

Annex 3

NVF Desired Outcomes

Annex 3 - Assessing work plan activities against the NVF management and monitoring outcomes

Table 2 contains our preliminary assessments of the relevance and likely impact of the Actions on the Desired outcomes of the NVF, based on the criteria:

- *High influence* – The Action has direct relationship to the Desired Outcome and when implemented will have a high impact in addressing the Outcome;
- *Medium influence* – the Action has a moderate to high relationship to the Desired Outcome and when implemented will have a moderate impact in addressing the Outcome; or only some relationship but with a high impact.
- *Low influence* – the Action has some relationship to the Desired Outcome but when implemented will have only a low impact in addressing the Outcome; and
- *No influence* – the Action may have some relationship to the Desired Outcome but when implemented it will have no effective impact in addressing the Outcome.

Climate Change Outcomes:

- ACT view was that Climate change was a high priority for the Commonwealth Government but not a high feature of the ACT Work Plan as this area was covered by other elements of the ACT program (ie in the waste management, transport sectors)
- also a perception that the ACT has a substantial carbon store relative to the area of the ACT (e.g 54% of land is reserved for nature conservation)
- perception that ACT Forests would be making a substantial contribution to climate change through plantings etc (this was not verified with ACT Forests)
- Environment ACT has developed a vegetation corridor map that would allow for altitudinal links in response to climate change

Indigenous Outcomes:

- limited relevance to the ACT outcomes, but high priority in reserve management plans

Soil and Water Outcomes:

- there has been a lot of evaluation undertaken to consider the soil and water issues in the ACT. Major problems such as erosion are not considered major issues, so therefore not viewed as a major priority in the activities in the ACT Work Plan.
- ongoing soil and water management is incorporated into Land Management Agreements (eg protection of riverine and native vegetation.)
- in regards to regulatory management mechanisms, this is not considered a high priority as it is perceived that there are a number of mechanisms in place to manage and/or prevent grazing (ie LMA's).
- monitoring and evaluation – getting systems in place to appropriately manage monitoring and evaluation is still required, but recognised that they are slowly getting there.

Hydrology Outcomes:

- hydrology outcomes generally are low focus to match the level of priority in the ACT. With a significant proportion of the ACT under reserve, problems associated with rising water tables and water quality protection have largely been avoided. Activities for managing Reserve Systems will contribute to positive hydrological outcomes.

Land Productivity Outcomes:

- a number of actions in the ACT work plan are focused on delivering land productivity outcomes. Activities include the overarching planning framework, a number of grant programs, mechanisms to manage Land Management Agreements, and provision of incentives to encourage rural stakeholders to focus on off-reserve management of vegetation. Much of the communication and capacity building is focused on working with rural landowners. In a reserve context, management strategies and activities are also a key activity in the work plan

Sustainable land use Outcomes:

- in the context of the definition in the NVF, the ACT does not have activities underway that rely on the sustainable use of vegetation products. Therefore this outcome has a low priority in the ACT work plan.

Natural and Cultural Heritage Outcomes:

- Given that the focus of the Canberra has been designed around the natural heritage and cultural values, planning and assessment has a strong emphasis on retaining and managing these values. It was acknowledged that the Work Plan has a stronger focus on the natural values. Similarly all reserve plans and implementation strategies incorporate aspects of natural and cultural heritage in the design.
- Communication and Capacity – This aspect has largely occurred in the ACT via Land Management Agreements. Requirement is now for the LMAs to be used to document the ‘gaps’ in cultural and natural heritage sites off –reserve.
- Monitoring and evaluation –Significant progress has been made via the NVIS process in collating vegetation cover data. Vegetation condition is less-well known although threatened ecological communities and species is well-documented with monitoring programs in place. A program of identifying threatening processes and developing appropriate management and monitoring responses will help. This is an acknowledged and ongoing challenge, influenced by the long-term nature of required resource commitments and outcome responses to management interventions. A targeted biodiversity monitoring program is under development.

Indigenous outcomes:

- Traditional links with the land in a native title context are of limited relevance in the ACT. For those areas where indigenous outcomes are important (ie planning and assessment and reserves) the indigenous outcomes are incorporated in the planning and management frameworks.