

GLOSSARY

Abbreviations

asl	=	above sea level
mm	=	millimetre
cm	=	centimetre
m	=	metre
km	=	kilometre
GL	=	gigalitre (1 000 000 000 litres or 1000 megalitres)
ML	=	megalitre (1 000 000 litres)
ha	=	hectare
yr	=	year

Adaptive Management

Adaptive management is the systematic process for continually improving management policies and practices by learning from the outcomes of operational programs (ACT Government 2006a).

Alien Species

An alien species (non-native, non-indigenous, foreign, exotic) means a species, subspecies, or lower taxon occurring outside its natural range (past or present) and dispersal potential (i.e. outside the range it occupies naturally or could not occupy without direct or indirect introduction or care by humans). An alien invasive species means an alien species that has established in natural or semi-natural ecosystems or habitat, is an agent of change, and threatens native biological diversity (IUCN 2000). 'Alien' has largely replaced the use of the terms 'introduced' and 'exotic' in discussions of aquatic ecosystems.

Batholith

A large body of igneous rock, bounded by irregular cross-cutting surfaces or fault planes, and believed to have crystallised at a considerable depth below the earth's surface (Delbridge *et al.* 1996).

Benthic

Associated with the bottom of rivers or lakes (Lintermans and Osborne 2002).

Biodiversity

The variability among living organisms from all sources (including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part) and includes diversity within and between species and the diversity of ecosystems (AHC 2002).

Buffer

A buffer is a form of vegetation or land use (e.g. road or other infrastructure) that acts as a barrier or absorbs the effects of an activity or another land use. It is undesirable to have high intensity land uses located next to areas of high conservation value, and low or medium intensity land uses may be used as buffers (MacLeod 2002b).

Chute

Faster flowing water issuing from the constricted space between obstructions in a stream (usually rocks) where there is a steepening of the gradient of the stream.

Connectivity

Habitat connectivity is the degree to which an organism can move around the landscape due to the presence of suitable habitat. For fauna, connectivity has been defined as the 'degree to which the landscape facilitates or impedes movement among patches' (Bennett 1999).

Conservation value

With regard to the natural environment, conservation value is an expression of the importance of a place in terms of its *natural significance*. *Natural significance* means the importance of ecosystems, biodiversity and geodiversity for their existence value or for present or future generations, in terms of their scientific, social, aesthetic and life-support value (AHC 2002).

CRA Data

Vegetation data from the Southern Region Comprehensive Regional Assessment (CRA).

Declining species

Species that have a reduced extent of occurrence and/or decline in abundance, significant enough to raise conservation concern.

Diel

A diel period is 24 hours.

Disturbance

An event that removes organisms and opens up space that can be colonised by individuals of the same or different species (Begon *et al.* 1990). Examples include soil cultivation, herbicide use, tree removal, fire and grazing.

Dominant Species

Species that make up a large proportion of biomass, or numbers of organisms in a community (Begon *et al.* 1990).

Ecological Community

An assemblage of plant and animal species that occur together in space and time.

Ecological Processes

All the processes that occur between organisms, and within and between communities, including interactions with the non-living environment, that result in existing ecosystems and bring about changes in ecosystems over time (AHC 2002).

Ecosystem

A dynamic complex of organisms and their environment, interacting as a functional unit (AHC 2002).

Ecosystem Function

In a functioning (or healthy) ecosystem, processes such as nutrient, energy and water flows, and the organisms and their populations, are maintained at levels appropriate to that system. A degraded or dysfunctional ecosystem has one or more of these processes disrupted (McIntyre *et al.* 2002).

Ecotone

Transition zone between two vegetation communities (e.g. between woodland and grassland).

Endangered

Means:

- (a) In relation to a community—an ecological community that is in immediate danger of extinction unless the circumstances and factors threatening its distribution, composition and viability as an ecological unit cease.
- (b) In relation to a species:
 - (i) its likely extinction unless the circumstances and factors threatening its abundance, survival or evolution cease; or
 - (ii) the reduction of its numbers or habitats to such a level that the species is in immediate danger of extinction.

(*Nature Conservation Act 1980*).

EHN Virus

Epizootic Haematopoietic Necrosis Virus is unique to Australia and was first isolated in 1985. It is characterised by sudden high mortalities of fish, which display necrosis of the renal haematopoietic tissue, liver, spleen and pancreas (Langdon and Humphrey 1987).

Evolutionary Processes

Genetically-based processes by which life forms change and develop over generations (AHC 2002).

Exotic Species

A species of foreign origin; not native; introduced from abroad (Delbridge *et al.* 1996). (see **Alien Species** above)

Fin fish

As defined in the *Fisheries Act 2000* (ACT), 'fin fish means a marine, estuarine or freshwater fish of the class pisces'. Used in this *Strategy* to distinguish from crustaceans, which are included in the definition of 'fish' under the Act (see below).

Fish

As defined in the *Fisheries Act 2000* (ACT), 'fish means marine, estuarine or freshwater fish or other aquatic animal life, or any of their parts, at any stage of their history (whether alive or dead), and includes:

- (a) abalone, oysters and other aquatic molluscs;
- (b) crustaceans;
- (c) echinoderms; and
- (d) beachworms and other aquatic polychaetes;

but does not include—

- (e) reptiles;
- (f) birds; and
- (g) amphibians.

Fault

An approximately plane surface of fracture in a rock body, caused by brittle failure, and along which observable relative displacement has occurred between adjacent rocks (Allaby and Allaby 1990).

Fragmentation

The separation into parts, of an assumed previously continuous vegetation community.

Geodiversity

The natural range (diversity) of geological (bedrock), geomorphological (landform) and soil features, assemblages, systems and processes (AHC 2002).

Graben

A downthrown, linear, crustal block bordered lengthways by normal faults (Allaby and Allaby 1990).

Habitat

The structural environments where an organism lives for all or part of its life, including environments once occupied (continuously, periodically or occasionally) by an organism or group of organisms, and into which organisms of that kind have the potential to be reinstated (AHC 2002).

Horst

Upright block lying between two steep angled fault blocks (Allaby and Allaby 1990).

Hypolimnion

The bottom stratum of water in a lake, which shows a temperature gradient of less than one degree C per metre of depth (Gilpin 1976).

Land Management Agreement

An agreement between a lessee and the Territory establishing a co-operative management regime for non-urban land in the ACT.

Lentic

Standing waterbodies where there is no continuous flow of water, as in freshwater ponds and lakes.

Natural Integrity

The degree to which a place or ecosystem retains its natural biodiversity and geodiversity and other natural processes and characteristics (AHC 2002).

Organism

Any living being.

Protection

Taking care of a place by managing impacts to ensure that natural significance is retained (AHC 2002).

Regeneration

The natural recovery of natural integrity following disturbance or degradation (AHC 2002).

Restoration

Returning existing habitats to a known past state or to an approximation of the natural condition by repairing degradation, by removing introduced species or by reinstatement (AHC 2002).

Species Diversity

The variety of species in a place (AHC 2002).

Tectonic

From tectonism: deformation within the earth's crust and its consequent structural effects (Allaby and Allaby 1990).

Threatened

An umbrella term for various categories of risk of premature extinction.

Vulnerable

In relation to a species, means a species that within the next 25 years is likely to become endangered unless the circumstances and factors threatening its abundance, survival or evolution cease (*Nature Conservation Act 1980*).

Weed

A plant that threatens human welfare by competing with other plants that have food, timber or amenity value (Begon *et al.* 1990). Environmental weeds are plants that threaten diversity and functioning in native ecosystems.