

STRONG NATURE LAWS FOR THE ACT

Canberrans love our natural environment. We want to protect our bush capital and make sure everyone can enjoy a healthy and thriving environment.

But the ACT's environment laws are making that harder. Instead of protecting nature, the government has set up a system that's skewed to business and developer interests. That's creating a crisis for our nature, with five species added to the ACT's threatened species list since 2020 - including the iconic gang-gang cockatoo.

Now is our chance to fix this. The ACT's major nature law, the Nature Conservation Act, is being reviewed for the first time in ten years. Together, we can take the power back and create a system that protects our environment.

ACT's nature Laws don't work to

- Protect and restore our natural places we all need and love.
- Save the Gang gang cockatoo and **57** other threatened species and **2** critically endangered ecological communities in the ACT.
- Prevent more irreversible decline and destruction of our natural places.
- Prosecute those who destroy our nature.

WE NEED STRONG NATURE LAWS FOR THE SURVIVAL OF THREATENED SPECIES, ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES AND OUR PLANET.

What's the problem with the current NC Act?

The **NC Act fails** to protect, conserve, enhance biodiversity, because:

- Nature conservation and protection powers are held by planning authorities creating **decision making in favour of development not nature**.
- The NC Act focuses on individual species rather than landscapes, resulting in **fragmentation of critical habitat** needed for species survival
- **Climate change is not considered** as a key threat to our nature
- Enforcement and measures to promote compliance **are insufficient**.
- The legislation **lacks primacy over other legislation** in nature reserves
- There is a **lack of legal requirements** and **clearly defined indicators** for regular evaluations of implementations of conservation and protection strategies and for measuring and reporting of biodiversity outcomes.



What changes are needed to make NC Act work for nature?

- Give the legislation **primacy over other legislation within nature reserves**, including the **power to establish nature reserves**.
- Base new legislation on an **ecosystem approach**, to enable the ACT Government to implement an ACT-wide **biodiversity network** so all valuable areas – whether a national Park or on the roadside – are managed well.
- List **climate change** as a **key threat** to nature.
- Recognise the **authority of the region's First Nations peoples** as stewards and include decision making powers in the Act.
- Ensure that decision makers **must refuse developments** with **unacceptable impacts** on threatened species (or their habitat) and threatened ecological communities.
- **Significant increase enforcement of the Act**, including higher penalties for dodgy developers who destroy our nature.
- **Give rangers powers** to enforce the Act in reserves.
- Make the **Conservator of Flora and Fauna independent**, with their powers widened and strengthened.
- Legislate a requirement for a **regular review of measurable qualitative and quantitative targets** with publicly available outcomes.

MAKE OUR NATURE LAWS STRONG

This is a once in a decade chance to change the NC Act and save our nature

- **Find out more: <https://conservationcouncil.org.au/fix-canberras-nature-laws/>**
- **Have your voice heard in your local newspaper, on talk back radio**
- **Write to your MLA**
- **Join a local community group such as friends of grasslands**

SUPPORT STRONG NATURE LAWS FOR A NATURE POSITIVE FUTURE BY GIVING TODAY

Check out the CCACT website for resources

