation@act.gov.au

Office of EGM, Traditional Custodian Engagement – Tuesday & Thursday E: EPSDDTCE@act.gov.au

Please note my working hours are: Monday – Friday 8am-4pm

I acknowledge the Ngunnawal People as the Traditional Custodians of this land – and pay their respects to Elders past, present and future, and acknowledge their continuing culture and connection to Country and community and the contribution they and the broader ACT First Nations

From: Sch 1 1.14

Sent: Thursday, 7 August 2025 8:49 AM

Sch 1 1.14

Subject: RE: Exploring options for a designated Wombat Conservation Sanctuary for the ACT.

OFFICIAL

Yuma Sch 1 1.14

Good doc on a complex emotive issue.

- The Proactive approach, as we have moved to with Eastern Grey Kangaroos, is the most efficient and acceptable approach and already has substantial social licence.
- I'd like to see the Ecological function of Wombat burrows fleshed out as Wombat burrows are critical seasonal refuge habitat for a number of species and for many species during extreme events.
- The soil forming functions of Wombats digging for burrows and roots is under appreciated too, especially in the absence of other burrowers now. Until we re establish other key bioturbators we will have to tolerate a higher density of Wombats.
- The table of impacts should state not "may impact agriculture but impacts Agriculture significantly. All our leases state that 'The lessor is entitled to the quiet enjoyment of the lease" Wombats make managing some of these leases a test of nerves, at any moment you may collapse a burrow or have to deal with stock that have been injured in a burrow. I know leases to have been sold because of the danger of being injured and the fatigue of having to constantly manage burrows and the impacts. NRM have a great survey, I'll ask Jeni for it.
- We better establish a population number. Technically difficult to get a credible number with such variability in density and distribution. Over a few decades, using a simple Area/ Individuals Observed method, I've got an area along the M'Bidgee, with 32/km² and in the core area of Namadgi, where Dingos still do what they do, I've averaged ~0.001/km². The seasonal fluctuations are wild closely following rainfall.

A Wombat Reserve

- A new, specific Wombat Reserve, for what is a very abundant species, is unacceptable.

I recommend/ For consideration.

- adding the words "Wombat Reserve", and the function, to a section of the Murrumbidgee Corridor Special Purpose Reserve at Point Hut which is not part of any Nature Reserve, is in early to mid-stages of Vegetation Restoration, namely Paddys River Block 258 and Tugg 1411 and Tugg Bonython 64. Two hundred and twenty hectares of prime Wombat Habitat contiguous with another 9600ha of diverse habitat. Accessible, established, erosion potential/risk is lower because the river and tributary channels are mostly rock dominated and relatively level, lesser exposure to public roads, Dogs prohibited area. The adjacent Pine Island SPR has a Landuse classification which facilitates the eventual construction of a facility either on Special Purpose Reserve or Urban Open Space, it would be acceptable to lots of the community stake holders down there.

If you need details like access, stakeholders, a construction envelope, etc I'm happy to provide.

vara

Sch 1 1.14

Murrumbidgee

Catchments and National Parks

Sch 1 1.14

From: Sch 1 1.14

Sent: Friday, 18 July 2025 2:34 PM

Sch 1 1.14

<Stacee.Cognill@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Exploring options for a designated Wombat Conservation Sanctuary for the ACT.

OFFICIAL

Hi everyone

As mentioned in my previous email, here is ONC's review document on the status and options moving forward for managing wombats in the ACT. The document was developed in collaboration with an external stakeholder who has experience with managing Sch 1 1.14 including for conservation, impact mitigation and stakeholder conflict. I know Stacee/OCFF will be running a workshop about options for a wombat sanctuary, but I think a broader discussion on how these fit into an ACT Government approach to overall wombat management is warranted.

We are seeking feedback on this review over the next few weeks, say by **COB Friday 15th August** and then will provide the final document to the Conservator for consideration. Please use track changes and comments in the objective link attached.

We are keen to hear there are any major omissions from the review that might inform decision-making moving forward, and what people think of the recommendations. Fundamentally, the recommended actions seek to move us from **reactive** to a **proactive** space in managing wombat populations in the ACT.

Thanks everyone,

Regards

Sch 1 1.14

Out of Scope

From: Sch 1 1.14
Sent: 26/09/2025 1:56 PM
To: Sch 1 1.14
Cc:
Subject: RE: Wombat review -- current draft

OFFICIAL

Hi Sch 1 1.14

I went through the veterinary chemical section of the wombat review and gave it a haircut. There were inaccuracies (I think) around the licence (which is not a licence under the nature conservation act - that's just to drive into a reserve, it's a TCCS permit that restricts use around waterways).

I did change moxidectin to Cydectin as from my understanding this is the product they are licenced to use (not other products with Moxidectin and there are many).

I also slimmed down another section and took out figure 1 - we don't need it. When it is a clean copy please remove all the comments and send up to me/Sch 1 1.14. She is away the first week of October so its going to be tight to get this out on time...

Sch 1 1.14

-----Original Message-----

From: Sch 1 1.14
Sent: Thursday, 25 September 2025 3:15 PM
To: Sch 1 1.14
Subject: Wombat review -- current draft

OFFICIAL

Hi Sch 1 1.14

Just sending through the most recent version of the Wombat Review for your edits in the mange treatment section (section 5.2). This is a mostly clean version, all major changes have been accepted and the comments from our meeting on Wednesday have been addressed. If you have time feel free to look over the revised recommendations section at the end of the document.

Cheers

Sch 1 1.14

From: Sch 1 1.14
Sent: 09/10/2025 2:35 PM
To: Sch 1 1.14
Subject: RE: [FOR REVIEW & CLEARANCE] ACT Wombat Review - for external stakeholder feedback.

OFFICIAL

Hi All

Tweaks from me (I took out the reference to developing policy as well).

Executive summary

The ACT seeks to adopt a holistic and informed approach to wombat management, balancing species conservation with protection of landholder and industry assets. This document reviews relevant information to inform best-practice and ensure wombat populations persist in the ACT. The scope encompasses cross-jurisdictional legislation, stakeholder views, management methods and monitoring approaches. The document also highlights current challenges within the ACT, including the complexities involved in balancing conservation with stakeholder needs.

As native marsupials, wombats are integral to the region's ecosystem but present several management issues. These include wildlife-vehicle collisions and conflict with agricultural activities. Wombats may face challenges including urban expansion, habitat loss and the prevalence of sarcoptic mange.

Key findings from the review include:

- **Legislation and Policy:** Unlike other Australian jurisdictions, the ACT does not have specific provisions for the control of wombats, and there is no guidance document to encourage non-lethal management. Lack of impact mitigation options has led to frustration among leaseholders experiencing wombat-related damage.
- **Threats to Wombats:** Habitat loss and sarcoptic mange remain the primary threats. Management of sarcoptic mange is complex and is currently conducted by wildlife carers. There are currently no guidelines around the release of rehabilitated wombats, including identified release suitable areas.
- **Impacts on the environment.** There is no clear mechanism for the government to limit the application of mange treatments in areas where chemicals may have negative ecological consequences.
- **Stakeholder Conflicts:** The ACT has diverse stakeholders who hold conflicting views on how wombats should be managed. Targeted consultation with stakeholder groups on options for impact mitigation a possible method for reducing tension and increasing stakeholder support.
- **Public education:** Development of housing near areas of wombat activity can increase incidences of human-wildlife conflict. Providing informative material and engaging in public communication are strategies to increase awareness in the community.
- **Management Tools:** Fencing, burrow modifications, and deterrents are available to manage wombat damage, but are often resource-intensive and may yield inconsistent results. Many have not been trialled in the ACT and stakeholders may not be aware of the available options. Burrow modification interventions would require additional approvals, and there is currently no streamlined application process to make this available to landholders. Guidelines for land managers on options for impact mitigation may be of benefit.
- **Research and collaboration:** The ACT partners with citizen scientists to collect data on wombats through the ACT Wombat Portal, NatureMapr, and WomSAT. These data can inform management decisions but should be paired with systematic surveys to reduce inherent biases in the data. Leaseholders currently do not have a method of reporting wombat impacts on their property.

From: Sch 1 1.14
Sent: Thursday, 9 October 2025 2:04 PM
To: Sch 1 1.14

Sch 1 1.14

Subject: RE: [FOR REVIEW & CLEARANCE] ACT Wombat Review - for external stakeholder feedback.

OFFICIAL

Hi Sch 1 1.14

Thank you for your comments. I have copied the revised Executive Summary below, updated to (1) not include recommendations; and (2) provide more detail in the 'key findings' section. We also removed the recommendations section from the end of the document.

Executive summary

The ACT seeks to adopt a holistic and informed approach to wombat management, balancing species conservation with protection of landholder and industry assets. This document reviews relevant information to inform best-practice wombat management and to ensure populations persist in the ACT.

The scope encompasses cross-jurisdictional legislation, stakeholder views, management methods and monitoring approaches. The document also highlights current challenges within the ACT, including the complexities involved in balancing conservation with stakeholder needs.

As native marsupials wombats are integral to the region's ecosystem but present several management issues. These include wildlife-vehicle collisions and conflict with agricultural activities. Wombats may face challenges including urban expansion, habitat loss and the prevalence of sarcoptic mange.

Key findings from the review include:

- **Legislation and Policy:** Unlike other Australian jurisdictions, the ACT does not allow specific provisions for the control of wombats nor provide guidance on non-lethal conflict mitigation. This has led to frustration among leaseholders managing wombat-related damages.
- **Threats to Wombats:** Habitat loss and sarcoptic mange remain the primary threats. Management of sarcoptic mange is complex and is currently conducted by wildlife carers. There is no clear mechanism for the government to limit the application of mange treatments in areas where chemicals may have negative ecological consequences. There are currently no guidelines around the release of rehabilitated wombats, including identified release zones that are ecologically suitable.
- **Stakeholder Conflicts:** The ACT has diverse stakeholders who hold conflicting views on how wombats should be managed. Consultation with stakeholder groups on policy changes is a possible method for reducing tension and increasing stakeholder support. Working groups, such as the Wombat Mange and Monitoring Group, also provide forums for stakeholders to engage on topics relevant to their concerns and interests.
- **Public education:** Development of housing near areas of wombat activity can increase incidences of human-wildlife conflict. Providing informative material and engaging in public communication are strategies to increase awareness in the community.
- **Management Tools:** Fencing, burrow modifications, and deterrents are available to manage wombat damage, but are often resource-intensive and may yield inconsistent results. Many have not been trialled in the ACT and stakeholders may not be aware of the available options. Burrow modification interventions would require additional approvals, and there is currently no streamlined application process to make this available to landholders.
- **Research and collaboration:** The ACT partners with citizen scientists to collect data on wombats through the ACT Wombat Portal, NatureMapr, and WomSAT. These data can inform management decisions but should be paired with systematic surveys to reduce inherent biases in the data. Leaseholders currently do not have a method of reporting wombat impacts on their property.

Please let me know if you'd like to workshop this further, I'm happy to discuss next week.

Cheers

Sch 1 1.14

From: [Sch 1 1.14]
Sent: Thursday, 2 October 2025 9:32 PM
To: [Sch 1 1.14]
Subject: RE: [FOR REVIEW & CLEARANCE] ACT Wombat Review - for external stakeholder feedback.

OFFICIAL

Hi [Sch 1 1.14] and [Sch 1 1.14]

Congratulations on this report – heaps of great material in there and it promises to be a mine of useful information for the coming years.

I think its close to be ready to go – I have put a bunch of comments in there, but they are mostly quick to address.

Couple of cross-cutting more strategic things:

*I don't feel its clear what the report actually is. The initial text on this is rather unclear in the paper. I will stew on this, but is it something like "a review and summary of relevant information to inform the ACT's approach to wombat management, encompassing cross-jurisdictional legislative approaches, stakeholder views, management methods, and monitoring approaches" (and anything else I've left out)? If its this, it doesn't necessarily need recommendations.

*which brings me to my next point – who is recommending these recs? Is this an external independent consultant's review or a government doc? If a consultant's doc, is that ok with [Sch 2.2(a)(ii)] that we are changing it so much? If it is becoming an ACT Gov document, are we going to be allowed to recommend things to ourselves (i.e. Gov recommending to Gov?)

*and do we agree with these recs? Bear in mind there is a huge amount of work being recommended there, none of which is funded or high priority for funding.

*I think we're going to need a discussion with Bren on the recs, at the very least. I don't think he is going to need/want to do detailed review of the doc, but I think he needs to agree to it actually having recommendations and the broad tone and content of the recs.

Timing wise I know I was keen to move on this, but there is so much happening at the moment. Let's not stress. If we talk to Bren the week when I'm back to present key outline and recs and discuss way forward, is that ok for timings? As long as we contact stakeholders soon, I am comfortable with not pushing too hard to finalise.

Re the TBC point below, my feeling is that it would be healthy to re-convene this group to have a joined-up discussion on the report. However, if you feel it will be supplanted by the Cons Committee foreseen in the paper, or people won't come, or the key groups are too strongly opposed, that is fine.

Thanks!

[Sch 1 1.14]

From: [Sch 1 1.14]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 September 2025 5:14 PM
To: [Sch 1 1.14]
Subject: [FOR REVIEW & CLEARANCE] ACT Wombat Review - for external stakeholder feedback.

OFFICIAL

Hi [Sch 1 1.14]

Please see latest attached version of the wombat review, which Heather has done an amazing job of finalising based on the internal review process, and following our meeting on the recommendations and final layout last week!

We believe that the document is ready for your review and clearance to send out for external stakeholder feedback. It would be worth paying particular attention to the finalised executive summary and recommendations.

Can I suggest that we then provide email to Bren with current version of the review, alongside the next steps outlined below?

Circling back to our discussion the other week about the ACT Wombat Review steps:

1. ACT Wombat Review was circulated for internal feedback during August 2025. **Done.**
2. A revised version based on internal feedback to be ready by end of September 2025. **Done – pending clearance.**
3. Revised document to be sent to a broad group of external stakeholders to clarify any substantive omissions or misinterpretation of stakeholder input early October 2025. (General editorial or feedback on other stakeholder input, is strictly out of scope.)
4. External stakeholder feedback to be provided by end of October 2025 – comments can be made in-writing or we can organise an in-person consultative session upon request.
5. Collate feedback and re-finalise document based on external stakeholder input by end of November 2025.
6. **TBC** – convene meeting of the Wombat Working Group made up of the different stakeholder groups to review document advice/input in early December 2025 – Unsure what the purpose of this meeting was? **Sch 1 1.14**
7. ACT Wombat Review document finalised by end of calendar year.

External stakeholder group: -- External stakeholders will be asked not to share document publicly.

- Human World for Animals Australia
- RSPCA ACT
- ACT Rural Landowners
- ACT Wombat Rescue
- Scott Carver (UTAS)
- **Sch 2.2(a)(ii)** UC)
- ICON Water
- Suburban Land Agency, TCCS
- ACT Wildlife
- **Sch 2.2(a)(ii)**

I will get to drafting an email for sending out to external stakeholders, which I will send through for your clearance also.

N.B. Jaimie will take lead on finalisation of external stakeholder feedback. Stakeholder workshops / interactions to be coordinated by the SPOC.

Cheers,

Sch 1 1.14

Djan Yimaba Yara (*Thank you and Bye in Ngunnawal language*).

Sch 1 1.14

From: Sch 1 1.14
Sent: 20/10/2025 9:44 AM
To: Sch 1 1.14
Subject: RE: Fact-checking for wombat review

OFFICIAL

Thanks so much!

From: Sch 1 1.14
Sent: Monday, 20 October 2025 9:36 AM
To: Sch 1 1.14
Subject: RE: Fact-checking for wombat review

OFFICIAL

Hey Sch 1 1.14

Confirming the changes from Sch 1 1.14 and Sch 1 1.14 are included in the current version of the wombat review.

Cheers
Heather

From: EPSDD PCS LC <PCS.LicensingandCompliance@act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 20 October 2025 9:30 AM
To: Sch 1 1.14
Subject: FW: Fact-checking for wombat review

OFFICIAL

Accidentally sent to me I think Sch 1 1.14 😊

Sch 1 1.14

Environment, Heritage & Parks Division | City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government
Sch 1 1.14 | Email: pcs.licensingandcompliance@act.gov.au
Location: Stromlo Depot, 500 Cotter Rd, Weston Creek | Postal: GPO Box 158, Canberra ACT 2601
www.act.gov.au

From: Sch 1 1.14
Sent: Sunday, 19 October 2025 4:12 PM
To: EPSDD PCS LC <PCS.LicensingandCompliance@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Fact-checking for wombat review

OFFICIAL

Sch 1 1.14

Im just checking that all the below updates made it into the final wombat doc before Bren sends it out?

Sch 1 1.14

From: EPSDD PCS LC <PCS.LicensingandCompliance@act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 13 October 2025 4:26 PM

To: Sch 1 1.14
Cc: Sch 1 1.14
Subject: RE: Fact-checking for wombat review

OFFICIAL

Hi Sch 1 1.14

Sorry for the delay was just getting Sch 1 1.14 to fact check the paragraph relating to penalties and I've put responses in Red below – Spoke to Sch 1 1.14 about it earlier so have cc'd too.

Kind regards,

Sch 1 1.14
Environment, Heritage & Parks Division | City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government
Sch 1 1.14 Email: pcs.licensingandcompliance@act.gov.au
Location: Stromlo Depot, 500 Cotter Rd, Weston Creek | Postal: GPO Box 158, Canberra ACT 2601
www.act.gov.au

From: Sch 1 1.14
Sent: Wednesday, 8 October 2025 8:00 AM
To: Sch 1 1.14
Cc: Sch 1 1.14
Subject: Fact-checking for wombat review

OFFICIAL

Hi Sch 1 1.14

Thanks so much for your contributions to the review of wombat management in the ACT thus far. We have had some additional edits and comments on the document and I just wanted to confirm with you that the following paragraphs (in blue) are correct:

Legislative history

The Bare-nosed Wombat was protected early in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) in comparison with most other states. There has been full protection without provision for destruction in the ACT since the *Animals & Birds Protection Ordinance* 1918. Successive Commonwealth ordinances and the *Nature Conservation Act* 1980 kept full protection in place, making no provisions for destruction permits to be issued for damage control purposes. – Technically there have always been provisions (including now too) to apply to kill a native animal – just no policy to support doing it and so we would refuse any licence applications for damage control purposes (not that I'm aware of any applications ever being received)

Current legislation

Under the *Nature Conservation Act* 2014, Bare-nosed Wombats remain protected without provisions for damage control. To kill a protected animal will result in a maximum penalty of \$16,000 (100 penalty units) and/or imprisonment of up to 1 year. Under part 6.1 of the Act, it is an offence to conduct any activity that interferes with a nest (or burrow), endangers progeny or breeding, kills, injures, or endangers a native animal. However, some activities, such as nest destruction, may be carried out under a licence issued by the *Conservator of Flora and Fauna*. The maximum penalty for a damage land offence is \$2,025,000 for a corporation or 7 years imprisonment and/or \$400,000 for an individual. It is the responsibility of the applicant to apply for a licence for any proposed activity that may otherwise be an offence under the Act. The Parks and Conservation Service administers the Act and conservation officers are responsible for conducting compliance activities. These include public education, inspections, audits, and investigations to promote and support compliance. Richard rewrote this paragraph to the below in red

As native animals under the *Nature Conservation Act* 2014, Bare-nosed Wombats remain protected. Killing a native animal is an offence under section 130 of the Act, which presently carries a maximum penalty of

\$16,000 and/or imprisonment of 1 year for an individual, or \$81,000 for a corporation (higher if the species is specially protected). Under sections 128-129 of the Act, it is an offence to interfere with a nest (including burrow) of a native animal. These offences presently carry a range of penalties, up to (in a case involving a wombat) \$16,000 and/or imprisonment of 1 year for an individual, or \$81,000 for a corporation. A range of offences apply to damaging land in a reserve. The maximum penalty for the most serious of these offences is presently \$400,000 and/or 7 years' imprisonment for an individual, or \$2,025,000 for a corporation. Some activities, including nest destruction, may potentially be carried out under a licence issued by the Conservator of Flora and Fauna. It is the responsibility of the proponent to apply for a licence for any proposed activity that may otherwise be an offence under the Act. The ACT Parks and Conservation Service administers the Act and conservation officers are responsible for conducting compliance activities. These include public education, inspections and investigations to promote and support compliance.

In 2025, the ACT Government strengthened its regulatory framework for wildlife protection during development by introducing the Nature Conservation (Protection of Burrowing Animals During Development) Conservator Guidelines. These guidelines, issued by the ACT Conservator of Flora and Fauna, are a notifiable instrument under the *Nature Conservation Act 2014*, giving them legal force and requiring compliance from developers operating in areas with suitable habitat. The guidelines aim to minimise harm to native burrowing animals, such as Bare-nosed wombats, by requiring site assessments, avoidance of active burrows, and consultation with the Conservator where disturbance is unavoidable.

In addition, would you be able to read through the L&C section of the stakeholder chapter and ensure it accurately captures the views of you and your team:

The Licensing and Compliance team is supportive of developing a CNSMP for wombats and indicated that this is preferable to issuing licenses for control. They recommended that if the ACT government was to permit lethal control of Bare-nosed wombats it would need to be part of an evidence-based controlled native species management plan (CNSMP), similar to macropods. Additionally, the Licensing and Compliance team noted that a CNSMP should include clear guidelines around when control is appropriate, and the criteria that must be met for control to occur. For example, the existing CNSMP for Eastern Grey Kangaroos clearly defines when control occurs, the number of animals to be removed, and benchmarks for shooter proficiency. A CNSMP for wombats should also be paired with a new code under the *Animal Welfare Act* that defines how wombats are to be controlled humanely. **Yes -happy with this**

Cheers,
Sch 1 1.14

Sch 1 1.14

City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government
480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson | [Office of Nature Conservation](#)

I acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

From: Sch 1 1.14
Sent: 14/11/2025 1:51 PM
To: Sch 1 1.14
Cc: "EPSDD, Office of Nature Conservation" <OfficeofNatureConservation@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: [FOR REVIEW] - ACT Wombat Review - Advisory Note

Hi Both

Yes this was to address the issue of external stakeholders that present "data" at face value but the monitoring was not robust enough for the inference made.

Perhaps the recommendation should be that data used for decision making should be collected in a robust, fit for purpose and repeatable monitoring framework to reduce bias in interpretation of results?

Sch 1 1.14

From: Sch 1 1.14
Sent: Friday, 14 November 2025 1:46 PM
To: Sch 1 1.14
Cc: EPSDD, Office of Nature Conservation <OfficeofNatureConservation@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: [FOR REVIEW] - ACT Wombat Review - Advisory Note

But this is a recommendation. What exactly are we recommending?
And if not all data is systematic (agreed), then "paired" is the wrong language, right?

From: Sch 1 1.14 >
Sent: Friday, 14 November 2025 1:38 PM
To: Sch 1 1.14
Cc: EPSDD, Office of Nature Conservation <OfficeofNatureConservation@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: [FOR REVIEW] - ACT Wombat Review - Advisory Note

But data is not necessarily collected in a robust, systematic manner.

My understanding is that this is a reflection of situation where data may be provided to support an argument (e.g. Wombat Rescue policy position paper), but was not necessarily collected in a robust manner that supports such claims when investigated further.

From: Sch 1 1.14
Sent: Friday, 14 November 2025 1:34 PM
To: Sch 1 1.14
Cc: EPSDD, Office of Nature Conservation <OfficeofNatureConservation@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: [FOR REVIEW] - ACT Wombat Review - Advisory Note

Hi both,

I was about to send this when I noticed this line, which I didn't understand. Could you edit perhaps for simplicity?

"Data can inform management decisions but should be paired with systematic surveys to reduce inherent bias."

What does this mean? Syst surveys ARE data.....?

Best

From: Sch 1 1.14
Sent: Tuesday, 11 November 2025 10:29 PM
To: Sch 1 1.14
Cc: EPSDD, Office of Nature Conservation <OfficeofNatureConservation@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: [FOR REVIEW] - ACT Wombat Review - Advisory Note

Hi Sch 1 1.14

I'm ready to send this (minor edits), but could you tell me who are the "industry" that were consulted?

I simplified the front end quite a bit, so the Min can see very quickly and easily what this is all about from the get-go. Feel free to check but I don't believe I have changed anything substantive.

Best

Sch 1 1.14

From: Sch 1 1.14
Sent: Tuesday, 11 November 2025 2:40 PM
To: Sch 1 1.14 >
Cc: Sch 1 1.14
Subject: FW: [FOR REVIEW] - ACT Wombat Review - Advisory Note

Hi Sch 1 1.14

This is for your clearance.

Thanks

Sch 1 1.14

From: Sch 1 1.14
Sent: Monday, 10 November 2025 4:28 PM
To: Sch 1 1.14 >
Subject: [FOR REVIEW] - ACT Wombat Review - Advisory Note

Hi Sch 1 1.14

ACT Wombat Review advisory note attached for your review, and clearance if appropriate.

I see that we will need to prepare the SH letters too.

Cheers,

Sch 1 1.14

From: Sch 1 1.14
Sent: Thursday, 6 November 2025 2:44 PM
To: Sch 1 1.14
Subject: RE: DECISON & NEXT STEPS - 25/0431273 Conservator Information Brief - Wombat Review

Hi Sch 1 1.14

Sch 1 1.14 will present to the BCF as not the throw Sch 1 1.14 in the deep end in her first day back! As a swapsie he is having an HPAI day on Wednesday next week 😊

Sch 1 1.14 I will leave you to complete the advisory note and check the Conservator letter. Could you please clear the Advisory note through me and Sch 1 1.14 do you want to clear changes to the Conservator letter as well? Not sure how this line works...

Sch 1 1.14 you will need to give the update at the ESC.

Sch 1 1.14

From: Sch 1 1.14
Sent: Tuesday, 4 November 2025 4:31 PM
To: Sch 1 1.14
>
Subject: FW: DECISON & NEXT STEPS - 25/0431273 Conservator Information Brief - Wombat Review

H Sch 1 1.14

I note Sch 1 1.14 has added this to BCF agenda – BCF is scheduled for 20th November. So I guess that will be you presenting Sch 1 1.14 (Sch 1 1.14 you're in the perfect position to be able to commit your role to things and not have to follow through!)

Best Sch 1

From: ConservatorFloraFauna <ConservatorFloraFauna@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 4 November 2025 12:52 PM
To: EPSDD Environment <EPSDDEnvironment@act.gov.au>; Sch 1 1.14
; ConservatorFloraFauna <ConservatorFloraFauna@act.gov.au>;
Sch 1 1.14 Burkevics, Bren <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: DECISON & NEXT STEPS - 25/0431273 Conservator Information Brief - Wombat Review

And here's the corro file.

Sch 1 1.14

Conservator of Flora and Fauna | City and Environment Directorate
Sch 1 1.14

City and Environment Development Directorate | ACT Government
480 Northbourne Canberra ACT 2601 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.environment.act.gov.au |
www.planning.act.gov.au

I acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Sch 1 1.14 **On Behalf Of** EPSDD Environment
Sent: Tuesday, 4 November 2025 12:24 PM
To: Sch 1 1.14 EPSDD Environment
<EPSDDEnvironment@act.gov.au>; Sch 1 1.14
ConservatorFloraFauna <ConservatorFloraFauna@act.gov.au>;
Sch 1 1.14 Burkevics, Bren <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: DECISON & NEXT STEPS - 25/0431273 Conservator Information Brief - Wombat Review

Hi all,

Please find attached, as requested.

Kind regards,

Sch 1 1.14

Environment, Heritage & Parks (EHP)

City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government

From: Burkevics, Bren <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 3 November 2025 8:08 AM

To: Sch 1 1.14 EPSDD Environment
<EPSDDEnvironment@act.gov.au>; Sch 1 1.14

Cc: Sch 1 1.14 ConservatorFloraFauna <ConservatorFloraFauna@act.gov.au>;
Sch 1 1.14

Subject: DECISON & NEXT STEPS - 25/0431273 Conservator Information Brief - Wombat Review

Hi Sch 1 1.14 – thank you for this brief. My decision is per the recommendation in the brief. I have also added a few other suggestions.

Next steps:

- Comms (TPs updated);
- Sch 1 1.14 – please advance to ESC for awareness;
- I will add this to the BCF agenda;
- Sch 1 1.14 will provide a Min Brief to allow an Advisory Note to be completed.
- Sch 1 1.14 can provide a CFF corro file for the letter to stakeholders.

Any issues, please let me know.

Bren Burkevics | Executive Group Manager

Sch 1 1.14

Environment, Heritage and Parks Group | City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government
480 Northbourne Avenue Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601
act.gov.au/environment

From: Sch 1 1.14 **On Behalf Of** EPSDD Environment

Sent: Wednesday, 22 October 2025 10:15 AM

To: Burkevics, Bren <Bren.Burkevics@act.gov.au>

Cc: EPSDD Environment <EPSDDEnvironment@act.gov.au>

Subject: EGM CLEARANCE - 25/0431273 Conservator Information Brief - Wombat Review

Hi Bren,

Please find attached **25/0431273 Conservator Information Brief - Wombat Review** for your clearance.

'The timeframe identified in the critical date is so that the Conservator may choose to invite targeted stakeholders to comment on the review in the expected timeframe. There is some expectation from carer groups that the review was to be provided to them for comment before the end of October.'

For comms and Bren to note - there are sensitivities flagged in the brief that may warrant the preparation of talking points or a quick briefing to the Minister before the review goes out to stakeholders.'

Kind regards,

Sch 1 1.14

Environment, Heritage & Parks (EHP)

Sch 1 1.14

City and Environment Directorate | ACT Government

From: Sch 1 1.14

Sent: Tuesday, 21 October 2025 6:25 PM

To: EPSDD Environment <EPSDDEnvironment@act.gov.au>

Cc: Sch 1 1.14
ConservatorFloraFauna <ConservatorFloraFauna@act.gov.au>; EPSDD, Office of Nature Conservation
<OfficeofNatureConservation@act.gov.au>; Sch 1 1.14

Subject: Wombat review

Hi Sch 1 1.14

Please find attached a Conservator Brief on the Wombat Review and associated attachments to progress to Bren. The timeframe identified in the critical date is so that the Conservator may choose to invite targeted stakeholders to comment on the review in the expected timeframe. There is some expectation from carer groups that the review was to be provided to them for comment before the end of October.

For **comms** and **Bren** to note - **there are sensitivities flagged in the brief that may warrant the preparation of talking points or a quick briefing to the Minister before the review goes out to stakeholders.**

Regards

Sch 1 1.14

Djan Yimaba Yara (*Thank you and Bye in Ngunnawal language*),

Sch 1 1.14

Office of Nature Conservation, Environment and Heritage Division
City and Environment Directorate (CED), ACT Government
480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

Sch 1 1.14

Adjunct Ass. Prof., Institute for Applied Ecology, University of Canberra

I acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region..

<https://www.act.gov.au/environment> | [EPSDD Environment Science Platform](#) |



ACT
Government

Environment, Planning and
Sustainable Development

From: Sch 1 1.14
Sent: Wednesday, 17 July 2024 8:31 AM
To: Sch 1 1.14, Sch 2.2(a)(ii)
Cc: Sch 1 1.14
Subject: RE: Wombat Review

Hi Sch 2.2(a)(ii) (and Sch 1 1.14

Thanks for getting back to me. Great to hear you have already heard from Sch 2.2(a)(i)

I can see where you are coming from in terms of your reservations and I understand why the word 'management' makes you uneasy, as it can be used in different ways, including to refer to culling. In my email I am using it just to mean everything we do in relation to the species, including any and all conservation and disease treatment measures. We are not making any assumptions about what types of management recommendations will come out of this review.

Unfortunately, I can't make any blanket assurances that future management plans would not include culling. Our team is certainly not aware of any plans to introduce a wombat culling program, but ultimately those sorts of decisions are up to the Conservator, not us. I know this is not what you want to hear, but to get a definitive answer you would need to go through the Conservator's office. I'd be happy to forward anything on for you.

In terms of your data, I can assure you that it would not be used to inform culling. For example, the ACT Gov would not pick 'culling sites' based off wombat hotspots identified from your data. The data will simply be used to help Sch 2.2(a)(i) get a good understanding on how wombats are faring in the ACT, and provide recommendations based off the findings. So as not to muddy the waters, perhaps it's best you share the data with Sch 2.2(a)(i) directly rather than through me? That way you can rest easy knowing the ACT Gov doesn't have it and that the data won't be used for any purpose other than the review.

Unless you have any further questions, I'll leave it up to you to think about what you'd like to do. At the end of the day, it is your data and you have no obligation to share it. But if you think the data would be useful, please do consider sharing it directly with Sch 2.2(a)(i) so that she has everything to make the most informed decision. And you mentioned you are meeting with her soon, so you could always discuss further before you decide anything.

Thanks so much for your time, I really appreciate it. If you have any concerns please feel free to reach out.
Sch 1 1.14

From: Sch 2.2(a)(ii)
Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 9:02 AM
To: Sch 1 1.14
Cc: Sch 1 1.14
Subject: Wombat Review

You don't often get email from Sch 2.2(a)(ii) . [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning Sch 1 1.14

Thank you for reaching out to me. I have copied your email to here so that wombat related topics are in this inbox. It's nice to hear from you again!

I did receive an email from [Sch 2.2(a)(ii)] requesting all my data and we will set up a chat sometime next week. [Sch 2.2(a)] email did not provide much context but I assumed this is what it is about.

I do have some reservations and wanted to talk to someone about this before I can supply any additional data.

My reservation is regarding the use of the word management, as in Wombat Management in the ACT. As you know, regarding kangaroos, management means culling. I have previously expressed my concern in using the words wombat management and what it really means going forward. I would like to have some reassurance from EPSDD that wombat management will not ever boil down to a management plan that could include culling.

There is a sentiment in PCS from some staff that munge should not be treated and we are actively increasing wombat numbers by treating munge. In other words, this cohort views munge as a natural way to control numbers. This makes me very uneasy and I do not want to see us going down a path where wombat numbers are seen as "too many" and that that needs "management".

Do you have any thoughts on this or would you like to have a chat at some point perhaps? I have cc'd [Sch 1 1.14] in here as we will both be meeting with [Sch 2.2(a)(ii)]

Kind regards

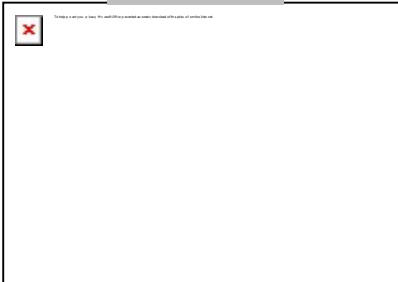
Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

n-field services

[Website](#)

[Facebook](#)

Mobile: [Sch 2.2(a)(ii)]



Hi [redacted]

We met a couple of years ago. My name is [Sch 1 1.14] and I work on ONC's fauna team with [Sch 1 1.14]. I'm the one doing the koala project if that rings any bells. I hope you're well 😊

As you may already know, the ACT has recently engaged an external contractor to independently review bare-nosed wombat policy, legislation, status, processes for decision making, issues, and current activities and programs within the ACT. The intended outcome of the review is to provide a clear path forward in terms of wombat management in the ACT. The person conducting the review is [Sch 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#) I imagine [Sch 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#) will reach out to you at some point if [Sch 2.2\(a\)](#) has not done so already, so please keep an eye out for any correspondence from [Sch 2.2\(a\)](#)

The reason I am reaching out is I need to collate all of our raw data and hand it over to [Sch 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#) to assess. By that I mean data on when/where wombats have been found, what condition they are in and whether they were found as part of a targeted survey or just by chance. Burrow data may also be helpful. Basically anything that will help [Sch 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#) to get a good understanding on the status of wombats in the ACT. As you would know, I already have access to data collected by yourself and others through the wombat monitoring surveys app. I can also see all the data collected through the mange portal. And I'm trying track down roadkill data form another section. Outside of that, do you have any extra data that you would be willing to share to help inform [Sch 2.2\(a\)\(ii\)](#) assessment? I'm not sure what your thoughts are on sharing data you have collected, but can appreciate if there are sensitivities you may be concerned about. I'd be more than happy to organise a teams meeting to have a chat before you make a decision if that makes you feel more comfortable. Also happy to answer any questions or concerns via email.

Please have a think about it and let me know if you have anything worth sharing, and what you'd like to do.

Thanks, have a great weekend!

Sch 1 1.14

Office of Nature Conservation

[Sch 1 1.14](#) [@act.gov.au](#)

[Conservation Research Website](#)

[EPSDD Environment Science Platform](#)

