

c2024-185F GRNS--The Greens

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Biodiversity Offsets Scheme) Bill 2024

First print

Proposed amendments

No. 1 Climate resilience is a biodiversity value

Page 3, Schedule 1. Insert after line 5—

[1A] Section 1.5 Biodiversity and biodiversity values for purposes of Act

Insert after section 1.5(2)(b)—

(b1) climate resilience—being the degree to which the environment is able to adapt to a changing climate,

No. 2 Strategy to transition biodiversity offsets scheme to net positive

Page 5, Schedule 1[15], proposed section 6.2A. Insert after line 22—

- (5A) The Minister must not amend the strategy unless satisfied the amendment will not reduce the effectiveness of the biodiversity offsets scheme by—
 - (a) making the targets for the transition to delivering net positive biodiversity outcomes under the scheme less ambitious, or
 - (b) extending the time frames for the transition to delivering net positive biodiversity outcomes under the scheme.

No. 3 Biodiversity development assessment report

Page 7, Schedule 1. Insert after line 6—

[22A] Section 6.12 Biodiversity development assessment report

Insert "and on climate change" after "land" in section 6.12(b).

No. 4 Concurrence of Minister administering Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016

Page 13, Schedule 1. Insert after line 45—

[43A] Section 7.11(6)

Insert after section 7.11(5)—

(6) A requirement under subsection (2) or (3) to consult with the Minister administering this Act is a requirement to obtain the concurrence of the Minister administering this Act if the Minister concerned considers the development or activity is likely to result in a significant increase in greenhouse gas emissions.

No. 5 Requirement to publish maps

Page 20, Schedule 1. Insert after line 14—

[63A] Part 9, Division 3

Insert after Division 2—

Division 3 Maps

9.12 Maps

- (1) The Minister must arrange for maps to be made that identify the following areas—
 - (a) the habitat of a threatened species or threatened ecological community,
 - (b) a declared area of outstanding biodiversity value,
 - (c) an area in which particular action or development was not approved or carried out because of the impact of the action or development on biodiversity values.

Note— See also section 5.2, which requires the Minister to map existing public and private biodiversity protected areas.

- (2) The maps must be made available on a government website maintained by the Environment Agency Head.
- (3) The maps are indicative only.
- (4) The Minister may decide not to identify an area required to be identified under subsection (1) if the Minister considers that identifying the area on a map may increase the risk of damage to a threatened species, a threatened ecological community or the area.
- (5) Sections 9.9 and 9.10 apply to a map under this section in the same way as the sections apply to a public register under Division 2.