

**Environment and Communications**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Portfolio**

**Question No:** SQ23-000744  
**Hearing:** Supplementary Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 2  
**Division/Agency:** First Nations Heritage Wildlife and Planning  
**Topic:** Regional planning  
**Question Date:** 20 March 2023  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Hanson-Young asked:**

1. When are the regional trials anticipated to be completed?
  - a. If not until 2028, does that mean that everywhere will be an orange zone under traffic light system until 2028?
  - b. So, in spite of commitments made to protect 30x30 and zero extinction, there will be no guaranteed protected areas until 2028?
  - c. If there are no guaranteed protected areas until 2028, how will the Government achieve its targets of 30x30 and zero extinction by 2030?
  - d. Is this plan proofed to withstand a potential change in government before 2028?
  - e. Under the traffic light plan, will the spatial zoning system be reviewed periodically, considering biodiversity conditions may change?
2. What is the timeline on the standard for regional planning?
  - a. Has a framework been developed for regional planning?
  - b. Shouldn't this come after the standard has been developed, with this as the foundation?

**Answer:**

The Australian Government is working with states to begin regional planning, and that work will support regular assessments under the existing *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act, 1999*.

Regional planning is already underway and will be taken into account for regular assessments under the existing EPBC Act.

A regional planning framework will be released by the government

A regional planning standard will be released as an Exposure draft alongside the draft legislation.