

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

### NO. 99 OF 1995

The Nature Conservation Act 1980 ("the Act") provides for the protection and conservation of wildlife and the management of reserved areas. The Act also provides for the establishment of the Flora and Fauna Committee with the function of exercising powers granted under the Act and advising the Minister in relation to nature conservation.

Subsection 18(1) of the Act imposes a duty on the Flora and Fauna Committee to determine criteria for assessing whether it should recommend, under section 21, that the Minister declare a species to be vulnerable or endangered, an ecological community to be endangered or a process threatening. The criteria must be specified in an instrument within six months of the Committee's establishment, and must relate only to the conservation of a species or ecological community, and the ecological implications of a process, in the Territory and surrounding region. Such an instrument is to be a disallowable instrument for the purposes of section 10 of the Subordinate Laws Act 1989.

*This instrument specifies criteria for the purposes of Part II Division 3 of the Act. The criteria identify basic ecological information that the Committee needs to assess so it can determine in a consistent fashion the conservation status of a species or ecological community, or the ecological significance of a threatening process.*