



NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF THE ACT INC.

The Spotted-tailed Quoll consultation  
Conservation Research  
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate  
GPO Box 158  
Canberra City ACT 2601  
Via [epsddcomms@act.gov.au](mailto:epsddcomms@act.gov.au)

**Submission: Draft Action Plan Spotted-tail Quoll**

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the *Draft Action Plan Spotted-tail Quoll* (the Action Plan). The National Parks Association of the ACT (“NPA ACT”) is a community-based conservation organisation with more than fifty-five years of working to protect our natural environment through an active outings and work party program; participation in Parkcare activities; an extensive publication program; public meetings and conferences; engagement with government policies and programs and the support of scientific research.

The NPA ACT believes that as the largest native mammal predator in the ACT the spotted-tailed quoll is worthy of particular conservation attention.

Comments on the Action Plan have been included as Attachment A to this submission.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact the NPA ACT office, to the attention of Mr Rod Griffiths, convener, NPA ACT Environment Sub-committee or by mobile on 0410 875 731.

Yours sincerely

Esther Gallant  
President  
National Parks Association of the ACT

Rod Griffiths  
Convener, Environment Sub-committee  
National Parks Association of the ACT

29 October 2018

**NPA ACT Submission on the Draft Action Plan Spotted-tailed Quoll  
Attachment A – Commentary**

---

The Action Plan has drawn on many aspects of the National Recovery Plan for the Spotted-Tail Quoll (the Recovery Plan). The Recovery Plan identifies a range of actions against which the ACT is included as an implementation partner. It would be useful for users of the Action Plan if commentary on the extent to which the Action Plan addresses each of the relevant Recovery Plan actions was included. This exercise would help in assuring the completeness and comprehensiveness of the actions in the Action Plan.

In addition, to facilitate allocation of resources towards the implementation of the Action Plan, Table 1 Objectives, Actions and Indicators should provide a priority rating for each action proposed.

Many of the actions in the Action Plan are correctly identified as requiring more research and monitoring. In particular, establishing the extent and location of spotted-tail quoll populations in the ACT should be a high priority in the Action Plan. Once this is achieved then additional more focussed research can be planned.

The Action Plan identifies that the maintenance of habitat diversity and connectivity and the minimisation of adverse impacts from management actions relating to pest predator baiting programs and planned fires are the key objectives for the Action Plan. The NPA ACT would concur with this, noting that climate change will also be a significant influence on the spotted-tail quolls habitat and that how this impact will be addressed should be discussed in greater detail in the Action Plan.

The actions proposed for the maintenance of habitat diversity and connectivity are poorly discussed in the Action Plan and provide only limited guidance to users on how this key objective is to be achieved. It would be expected that the Action Plan should be of sufficient detail to allow land managers to make informed decisions on the options available to them to address the maintenance of habitat diversity and connectivity. This is, currently, not the case.

The ACT's plans of management for areas that are potential spotted-tail quoll populations should be consistent with the Action Plan and this is another reason why there should be sufficient detail in the Action Plan to guide public land management.

Where there is the potential for spotted-tail quoll populations to be found on leased lands in the ACT, the land management agreements for these areas must include requirements for the protection and maintenance of the relevant habitat.

The critical subject of budgetary needs and resources to implement the Action Plan also needs to be addressed in the content of the Action Plan.