

# Nature Conservation (Scientific Committee) Appointment 2024

## Disallowable instrument DI2024–100

made under the

**Nature Conservation Act 2014, s 36 (Scientific committee—appointment of members)  
and s 37 (Scientific committee—chair and deputy chair)**

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

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Section 31 of the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* (the *Act*) establishes the Scientific Committee. The Scientific Committee has the following functions:

- to advise the Minister about nature conservation (section 32 (a) of the Act)
- to advise the Conservator of Flora and Fauna about nature conservation (section 32 (b))
- to exercise any other function given to the committee under the Act or another territory law (section 32 (c)).

This appointment instrument is made under sections 36 and 37 of the Act. Sections 36 (1) and (2) provide that the Minister must appoint seven members to the Scientific Committee and must ensure that at least four members of the committee are not public servants. The Minister must not appoint a person to the committee unless satisfied that the person has appropriate scientific expertise in biology, ecology, conservation science, or conservation management.

This instrument appoints the following members to the committee who are not public servants and who have the scientific expertise indicated:

- Dr Linda Neaves (genetics/biology in conservation management/policy and reintroduction/translocation of native species)
- Dr Simon Clulow (conservation ecology and management of Australian fauna, especially amphibians and reptiles)
- Professor Fiona Dyer (eco-hydrology, flow-ecology relationships focussed on vegetation and management of freshwater ecosystems)
- Associate Professor Megan Head (evolutionary ecologist specialising in how environmental change affects reproduction in fish and insects)
- Dr Frank Ingwersen (botany and plant ecology including landscape scale ecology and fire ecology relating to biodiversity conservation)
- Honorary Professor Mark Lonsdale (ecology, biology and biodiversity with application of ecological research to conservation issues, invasive species)

- Dr Martin Westgate (landscape ecology/conservation biology with focus on impacts of land management, disturbance and climate on biodiversity).

No public servants are being appointed.

This instrument also appoints the chair and deputy chair of the Scientific Committee, Dr Linda Neaves and Dr Simon Clulow, respectively.

The appointment of members of the Scientific Committee, including the chair and the deputy chair is until 30 June 2027. Section 36 (5) of the Act requires these appointments to be for a period that is not longer than 3 years.

Section 228 of the *Legislation Act 2001* requires the relevant standing committee of the Legislative Assembly to be consulted as part of the process for appointments by the Minister (with some exceptions; in particular, not relating to the appointment of public servants). The Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity has been consulted on the appointments in this instrument.

Section 36 (7) of the Act provides that this appointment instrument is disallowable.

A regulatory impact statement (*RIS*) is not required for this disallowable instrument, under section 34 of the *Legislation Act 2001*, as the appointment of members of the Scientific Committee is not likely to impose appreciable costs on the community or a part of the community. A RIS is also considered unnecessary under section 36 of the *Legislation Act 2001* because this instrument is an administrative matter only and not of a legislative nature.

This appointment instrument does not engage any human rights.