**Outcome 4:** By 2023, the implementation of priority actions is leading to an improvement in the condition of EPBC Act listed [Threatened Ecological Communit](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.environment.gov.au_biodiversity_threatened_communities&d=DwMFAg&c=JnBkUqWXzx2bz-3a05d47Q&r=piAv1QNundS-uAQf93YqY0MNvJ-sRFAKMoXn3JX-IZE&m=XRx227Tgi2n9SrJsfi_Vn3O3RF6cd2H-lTouTl3nQP4&s=f_Y5ylSyshb2AN8bIyqW2OXMjHWcezJYCuNAcp07EUI&e=)ies.

Context

The objects of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) include protecting ecosystems by the recognition and protection of ecological communities and the promotion of off-reserve conservation measures. The EPBC Act establishes the framework for listing ecological communities as threatened, and for preparing Conservation Advices and Recovery Plans to guide efforts to stop the decline or support recovery of listed threatened ecological communities.

Inputs

* EPBC Act. Part 13.
* Recovery Plans.
* Conservation Advices.
* Listing Advices.
* Threat Abatement Plans.

*Rationale*

The EPBC framework for managing Threatened Ecological Communities is the basis for all Threatened Ecological Community Conservation Advices and Recovery Plans. Delivering management actions set out in these documents ensures Commonwealth funding is being invested in line with the requirements of the EPBC Act.

Outputs

While there may be outputs specific to individual Threatened Ecological Communities, **example** outputs include:

* Number of hectares where condition has improved.
* Number of hectares weed/pest control-initial and follow up.
* Number of hectares of revegetated area.
* Number of pest animals killed.
* Number of hydrological barriers removed.
* Ad hoc outputs related to site specific activities.

Problem

Australia has 77 Threatened Ecological Communities listed under the EPBC act that require action to ensure their future.

Example Services

While there may be services specific to individual Threatened Ecological Communities, **example** services include:

* Removing pest weeds.
* Revegetating habitat or encouraging natural regeneration.
* Controlling pest animals.
* Managing diseases.
* Constructing fences and controlling access to restore habitat, exclude pest animals and protect functional species.
* Removing barriers to water flow and other activities.
* Implementing improved fire and/or grazing regimes.

*Rationale*

The geographic spread of Regional Land Partnerships, and the combined agriculture and environment delivery, will allow priority actions listed in Conservation Advices or Recovery Plans to be addressed through one process. The targeting of funding to Threatened Ecological Communities ensures that the program will be delivering on MNES and therefore be constitutionally valid.

*Rationale*

The delivery of priority actions, as outlined in Conservation Advices or Recovery Plans, should deliver improvements to the condition of threatened ecological communities. Listing or Conservation Advices also describe the factors that determine the condition of the ecological community at a site. Targeting activities at actions that address these factors will directly improve the condition of threatened ecological communities.

*Rationale*

Listing and Conservation Advices provide the basis for directly measuring the improvement in the condition of sites, based on the transition from one condition class to another, or by the removal of threats indicative of poor condition. This suite of outputs reflects those actions. These outputs can be used as indicators of progress in order to facilitate milestone payments and gauge program progress.