ACT Government
City and Environment

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE POSITION DESCRIPTION

POSITION DETAILS

Board/Committee: Scientific Committee

Closing date: 29 January 2027

Position title: Member

Position requirements: Yes

Location: Canberra

COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

The ACT Scientific Committee is a statutory expert advisory committee established under the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* (NC Act). The primary function of the Committee is to advise the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water (the Minister) and the Conservator of Flora and Fauna about nature conservation as detailed in the NC Act.

The Scientific Committee is responsible for assessing and making recommendations to the Minister on the listing of native species and ecological communities threatened with extinction, and the listing of key threatening processes. Assessments are made on nature conservation grounds against specified criteria under section 65 (threatened native species), section 71 (threatened ecological communities), section 78 (key threatening processes) and section 113 (protected native species) of the NC Act. The Scientific Committee also provides advice to the Minister in relation to nature conservation issues in the ACT region, including reviewing Action Plans (section 102, 108A) and providing advice to the Conservator of Flora and Fauna on the Nature Conservation Strategy (section 25).

The Scientific Committee consists of seven members with scientific expertise in biology, ecology, conservation science or conservation management. In addition to these qualifications, applicants with traditional ecological knowledge applicable to the ACT will be highly favoured. Members will be drawn from a broad range of disciplines to ensure the Committee has sufficient expertise to deal with the range of nature conservation issues that need to be addressed.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Committee usually meets four times a year, with each meeting being three to four hours in duration, however further meetings may be necessary.

Committee members may be expected to contribute to business outside of scheduled meetings in order to meet the obligations and functions of the NC Act. This includes responding to emails and reviewing accompanying documents, and attending out of session meetings as required. Committee members are expected to contribute to meetings and deliberations, and the overall good governance of the Committee.

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Committee members are remunerated under section 10 of the *Remuneration Tribunal Act 1995* in accordance with Determination 14 of 2026 at a rate of $670 per diem for the Chair and $580 per diem for members.

POSITION OVERVIEW (DUTIES / RESPONSIBILITIES)

There are seven expected vacancies commencing in July 2027, with the successful candidates to be appointed for a period of three years.

Candidates are expected to bring relevant experience to Committee discussions and decisions to support the Committee in equitably carrying out the objects of the NC Act.

The following criteria will be used to select Committee members for recommendation to the Minister:

1. Qualifications and experience. The level of qualifications, extent of experience, and relevance to the committee will be assessed. For example, Committee members are expected to have post graduate research qualifications and extensive experience in the application of ecological or biological research and/or conservation management. Applicants that have published widely will be highly regarded.
2. The Committee is made up of experts that cover a range of disciplines and expertise in biology, ecology, conservation science or conservation management. In addition to these qualifications an applicant with traditional ecological knowledge applicable to the ACT will be highly favoured. Members of the Committee are expected to contribute significant expertise to Committee business.
3. Nominees should have excellent communication skills.
4. The nominee's other professional interests need to be identified to ensure that 'Conflicts of Interest' or 'perceived conflicts of interest' will not negatively impact on the nominee's ability to objectively undertake work for the Committee.

POSITION REQUIREMENTS / QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants must hold appropriate scientific expertise in:

- biology;
- ecology;
- conservation science; or
- conservation management.

Additionally, applicants with traditional ecological knowledge applicable to the ACT will be highly favoured.

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HOW TO APPLY

To apply for the advertised position, complete and submit the following:

1. An expression of interest outlining your suitability in accordance with the position overview above.

2. Your curriculum vitae with details of your:
    a. work history;
    b. experience on boards, councils or committees;
    c. details of two referees;
    d. membership of professional or community organisations including membership of non-government boards and committees; and
    e. other relevant experience.

3. Applicants who are employed by a Commonwealth, State, or Territory government agency must obtain the necessary approval from their employer prior to submitting an application. Evidence of the relevant approval must be provided as part of the application process.

4. A completed and signed copy of the Declaration of Private Interests Form (attached).

Expressions of interest should be emailed to: CED.BoardsCommittees@act.gov.au

Applications close: 11:59pm on Friday, 29 January 2027.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about CED, its roles and functions, employment conditions and other related resources, please visit: www.act.gov.au/environment.

For further information about the Scientific Committee, please visit: www.act.gov.au/directorates-and-agencies/city-and-environment-directorate/act-scientific-committee.