Feedback on the:
NSW - Biodiversity Conservation Trust – Investment Strategy
12 December 2017

Below are a few comments against the consultation questions outlined in the draft Investment Strategy.

I would be happy to discuss this with whoever further as required. These are just initial thoughts with the hope of a further conversation.

Do you have any comments on the proposed purpose, objectives and targets for the strategy (section 1.2).

- Broader community or socio-cultural targets might be a good idea, as the landscape is now created through human activity, so working with all landowners and members of associated communities would ensure lasting outcomes for biodiversity conservation.
- Aboriginal cultural heritage and associated living values could be included as a target.
    - Not only could this be a significant opportunity to engage the Aboriginal communities across the state for shared improvements to environmental health, it could also be an opportunity to employ indigenous people for the role of field or regional staff.
    - Through this, multiple government priorities are addressed through a single program. Aboriginal people are intrinsically linked to biodiversity, with cultural values based on natural values.
- Landscape health targets – not just the number of agreements, the number of healthy agreements.
    - There needs to be an achievable system to monitor and communicate the health improvements following entering into an agreement. Many programs have failed to achieve biodiversity targets though absence of the right metrics of health.

Are there other international or national commitments that you think the strategy should acknowledge (sections 1.4 and 1.5).

- Employment, or Socio-economic/cultural programs as mentioned above.
- The internationally developed and practicing 'Open Standards for the practice of conservation'. This is not necessarily a commitment, more an opportunity to link this program with hundreds globally.

Proposed approach for identifying priority investment areas (section 2.3 and supplementary information online).

- I think investment could be directed towards farmers that are suffering from grazing pressure by kangaroos, particularly in the western division. If funding could be provided to farmers to collaborate, make a partnership plan, fence off larger areas with kangaroo suitable fencing (not-total-exclusion), then there will be more food for stock, and for natives other than Kangaroos.
- Investment would be well spent addressing the major threatening processes in the landscape, while improving monitoring effectiveness.

Any other data that should be considered to identify priority investment areas.

- Any data relating to existing momentum of activity where it relates to communities working together to achieve landscape scale cultural and natural values conservation outcomes.
- Any data relating to major threatening processes in the landscape, over population of kangaroos would be a good example.
- Examples of successful multi-property efforts to manage production and biodiversity in partnership – fencing multiple pastoral leases is a good example.
- Native Title determinations, applications and aspirations.
- Ongoing climate predications and associated models.

Do you have any comments on the proposed profiles of IBRA sub-regions (section 2.4).

- As previously mentioned, there may be opportunities to consider taking an approach that incorporates Native Title determined land. There are good examples whereby Healthy Country Planning and operations can be applied to a landscape, and through a participatory process, a road map (plan) is developed with all the stakeholders for an area of land, linked to agreed targets, threats and measurable outcomes.
- NSW BCT could develop a network of Healthy Country Plans across the state as 'the' framework, ensuring all cultural and natural values in the landscape are considered, incorporated and communicated. This would help achieve lasting results, through generational change.

Do you have any comments on the investment principles (section 3.2).

- Relates to previous points.

Do you have any comments on the short and long-term targets (section 3.3).

- As above

Are there other targets we should consider including in the strategy? If so, how should they be measured (section 3.3).

- As above