

## COG submission on ACT Conservation Council Draft Strategic Plan, 2021-2025

On Tue, Mar 2, 2021 at 8:24 PM Steve Read <[steve.read123@gmail.com](mailto:steve.read123@gmail.com)> wrote:

Dear Helen

Many thanks for your reply, and I trust that the Conservation Council planning day on Sunday went well.

In regards to the Conservation Council's Draft Strategic Plan 2021-2025, the Canberra Ornithologists Group (COG) focusses its comments on Strategic Priority 1 'Achieve positive environmental outcomes for the ACT and region'. This should of course be the prime focus of the Conservation Council. Strategic Priorities 2 and 3 of the Draft Strategic Plan relate more to how the Conservation Council undertakes its advocacy role and how it functions as an organisation, in regards to which COG would simply like to see stronger articulation of the Conservation Council as a member-driven body, and that its a leadership role in the ACT reflects the views and interests of its member organisations.

Within Strategic Priority 1, the focus of COG and our members is on Strategic Priority 1.b 'Protect and enhance natural habitats and ecosystems that support biodiversity, to reduce extinction rates'. Here are six example high-level approaches and objectives for Strategic Priority 1.b, of the sort that would allow the Conservation Council to demonstrate in its strategic planning the kind of outcomes that would deliver on the current broad visions presented in the draft document, and give the reader a much better idea of the strategic focus of the organisation:

- 1) Progressive implementation of cat containment throughout the ACT  
to ensure that initial ACT government initiatives in this space will be effective in reducing impact of cats on native wildlife, and to build on the long history of Conservation Council effort over the past two decades.
- 2) Amending the ACT land planning and development systems  
to ensure these consider cumulative impacts of development on biodiversity, to ensure only offsets that rigorously deliver net gain are implemented, and to ensure that conservation/biodiversity considerations cannot simply be overruled in planning.
- 3) Adoption of a landscape-scale approach to conservation of biodiversity and habitat  
maintaining a focus grassy box-gum woodland as this is habitat for a range of declining species, and including explicit consideration of connectivity. This could include working with Catchment and Landcare Groups, Greening Australia and landowners/lessees to propose a coordinated plan to improve the condition of ACT woodlands.
- 4) Build on the growing recognition in the ACT Government of the need for investment in long-term biodiversity monitoring sites to inform evidence-based decision-making  
including funding and other support of citizen-science programs.
- 5) Development of a comprehensive and effective Action Plan implemented for protection/retention of mature eucalypts  
in urban, urban fringe and rural areas.
- 6) A set of specifically articulated and targeted priorities for protection, such as
  - bringing Bluetts Block into the Canberra Nature Park system

- negotiating and implementing a conservation management plan for Newline with multiple stakeholders
- protection and habitat restoration of Central Molonglo land north of Kama NR through management agreements with lessees and habitat enhancement programs
- leveraging the substantial amount of work being undertaken by the ACT Government on Superb Parrots into a plan to provide long-term viable habitat for the species in rehabilitated woodland on land west of Mt Stromlo to the Murrumbidgee River, land under threat from progressive urbanisation.

COG is of course happy to discuss any of the above with the Conservation Council, both during strategy development and then during subsequent operational planning.

Regards

Steve

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Dr Steve Read  
Vice-President  
Canberra Ornithologists Group  
[canberrabirds.org.au/](http://canberrabirds.org.au/)

[steve.read123@gmail.com](mailto:steve.read123@gmail.com)

0408 170915

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**From:** Helen Oakey <[helen.oakey@conservationcouncil.org.au](mailto:helen.oakey@conservationcouncil.org.au)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, 27 February 2021 7:21 AM  
**To:** Steve Read <[steve.read123@gmail.com](mailto:steve.read123@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: COME ALONG! Member Group Planning Event - Weekly Wrap 19th February

Thanks Steve for sending this through. I'm sorry that no one from COG is able to attend tomorrow morning, but welcome the written feedback on the Plan.

You are right in articulating that it is a broad vision document and that other plans and objectives will sit underneath it in our operational planning each twelve months. Obviously our operational objectives will be also constrained by our capacity after identifying strategic priorities each year.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts, and would be happy to discuss them further over the next few weeks if that's useful.

Best wishes,

Helen

Helen Oakey  
**Executive Director**

t. 02 6229 3202  
m: 0402 052 777  
a. 14/26 Barry Drive, Canberra ACT 2601



*We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we live and work, and their deep and continuing connection to Country. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.*

**From:** Steve Read <[steve.read123@gmail.com](mailto:steve.read123@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 26 February 2021 10:41 PM  
**To:** 'Helen Oakey - Executive Director' <[director@conservationcouncil.org.au](mailto:director@conservationcouncil.org.au)>  
**Cc:** 'Neil Hermes' <[hermes.neil@gmail.com](mailto:hermes.neil@gmail.com)>; 'Jenny Bounds' <[jbbounds@bigpond.com](mailto:jbbounds@bigpond.com)>; 'cogoffice@canberrabirds.org.au' <[cogoffice@canberrabirds.org.au](mailto:cogoffice@canberrabirds.org.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: COME ALONG! Member Group Planning Event - Weekly Wrap 19th February

Dear Helen

Many thanks on behalf of the Canberra Ornithologists Group (COG) for the invitation to the Conservation Council Member Group Planning Event to be held on Sunday 28 February.

Unfortunately the COG Committee has not been able to organise participation in this event in a short time-frame, especially as a COG planning day is scheduled for Saturday 27 February. However, COG is happy to provide by email in the next few days some formal written comment and feedback on the Conservation Council's Draft Strategic Plan 2021-2025, and will also complete the associated survey.

In brief, our input on the Draft Strategic Plan will be aimed towards assisting with the articulation of a set of specific goals nested under the first strategic priority in the document, consistent of course with the vision-level phrasing currently used, but which can be the practical basis for Conservation Council actions over the next five years. Other member groups will likely wish to include specific strategic goals relating to their particular interests. COG will also argue for a stronger articulation of the Conservation Council as a member-driven organisation, supporting its leadership role in the ACT while reflecting the views and interests of members.

All the best for a very successful event on Sunday.

Regards

Steve Read

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Dr Steve Read  
Vice-President  
Canberra Ornithologists Group  
[canberrabirds.org.au/](http://canberrabirds.org.au/)

[steve.read123@gmail.com](mailto:steve.read123@gmail.com)

0408 170915

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**From:** Helen Oakey - Executive Director <[director@conservationcouncil.org.au](mailto:director@conservationcouncil.org.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 19 February 2021 12:31 PM  
**To:** Steve Read <[steve.read123@gmail.com](mailto:steve.read123@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** COME ALONG! Member Group Planning Event - Weekly Wrap 19th February



**Friday 19th February 2021**

Dear Steve,

Welcome to the Weekly Wrap - our weekly communication to Conservation Council Member Group representatives. Read it to stay on top of key Government activities such as consultations and policy announcements, and to keep up with our news and activities and those of our member groups.

This week, we made a final submission to the Australian Energy Regulator regarding Evoenergy's revised gas network access proposal for 2021–26. Read more about the submission below.

The coming week sees submission deadlines for consultations on the inclusion of the Federal Golden Sun Moth on the threatened species list of the EPBC, as well as the Federal government's National Gas Infrastructure Plan. Please see below for more information and details of how you can contribute to the Conservation Council ACT Region's submissions.

On Monday evening, I will take part in a panel discussion on climate change and biodiversity loss in an event hosted by the ANU Climate Institute. The discussion will be followed by a screening of the documentary film *Extinction: The Facts*. Feel free to share details of the event with your networks.

Don't forget that next Sunday (28th February) we are hosting a **Member Group Planning Event** - an opportunity to input into the Council's campaign priorities for the next couple of years. Please come and join us for coffee and pastries at the Canberra Environment Centre, and a strategic conversation - details are below!

Please let us know if there's anything your group would like to share in next week's bulletin.

Kind regards,

Helen Oakey

**Executive Director**

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## Conservation Council News

### Member Group Planning Event

Do you have views on the political context we are currently operating and how we can best achieve the changes that we are looking for to build a genuinely sustainable society? Do you have thoughts about the strategic direction of the Conservation Council over the next couple of years? Do you have a specific idea that you'd like to put forward?

As flagged in last week's Weekly Wrap, you are invited to attend the Conservation Council's Planning Meeting on Sunday 28th February 2021 to engage in a discussion about what you and your group might identify as strategic priorities for the Conservation Council going forward.

**Time:** 9.30-11.30am, Sunday 28th February, 2021

**Venue:** Canberra Environment Centre

**Coffee, tea and pastries provided!**

**PLEASE RSVP BY EMAIL TO [HELEN](#) BY FRIDAY 26TH FEBRUARY - IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE AN IDEA OF NUMBERS ATTENDING**

The purpose of the discussion is to provide an opportunity for the CCACT Board and staff to hear from Member Groups, so as to help inform the priorities of the Council over 2021-2022, and to highlight opportunities that might be available in the political context that we are currently operating in.

The session will be facilitated, and include a break for morning tea to give time to catch up with other Member Group representatives you may not have seen for a while.

In addition, the Board is getting feedback on the **Council's DRAFT Strategic Plan 2021-2025** which is attached.

**SURVEY** - For those who are unable to attend, we would welcome your feedback and thoughts via a quick survey that can be accessed [here](#). The survey will be open until Tuesday 8th March.

In addition, should you have any comments about the DRAFT Strategic Plan, then please send them through to the Executive Director by [email](#).