

ACT GOVERNMENT

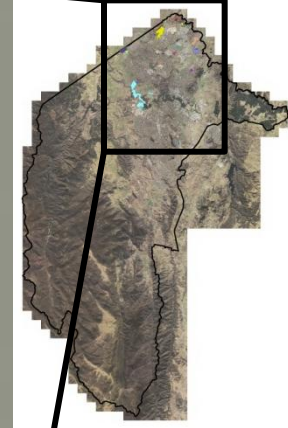
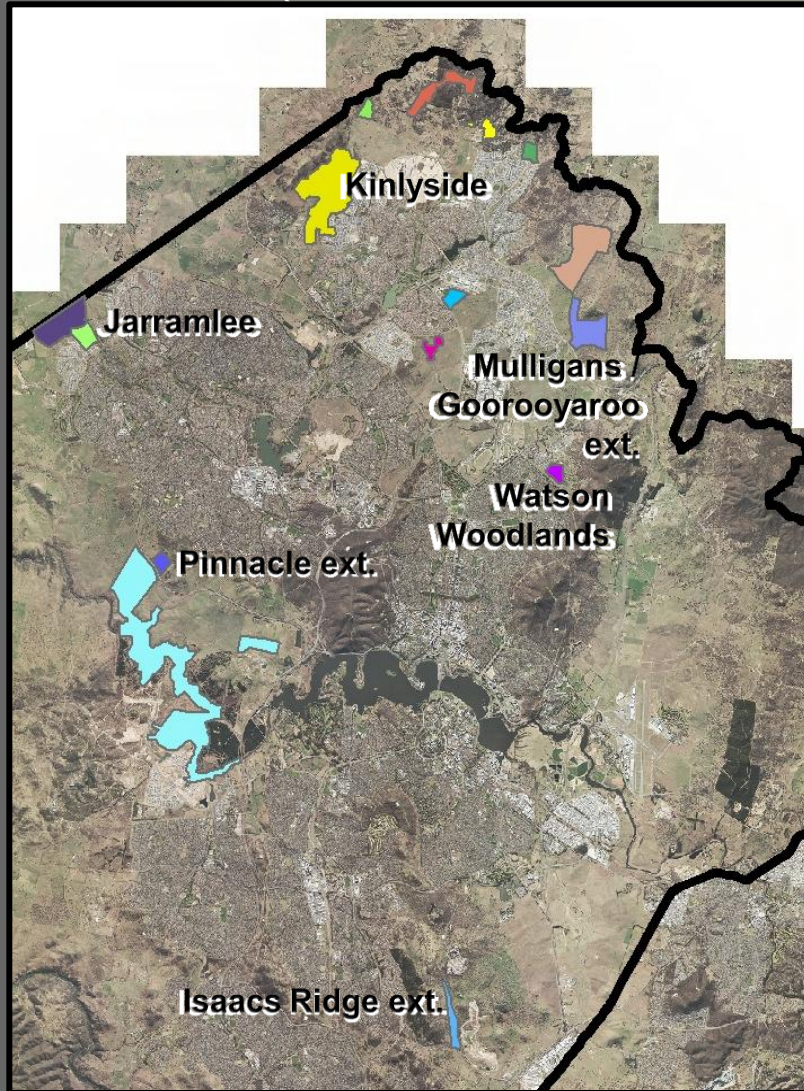
Environmental Offsets: Update on planning and implementation

Clare McInnes
Environmental Offset Planning Manager
ACT Parks and Conservation Service



ACT
Government

PCS - Primary offsets manager in the ACT



- 2027 ha of approved offsets
- Increasing CNP by nearly 20%
- Expected to expand in 2018-19 with offsets linked to the Eastern Broadacre Strategic Assessment

MNES requiring offsets in the ACT

- White Box – Yellow Box – Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland
- Natural Temperate Grassland
- Striped Legless Lizard
- Golden Sun Moth
- Pink-tailed Worm-lizard
- Superb Parrot



L to R: Striped Legless Lizard, Golden Sun Moth and Superb Parrot

What are the ACT Government offset commitments?

- Broad, long term commitments are identified within Development Approval Decisions or Strategic Assessments
- Improve or maintain quality (and extent, where possible)
 - Ecological Communities
 - Habitat of threatened species
- Some approval decisions include specific mgt actions e.g. PPA control, biomass mgt, additional of habitat structural elements (e.g. coarse woody debris or rock) etc..
- Indirect commitments – research or specific financial investment
- *All* require a program to monitor the effectiveness of our management of the MNES to deliver the commitments

How are we delivering offsets commitments?

2012 – 2016: Planning and initial phase of implementation

Three initial priorities were to:

1. Establish processes to extend the reserve system and to enable PCS to deliver on the offset commitments
2. Develop fully costed Plans to:
 - establish reserve infrastructure
 - manage the MNES – assess and mitigate risks from threatening processes, undertake initial restoration works
 - manage other values also protected within the offset areas (natural and cultural values)

How are we delivering offsets commitments?

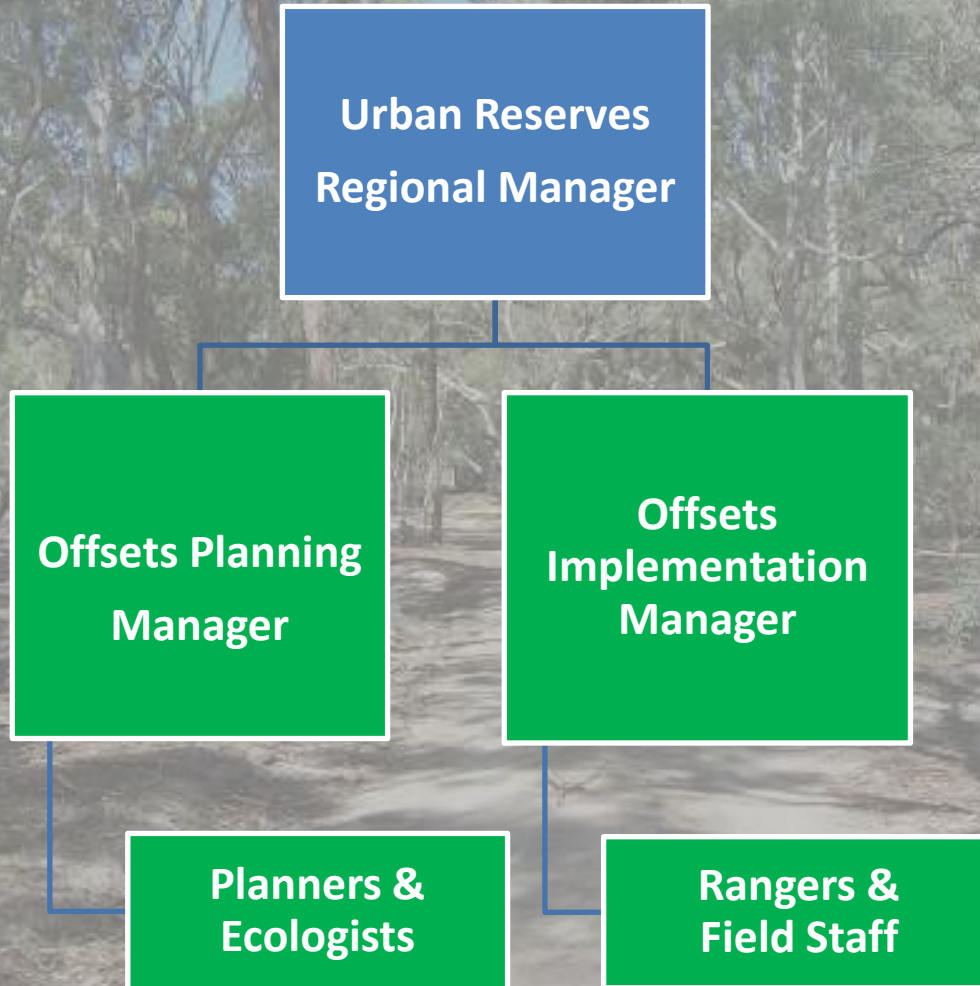
3. Secure long-term funding

- *Secured an initial \$14 million over 3 years to establish offset areas and undertake initial planning and operations to protect MNES.*
- *Over \$3 million of annual funding for on-going operations, staff, monitoring and research*

How are we delivering offsets commitments?



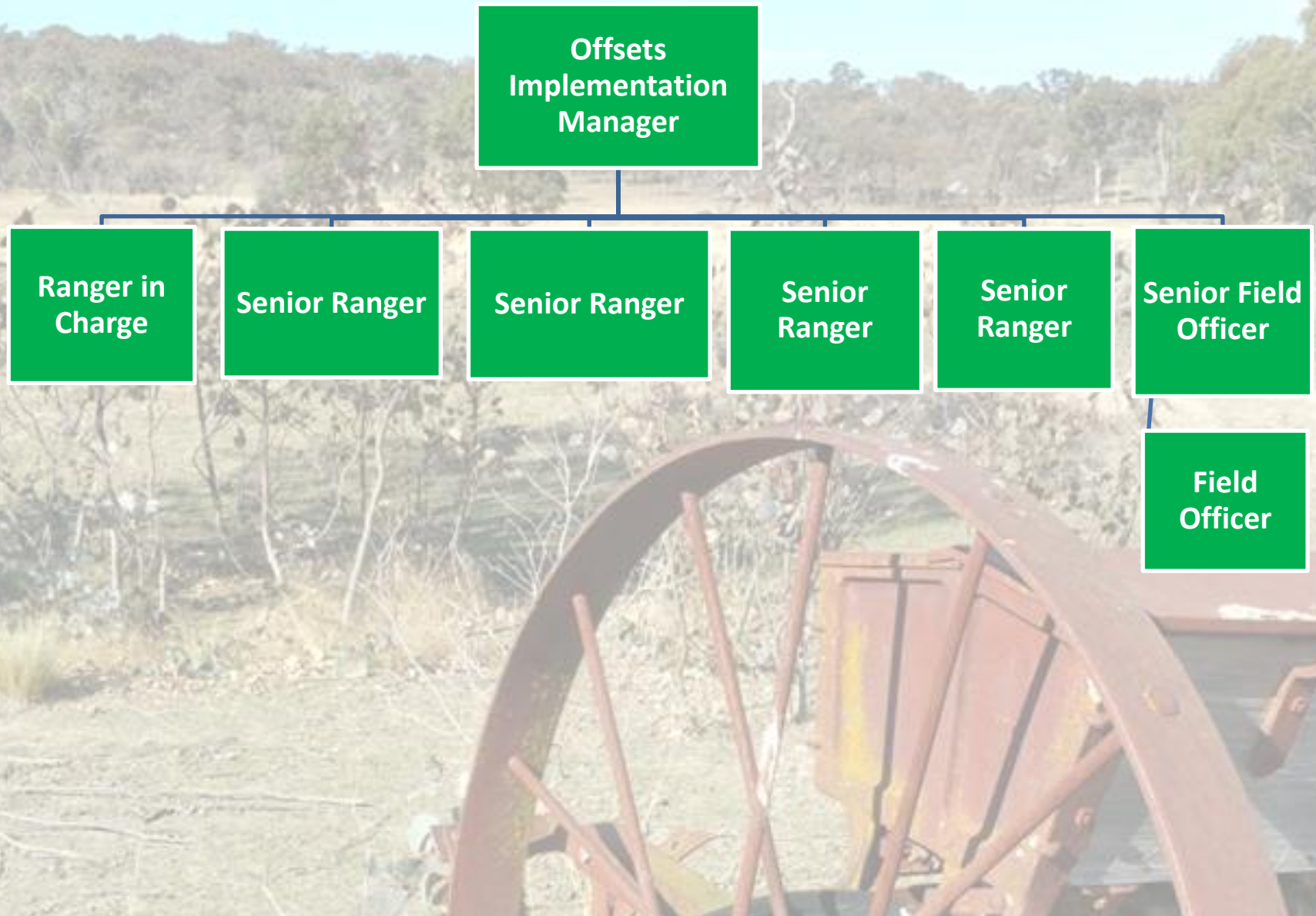
How are we delivering offsets commitments?



Planning Team



Implementation Team



Review of adaptive management program

Key priorities for 2017 has been the review of planning and implementation of environmental offsets monitoring actions

Key outcomes and lessons:

- Standard methods for a holistic approach to monitoring MNES across the landscape – not just about offsets
- Prioritisation of data collection – e.g. habitat / vege condition mapping before population monitoring
- Selection of best survey protocols, supported by data analysis (assessed methods and number of replicates to ensure data will enable for more robust evaluations of management actions)
- Identification of efficiencies and opportunities for research between stakeholders
- Increased collaboration between different sections of Government, including: Environmental Offsets, Conservation Research, Natural Resource Management (NRM) programs

Immediate priorities

- **Revised offsets planning and monitoring framework**
 - To review the type of data we collect on land management operations (covariate data) - key recommendation in the CEMP Framework
 - Will further improve our review processes to inform future offsets planning (as part of an adaptive mgt framework)
- **5 yearly monitoring and research plan**
 - Being developed across Government to efficiently deliver commitments and well as other ACT Government priorities.

Immediate priorities

- Developing a project to improve our capacity to:
 - analyse monitoring and research data
 - capture, disseminate and store data relating to monitoring and research programs
 - Opportunity to improve data management across Government
 - Key priority for PCS and EPSDD more broadly
- 
- A green parrot with a yellow and orange face patch is perched on a tree branch. The background is a blurred natural setting.



ACT
Government

Thank You