International and national context for the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' Biodiversity Conservation Framework

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' (the department; DBCA) Biodiversity Conservation Framework is organised around seven overarching strategies that guide the biodiversity conservation activities implemented by the department. These strategies and activities are guided by the department's strategic directions/plans and contribute to State, national and international biodiversity conservation legislative and policy requirements and commitments, including the targets outlined in Australia's Strategy for Nature and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Global Biodiversity Framework

In 2022, Australia joined other parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in adopting the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**. The framework sets out an ambitious pathway to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 and to live in harmony with nature by 2050. It has 23 action-oriented targets to achieve by 2030 and four outcome-oriented goals to achieve by 2050. The Global Biodiversity Framework obliges each party to the Convention on Biological Diversity to contribute to the framework's goals and targets in line with their national circumstances, priorities, and socio-economic conditions.

Australia's Strategy for Nature

Australia's Strategy for Nature 2024-2030 is the national biodiversity strategy and action plan. The strategy sets a national framework for government, non-government and community action to strengthen Australia's response to biodiversity decline and care for nature in our many environments. It brings together existing work across the country and guides the development of new and innovative approaches to implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework.

Australia's Strategy for Nature coordinates national delivery of Australia's commitments to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Global Biodiversity Framework, and other international agreements including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the Convention on Migratory Species.

The strategy focuses on overarching goals that support healthy and functioning biological systems by promoting a stronger connection between people and nature, improving the way nature is valued and cared for, and building and sharing knowledge. It establishes six national targets and three enablers of change to halt and reverse biodiversity loss in Australia and put nature on a path to recovery (Figure 1).

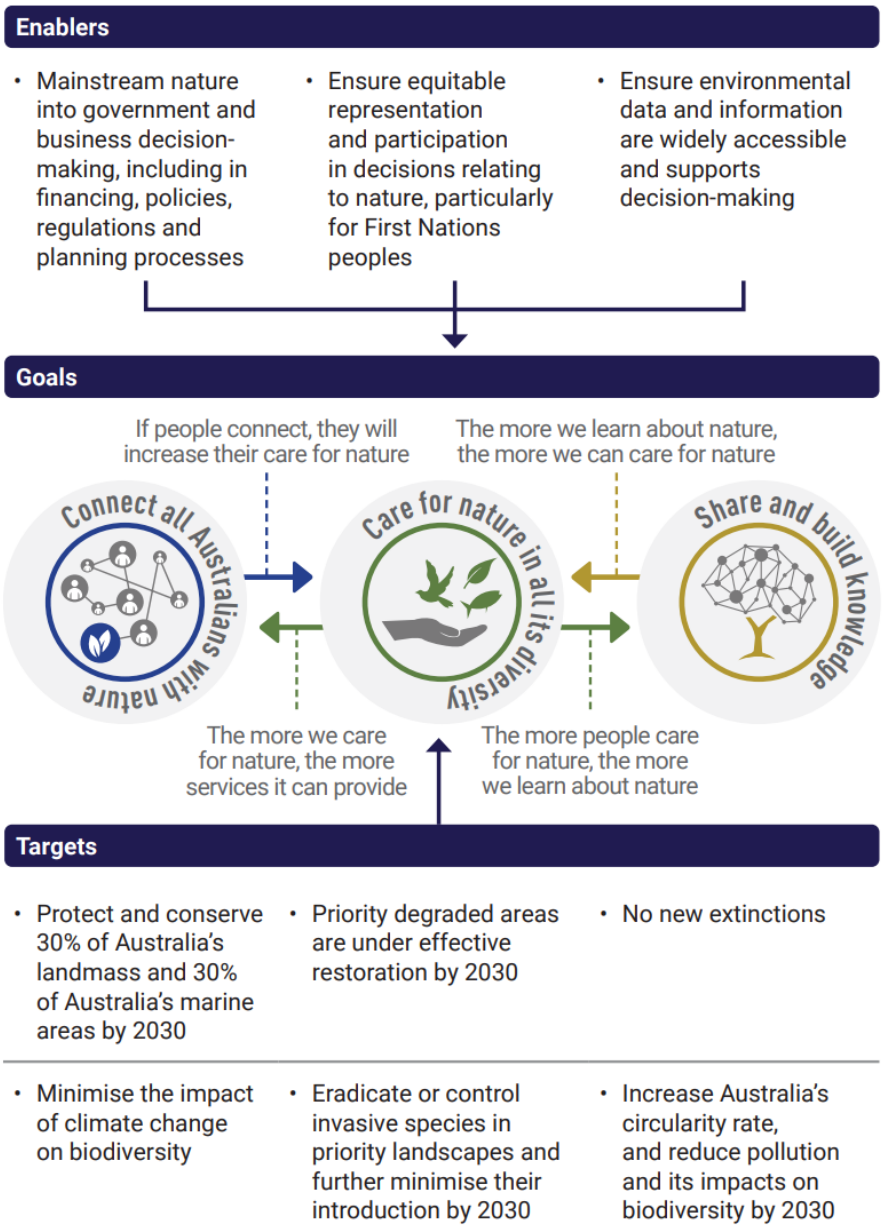


Figure 1 How targets and enablers for change support Australia's biodiversity goals, as outlined in Australia's Strategy for Nature. (Image credit: Commonwealth of Australia, 2024).

Tables 1 and 2 outline examples of how the work of the department is contributing to national and international targets and commitments, and the enablers of change, outlined in Australia's Strategy for Nature and the Global Biodiversity Framework and how these link to the department's Biodiversity Conservation Framework (using the icons in Figure 1 of the department's framework).

The interjurisdictional Biodiversity Working Group is responsible for evaluating and reporting on implementation of Australia's Strategy for Nature to environment ministers every two years, with an Implementation Plan in development. Progress reports will be published in 2026 and 2029, aligning with Australia's reporting to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Western Australia's contribution to the national reporting is via the Western Australian Government representative on the Biodiversity Working Group, DBCA's Executive Director Biodiversity and Conservation Science.

Table 1 The department's contribution to national targets outlined in Australia's Strategy for Nature 2024-2030 (December 2025).

National target	Our contribution
Protect and conserve 30% of Australia's land mass and 30% of Australia's marine areas by 2030. 	The Australian Government has committed to a national target to protect and conserve 30 per cent of Australia's land and 30 per cent of its marine areas by 2030. This is referred to as the '30 by 30' target. The National 30 by 30 Roadmap was developed with states and territories to support achievement of the land target. In 2024, all environment ministers agreed to the roadmap. The roadmap identified that the Australian Government requires approximately 60 million additional hectares of land to be protected or conserved by 2030 to reach the 30 by 30 target. At June 2024, WA had 30 per cent of terrestrial lands protected in the National Reserve System (CAPAD 2022[1]). Of these, three bioregions remain under-represented with less than 10 per cent of their remaining area protected in reserves – the Avon Wheatbelt, Murchison and Pilbara. Recent State Government initiatives to help Australia achieve the 30 by 30 target include Plan for Our Parks and increased protections for areas of native forest under the *Forest Management Plan 2024-2033*. Conservation covenants also contribute to the protected and conserved area networks. Conservation covenants are binding legal agreements used to protect values on private land. The department registers conservation covenants through its Nature Conservation Covenant Program. Australia's marine protected area (MPA) estate is one of the largest in the world. The National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas covers 48 per cent of Australia's ocean estate, with approximately 22 per cent within highly protected no-take areas. Australia's response to the '30 by 30' target for marine areas is being explored through the development of the Sustainable Oceans Plan.

[1] CAPAD 2024. Collaborative Australian Protected Areas Database (CAPAD), Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Canberra.

National target	Our contribution
Priority degraded areas are under effective restoration by 2030.  	The department is pursuing opportunities to improve and restore degraded landscapes on the conservation estate. This includes identifying and implementing natural capital project opportunities with partners where feasible under the *Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Act 2011* and *Nature Repair Act 2023* (when operational). Restoration priorities on department-managed lands include improving landscape-scale management in reserves added to the conservation estate through Plan for Our Parks, as well as rehabilitation in degraded areas of forest under the *Forest Management Plan 2024-2033*. The Native Vegetation Policy for Western Australia drives a whole-of-government approach to achieving better outcomes for native vegetation, including contributing to net gain and landscape-scale conservation and restoration. Led by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER), key initiatives include strategic coordination to restore landscape and ecosystem function in the intensive land use zones of the Swan Coastal Plain and Wheatbelt. The department is contributing to this process through working with DWER to deliver aspects of this policy related to identification of environmental values and application of regional planning in conservation planning and development proposals. DBCA also works closely with DWER to develop and review a strategic offsets policy with a view to achieving positive restoration and conservation outcomes. DBCA also contributes technical input, including undertaking native vegetation monitoring at site and landscapes scales, which underpins evidence-based decision-making around native vegetation and regional planning policy.

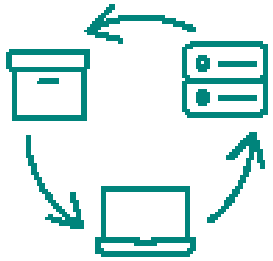
National target	Our contribution
No new extinctions.   	The department implements conservation actions to reduce the risk of extinctions, using prioritisation principles to guide focused recovery efforts. Recovery plans are in place for 437 listed threatened species and ecological communities in WA, a proportion of which are national recovery plans that have been made jointly with the Commonwealth under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Implementation of recovery actions can be supported by recovery teams. There are 17 fauna and nine regional flora recovery teams, comprising representatives from government agencies, non-government organisations, scientists, industry, Traditional Owners and the broader community that facilitate collaboration and coordination in threatened species and ecological community management. Regional conservation plans have been developed for each of the nine Parks and Wildlife Service regions. These plans reflect the conservation actions identified and prioritised through prioritisation processes conducted between 2021-2023. This includes conservation actions addressing specific threats to threatened and priority species and ecological communities, where targeted management intervention is required because they are under identifiable threat and where management programs and conservation actions applied at the conservation reserve or landscape scale are not adequately addressing threats.

National target	Our contribution
Minimise the impact of climate change on biodiversity.  	The department seeks to minimise the impact of climate change on biodiversity through various initiatives. • Climate adaptation research, focusing on threatened species and ecological communities. • Assisted migration trials for threatened species, including the critically endangered western swamp tortoise (*Pseudemydura umbrina*). • The Swan Canning Riverpark Foreshore Risk Mapping Project, to understand and communicate the potential impacts of climate change, erosion and inundation during the next 100 years, to support management decision-making. • The savannah burning program in the Kimberley region, involving undertaking early dry season prescribed burning to reduce the impacts of more intense late dry season bushfires, including reduced carbon emissions. • Exploring carbon farming opportunities on the conservation estate through sequestration initiatives, including revegetation and increased management of pests to regenerate vegetation and improve soil. • Addressing existing pressures to species and ecosystems to support resilience, such as invasive species, disease, and altered fire and hydrological regimes, as well as ecosystem restoration. • Developing digital twins (models) of waterway and catchment areas to enable predictive determination of the impact of climate on species and ecosystem processes and evaluation of mitigation approaches.

National target	Our contribution
Eradicate and control invasive species in priority landscapes and further minimise their introduction by 2030. 	At a state-wide scale, the department coordinates measures to eradicate and control invasive species via several key programs and strategies: • the Western Shield program (to manage the impacts of foxes and feral cats) • the *Cane Toad Strategy for WA* • the *Western Australian Feral Cat Strategy*. The department also contributes to priorities outlined in national threat abatement plans, which includes management of additional species to those listed in the above state-wide programs. At the landscape scale, priority actions to manage invasive species are identified and implemented through regional conservation plans (Parks and Wildlife Service), conservation action plans (Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority and Rottnest Island Authority) and other plans and strategies. These priority actions have been identified through structured decision-support processes that estimate the benefit-cost and risks of actions, to maximise the likelihood of delivering the greatest benefit.

National target	Our contribution
Increase Australia's circularity rate and reduce pollution and its impacts on biodiversity by 2030. 	The department coordinates the Plastic Free Riverpark program, working with riverfront food and beverage businesses, sporting organisations, charter boat operators, event organisers and local governments to help reduce single-use plastic packaging in and around the Swan and Canning rivers through provision of grant funding. The program commenced in 2021 and over the first four years of the program, more than $180,000 was awarded via 87 grants, and more than three million single use packaging items were eliminated from use. This program has been extended for a further two years as part of the Government's commitment to the *Continued Investment in the Swan and Canning Rivers*, which will see a further $4 million invested in the Swan Canning for programs delivering significant outcomes in collaboration with public land managers, community-based natural resource management groups and riverside businesses and venues. Plastic pollution has the potential to pose a major risk to the Swan Canning Riverpark, as wildlife can ingest or become entangled in plastic debris. Plastics washing up on foreshores can also affect root growth of flora and visitor amenity, as well as impact tourism, block drainage infrastructure, and break up into harmful microplastics. The work is underpinned by baseline assessment of plastic pollution in the Swan, that will be repeated and extended to the Peel Harvey in 2025 in collaboration with DWER. The Reel It In fishing line bin initiative, launched in 2013, has installed 105 bins at popular jetties, fishing platforms, traffic bridges and foreshore and coastal locations around the Swan Canning Riverpark, and regional towns from Broome to Albany. They collect and remove approximately 28km of fishing line, 4500 hooks and sinkers, 2200 bait bags and over 10,000 pieces of general rubbish each year. The department also leads the development and implementation of the Swan Canning Water Quality Improvement Plan (SCWQIP) which is underpinned by modelling of hydrological and water quality conditions in 30 sub-catchments in the Swan Canning Catchment. The first SCWQIP was released in 2009 and is currently being revised by the department using updated modelling. Ten local water quality improvement plans (WQIPs) for priority catchments have also been developed by the department to provide local governments and communities with guidance to improve water quality. Each plan uses a five-step process to trace nutrient and pollutant pathways through catchments from the source to point of discharge. The WQIPs have enabled the implementation of a number of projects including on-ground works, community education and working with local government and industry to facilitate best practice.

Table 2 The department's contribution to the enablers of change outlined in Australia's Strategy for Nature 2014-2030 (December 2025).

Enablers of change	Our contribution
Ensure environmental data and information are widely accessible and support decision-making. 	Western Australia was the pilot jurisdiction to partner with the Commonwealth under the cross-jurisdictional Digital Environmental Assessment Program, establishing the Biodiversity Information Office within DBCA and establishing the Dandjoo biodiversity data sharing platform. Through this work, WA became the first state to deliver data for the Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's new national Biodiversity Data Repository in 2022. This was a significant first step towards achieving national integration of biodiversity information, supporting decision-making and more efficient and effective regulatory processes. DBCA was also an active contributor to the development of the 2023 *National Framework for the Sharing of Restricted Access Species Data in Australia*. The framework enables and promotes responsible, consistent sharing of sensitive data between jurisdictions and between agencies and external organisations.
Ensure equitable representation and participation in decisions relating to nature, particularly for First Nations peoples	At 30 June 2025, 30 joint management arrangements were in place covering 13.2 million hectares of parks and reserves, which equates to 42.8 per cent of Parks and Wildlife Service managed estate. Through these arrangements, the department works with Traditional Owner joint and cooperative management partners to plan, develop and implement reserve management plans and departmental programs. The role of joint management bodies includes making management decisions that are consistent with the relevant joint management plan, *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* and *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and regulations, and relevant management agreement. The agreements also detail the dispute resolution process. The department also engages Aboriginal people through seeking advice on management issues, participating in projects and activities on Country, and representation on panels and reference groups to ensure the views of Aboriginal people are available to inform decision-making.

Enablers of change	Our contribution
Mainstream nature into government and business decision-making, including financing, policies, regulations and planning processes. 	DBCA actively integrates nature-based solutions into land management, planning, and policy frameworks through initiatives such as carbon farming, environmental offsets, voluntary conservation partnerships, and nature repair projects across the conservation estate. These initiatives help embed environmental values into broader government and business decision-making processes, supporting sustainable development and biodiversity outcomes. The department works in partnership with Traditional Owners to deliver projects that reflect cultural values and deliver social, environmental, and economic benefits. This collaborative approach ensures that nature is considered not only as a resource but as a foundation for community wellbeing and resilience. DBCA also contributes to the development of Statewide policy and regulatory frameworks through active participation in inter-agency working groups focused on carbon farming, carbon offsets, environmental offsets, and environmental economic accounting and nature finance. This strategic engagement supports coordinated approaches to financing and planning that provide outcomes for nature.