

LIGHT RAIL TO WODEN GOLDEN SUN MOTH



The first section of light rail to Woden will deliver a convenient new transport option from Alinga Street to Commonwealth Park to provide a better connection between the city and the lake.

The project's design is being developed with careful consideration of environmental impacts.

Investigations undertaken in line with the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* identified changes to Golden Sun Moth habitat as a result of the project. To account for these changes, the ACT Government is implementing environmental initiatives. These initiatives include translocation of Golden Sun Moth larvae, habitat rehabilitation, and purchase of offset credits.



▲ Gemma Stehlik, Environment & Planning, Light Rail (right) with Wandiyali Restoration Trust Director Carolyn Larcombe at the offset site near Canberra for the Golden Sun Moth.

WHAT IS A GOLDEN SUN MOTH?

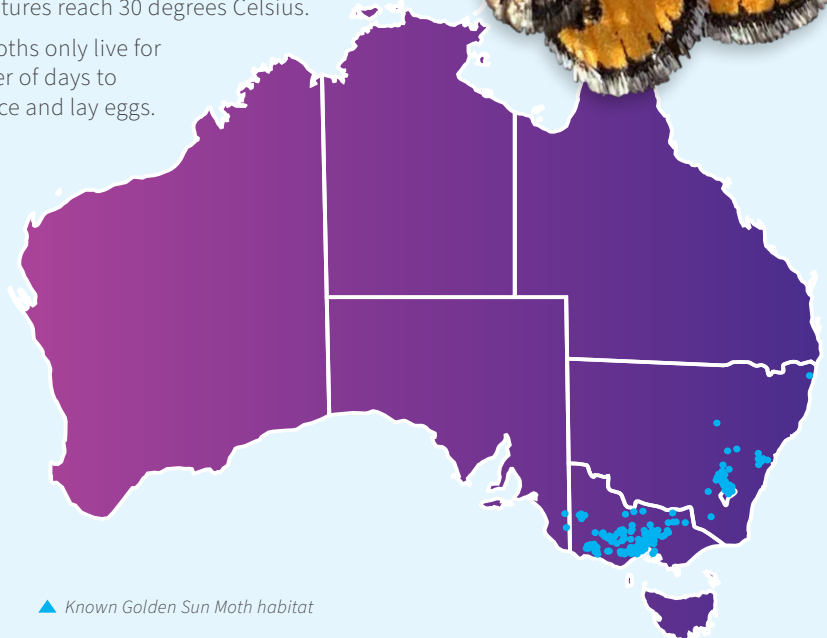
The Golden Sun Moth is a medium-sized day-flying moth which gets its name from the golden colouring found on the hindwings of the female moth. It is listed as critically endangered under the EPBC Act and endangered under the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* (ACT). Most of the populations in the ACT lie within a 3000 square kilometre area, extending from the Queanbeyan district in the south-east to the Boorowa area in the north-west. The species is most commonly found in lowland areas adjacent to the city of Canberra, and in small sites within the city.

Suitable habitat for the Golden Sun Moth includes native temperate grassland and open grassy woodlands dominated by wallaby grass. The species has two discrete life stages:

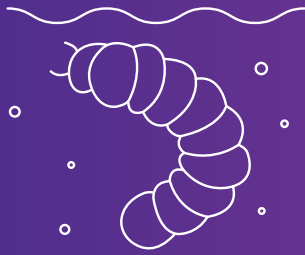
- the larval stage, which is spent underground and lasts for 2-3 years; and
- the adult stage, which typically lasts between 1-4 days.

Golden Sun Moths finalise their larval life stage and emerge as adult moths from mid-October to early January, when temperatures reach 30 degrees Celsius.

Adult moths only live for a number of days to reproduce and lay eggs.



GOLDEN SUN MOTH FAST FACTS



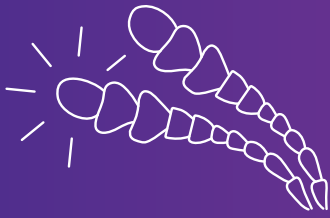
LARVAE SPEND
2 OR MORE YEARS
UNDERGROUND



GOLDEN SUN MOTHS
CAN ONLY EAT AS LARVAE
ADULT MOTHS
HAVE NO FUNCTIONAL
MOUTHPARTS



ADULT MOTHS
EMERGE BETWEEN
OCTOBER -
JANUARY
WHEN TEMPS REACH 30°C



BOTH MALES AND
FEMALES HAVE
CLUBBED
ANTENNAE



FEMALES LAY
100-150 EGGS
THEY RARELY FLY
AND MOSTLY WALK



THE ADULT MOTHS
LIVE FOR
1-4 DAYS

GOLDEN SUN MOTH OFFSETS AND TRANSLOCATION PROGRAM

The ACT Government has developed a translocation program to support Golden Sun Moth population numbers and growth in the City area. Golden Sun Moth larvae will be salvaged and relocated to a protected habitat in the southeast cloverleaf adjacent to Commonwealth Avenue. This work will commence in July 2021 and continue for the life of the project.

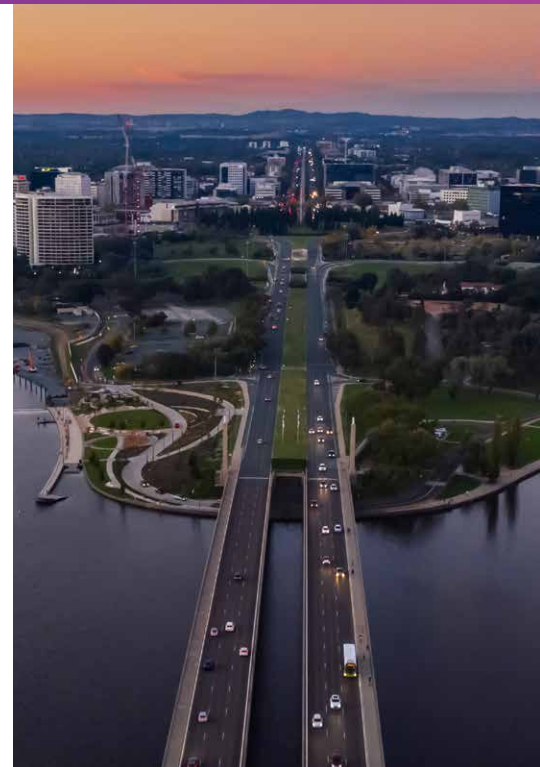
The translocation activity is undertaken by exposing grass roots, and hand sorting through the disturbed soil to locate the Golden Sun Moth larvae. The larvae are then placed by hand into the new habitat. All translocation activities must be undertaken outside of the flying period.

Over a hectare of impacted habitat will be rehabilitated throughout project construction and post-construction.

Several rehabilitation measures will be developed and trialled in conjunction with Parks and Conservation Services, and ecology and rehabilitation experts.

The rehabilitation and translocation efforts will be monitored throughout project delivery, and for a three year period following completion of the light rail. Learnings and outcomes from these works will be used to support Golden Sun Moth management across the ACT.

In addition to translocation and rehabilitation efforts, the ACT Government has purchased biodiversity offset credits from Wandiyali Restoration Trust. These offsets work to maintain existing Golden Sun Moth habitat to support population numbers, and reduce habitat loss.



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Light Rail Stage 2A jointly funded by

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