

Natural Environment

The natural environment is an intrinsic part of our existence, yet it is disappearing at a saddening pace. Current extinction rates are 10,000 times higher than historical background averages, and our carbon footprints increase as our biocapacity is reduced.

Question: How can we ensure the protection and regeneration of our natural environment?

Assets

- Existing knowledge base of the people – highly educated and informed population
- Farmland around Canberra (although under-utilised)
- Environmental organisations and volunteers
- Traditional owner connection to knowledge of country and native foods
- Reserves and walking tracks
- Drinking water quality
- Accessibility to nature
- Leader in energy and waste
- Very good
- Urban forest
- Mountains/ hills
- Green space
- Great community groups
- Many people
- Lots of universities
- Birds rivers spiders
- Accessible natural environment
- (Problem?) lack of corridor connectivity. Rabbits. Kangaroos? People underutilised
- Bush capital number plates (support)
- Legislative assembly 13/25 women, 14/25 signed CAPAD statement
- Natural soils in some places – good for agriculture
- Good water catchments
- Ants, many species
- Lizards
- Mulligans Flat
- Good to see
- Some interesting developers

Ideas

- Increase environmental literacy in community
- Feral species for potential food or other resources
- Education on importance of waterways
- Collaboration by landowners to address environmental threats
- Develop a shared vision for environmental management in ACT, with adequate funding, and an integrated approach
- Development of environmental literacy
- Back to nature programs. Education for kids
- Integrate nature into streets, and take greater care of natural assets
- Green space in new developments/ suburbs
- Explore code of practice for landscaping
- Balance natural environment alongside population growth
- We need to grow most of our food in the city
 - Nurture systems for people who can grow food
 - Support people who want to grow food
 - Release land for growing/ re-wilding and carbon sequestration
 - Planning has to enable growing on buildings and in space we already have
 - Zoning for agriculture
 - For every development, set aside land for growing
 - Growing kids for growing plants - lead them down the garden path
- Grow the Urban Forest, maintain and enhance
 - Connect canopy, connectivity, climate mitigation goals
 - Green walls and roofs
- Restore concrete drains to natural waterways
- Plant habitat and resting places for birds, trees, and shrubs
- Acknowledgement of nine planetary boundaries

Implementation

- Better resources for living infrastructure work in the ACT government
- Trialling, piloting and prototyping leading to grants for projects as part of ongoing long-term programs
- Geographic progression
- Implement commissioners tree investigation
- Moving beyond the mini-scale to whole city
- National centre for human survival
- Stop good work in one direction being over-ridden by other work
- Government and community need to work together
 - Government is skeleton, community adds flesh (and brains)
- Zero emissions strategy – might be a way to develop ways of working together
- Fees from developers to improve local community space