

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
NATURE CONSERVATION ACT 1980
ACTION PLANS
INSTRUMENT NO. 191 OF 1998
EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The *Nature Conservation Act 1980* (the Act) is the primary ACT legislation for the protection of native plants and animals. A 1994 amendment to the Act established the Flora and Fauna Committee as an expert advisory body to the Minister.

One of the Flora and Fauna Committee's responsibilities is to advise the Minister of ACT species and ecological communities that are threatened with extinction and recommend that they be declared accordingly. A species may be declared as vulnerable or endangered (as an indication of the degree of threat to its continued existence); an ecological community may be declared as endangered.

Section 23 of the Act provides for the Conservator of Flora and Fauna to prepare a draft Action Plan for each species or community that has been the subject of a declaration. A draft Action Plan is a management response to a recognised ecological threat. It is required to include proposals for effective conservation of the species or community concerned.

A process of public consultation is provided for. After consideration of comment received, the Conservator may prepare an Action Plan as a disallowable instrument in accordance with section 23C of the Act. A public notification in the Gazette and a newspaper of availability of an Action Plan is required.

On 15 April 1996, the Minister accepted a Flora and Fauna Committee recommendation and declared eight species and one ecological community (formerly Determination No. 29 of 1996 and currently Determination No. 7 of 1998).

On 5 December 1997, the Conservator of Flora and Fauna finalised Action Plans for five species and the ecological community declared in Determination No. 29 of 1996. The three outstanding Action Plans are now complete.

This is the instrument for three Action Plans that complete the Conservator's statutory response to Determination No. 29 of 1996. They are for the:

- Golden Sun Moth (*Synemon plana*)
- Button Wrinklewort (*Rutidosis leptorrhynchoides*)
- Small Purple Pea (*Swainsona recta*).

Public notification requirements have been provided for.

Each Action Plan describes the species and its geographic distribution. Conservation issues are discussed and specific threats identified. Corresponding management and protective measures to enhance the well-being of the species are proposed. Survey, monitoring and research requirements are outlined. The major conservation objective is to maintain for the long term, viable, wild populations of each species as components of the indigenous biological resources of the ACT.