Adelaide Hills
COUNCIL

BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

Part 1: Strategic Framework | 2019 – 2024

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Mayor's Message

We are extremely fortunate to live in a region with such striking beauty and diversity. A known biodiversity hotspot, the region's distinctive natural environments provide habitat to many plants and animals unique to this area.

Biodiversity is critical to the region as it drives the ecosystem services that support our quality of life. It's easy to take the provision of clean air and water or the natural elimination of waste and pollution for granted. Let alone consider how biodiversity impacts nutrient cycling, carbon sequestration, pest regulation, pollination and sustain agricultural productivity.

Our natural environment faces a number of known and significant threats and biodiversity is also vital in strengthening natural resilience and ability to recover from disturbances like weed invasion, habitat fragmentation, feral animals, bushfire, and a changing climate. This new Biodiversity Strategy acknowledges and builds on the achievements from Council's previous strategy, whilst setting out an ambitious five year vision for managing threats and improving environmental outcomes within the region.

The Adelaide Hills region is privileged to have so many dedicated and skilled volunteers who are committed to preserving and enhancing our local environment, on State, Council and private lands. We will continue to engage and work collaboratively with them and other committed government and non-government organisations, to make even further biodiversity gains.

Our sincere appreciation is extended to all Council staff, elected members, community groups, individuals, government and non-government agencies and industry professionals who contributed to the development of this Strategy. We are committed to working closely with community and partners to implement this strategy, thereby supporting biodiversity and ensuring a positive legacy for future generations within the Adelaide Hills.

Acknowledgement of Country

Adelaide Hills Council acknowledges that the Peramangk and Kaurna peoples are the traditional custodians of the lands on which our organisation is located and where we conduct our business. We pay our respects to ancestors and Elders, past, present and emerging. Adelaide Hills Council is committed to honouring Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters and seas and their rich contribution to society.

Introduction

Australia is an ancient continent consisting of a variety of habitats and microclimates which support an impressive variety of distinctive and often unusual or 'endemic' plants and animals. One of 17 'megadiverse' countries, the country is recognised globally for its abundance of different species, many of which are notably unique. The Adelaide Hills Council (the Council) district, is located within the Mount Lofty Ranges, a federally listed 'biodiversity hotspot', where a high variety of locally native flora and fauna species continue to survive.

However, the region has changed significantly since European settlement. Vegetation clearance has been extensive, contributing to a steady decline in the ecological value of remaining areas, which is broadly consistent with the biodiversity degradation occurring across the wider Mount Lofty Ranges.

It is possible to slow the decline of biodiversity in the Mount Lofty Ranges, but it will require a committed strategic and active management approach. The Council recognises that as a manager of public lands containing good quality remnant habitat in the region, there is an important opportunity to play a pivotal role in strategically managing these open spaces and engaging with the community and other organisations to halt, and hopefully reverse the decline of native species.

In 2010 the Adelaide Hills Council Strategic Management Plan[1] identified the development of the Biodiversity Strategy (2013-2018) as a priority action to guide how Council responds to the known threats to biodiversity in our region and manages land under its care and control. The 2013-2018 Biodiversity Strategy detailed the short, medium, and long term objectives, strategies and actions Council needed to achieve the following:

- conserve and improve local biodiversity, through weed management, habitat conservation and expansion;
- improving knowledge about how we can best manage our local biodiversity; and
- supporting community in their activities to protect and support biodiversity.

A review of the 2013-2018 Biodiversity Strategy was undertaken throughout 2018-19. This has involved further consultation and engagement with the key stakeholder groups and community members to assist in reviewing Council's existing strategic direction in biodiversity management, the key management themes and associated actions, whilst also capturing any additional priority actions for the next management period. This strategy document sets out the strategic goals and actions for the period of 2019-2024.

[1] AHC, 2010. Adelaide Hills Council Strategic Management Plan

What is Biodiversity?

Biodiversity defines the variety of all forms of life on earth – genes, species of plants, animals and micro-organisms and the ecosystems of which they are a part. The biodiversity across the Mount Lofty Ranges region, including the Adelaide Hills Council area is still considered to be reasonably high. Since European settlement, more than 450 native fauna species have been recorded from the region, including over 75% of the bird species recorded within South Australia, and also approximately 1,500 native vascular plant species (DEH, 2009).[2]

It is widely accepted that more diverse natural systems that are functioning in a stable state possess a greater capacity to effectively deliver 'ecosystem services'. Ecosystem services provide us with food, water, clothing, clean air, clean water, raw materials for building and industry, climate regulation, organic waste decomposition, soil stabilisation, plant pollination, and inspiration for our societies and cultures. Tourism and recreation, nature conservation, pastoralism, agriculture, horticulture, forestry, aquaculture and fishing all benefit from healthy ecosystems. Our primary production systems require biodiversity for pest control, soil production and stabilisation, pollination, and water purification. The significance and abundance of invertebrates in the environment is often overlooked, yet their roles in maintaining soil fertility, nutrient recycling and plant pollination are critical in a balanced ecosystem. All life depends upon these services that natural systems provide.

Greater species diversity also promotes better resilience. That is, a resilient ecosystem can better withstand disturbances and rebuild itself when necessary.

There are many ongoing pressures on local ecosystems that continue to threaten biodiversity. Many of the these threats, including widespread clearance of native vegetation, weed invasion and predation by exotic pest species, over-grazing, pollution and soil degradation, inappropriate fire regimes, destruction of habitat and more recently climate change, are directly contributing to the decline of numerous native species and communities. Many of these are now threatened and facing extinction. A significant number of local extinctions have already occurred, especially amongst small mammal species, birds and plants species.

The native flora and fauna of the Adelaide Hills provides much of the appeal of living in the area. We all share and enjoy the societal and economic benefits of biological wealth and biodiversity, particularly in the Adelaide Hills where aesthetics, productivity, tourism and recreation are all enjoyed by its residents. For all these reasons, it is vital that we manage these valuable resources to

[2] DEH. (2009). *Informing Biodiversity Conservation for the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Region, South Australia. Priorities, Strategies and Targets.* Department for Environment and Heritage, Government of South Australia.

maintain their value and all they offer and provide, to ensure that we can all continue to benefit from them in the generations to come.

The Strategy

The Council's Biodiversity Program is responsible for managing biodiversity values within its reserves and road reserves. By developing the Strategy, the Council demonstrates its commitment to biodiversity conservation, the conservation community and the need to collaboratively achieve a set of meaningful actions to reduce and strive to reverse biodiversity degradation within the district. The Strategy guides the strategic direction for managing native vegetation and habitat on Council land and specifically:

- Identifies key relevant legislation and policy for flora, fauna and habitats and how it applies;
- Defines guiding principles for native vegetation conservation, enhancement and management;
- Reviews priorities and implications for native vegetation and biodiversity management within a local, national and global context;
- Aids in decision making to prioritise the location and level of conservation, restoration and management of native vegetation including the preparation of Vegetation Management Plans;
- Applies a monitoring and evaluation process to measure success of management activities;
- Recognises biodiversity management as a core business activity on Council land;
- Identifies the significance of biodiversity toward a sustainable future for the Adelaide Hills; and
- Ensures adaptive management is embedded within the Strategy.

Report structure

The Strategy is a 5-year action plan for the region (this document). It provides a strategic framework direction for the Adelaide Hills Council's biodiversity operational programs and plans and sets out the broad themes (goals) and key actions to protect and manage biodiversity across the region. The Strategy contains 85 actions associated with the 5 management themes.

The Strategy is structured in three parts:

1. **Strategic Framework** for the Adelaide Hills Council region (2019-2024) - a 5-year strategic plan for the region (this document).

2. **Implementation Plan** - outlines Council investment in biodiversity management and other funding sources, responsibility and monitoring and evaluation to track and assess the success of the Strategy.
3. **Technical document** - *Biodiversity of the Adelaide Hills Council* - contains the reference material including biodiversity values and assets, management issues / threats to biodiversity within the region.

Management Themes

The key management themes were developed and refined over the consultation period. Council engaged key stakeholder groups and community members including local community conservation groups and residents, Council staff, Council Elected Members, industry professionals, Government and non-Government agencies. Through the engagement process a set of meaningful and coordinated management actions based on local knowledge and capacity have been developed. Due consideration was also paid to the previous Strategy document in recognition that many of the management actions are ongoing.

The five key themes for the new Strategy broadly reflect the strategic direction of Council's existing programs and operations, whilst also capturing some of the important aspirational directions Council will be striving to achieve.

1. Protect – *Protect and maintain areas of high biodiversity or habitat value*

Conservation of natural areas is the cornerstone to biodiversity conservation combined with habitat restoration and regulatory and legislative approaches to control and manage harmful activities. By providing robust and ongoing protection to areas of high biodiversity or habitat value, Council aims to reduce the impacts of known threats and encourage the survival of the region's indigenous fauna and flora species, with a strong focus on threatened species, threatened ecological communities and other important natural values.

Adelaide Hills Council has the capacity to help build a protected area network which connects up with other high value habitats located across public and private lands in the Mount Lofty Ranges that can also be integrated with other uses of our open space network.

2. Restore – *Increase or maximise habitat value of degraded sites*

Key threatening processes such as weed invasion, feral animals, Phytophthora and a changing climate threaten our natural areas with significant deterioration in vital ecosystem services and function. This in turn reduces biological resilience and adaptability to change.

Ecological restoration is therefore a central component to biodiversity management in assisting the recovery of an ecosystem and helping to sustain and enhance ecological communities and the species they support.

Council's role in driving restoration across the district is dependent on its long-term commitment to site management as well as sustaining, and building on strong partnerships and collaborations.

3. Link – *Connect habitat remnants to increase range, facilitate gene flow and species movement*

Landscape connectivity remains a key challenge for Council and other regional land managers across the Mount Lofty Ranges as the region's terrestrial biodiversity faces increasing threats from habitat loss and fragmentation. Loss of connectivity can directly disrupt and impede native species ability to move through areas of suitable habitat and further isolates populations within smaller patches, thus becoming highly vulnerable to reduced resource availability (food and shelter), invasive pest species, reduced genetic variation and catastrophic events (ie bushfire, floods etc). In addition, the impacts of climate change will see more species beginning to seek out new habitats in the landscape as they try to adapt, but home-range shifts will likely be hindered by current habitat fragmentation levels.

Many conservation efforts aimed at improving landscape connectivity, involve protecting and enhancing native bushland remnants and actively connecting habitat through the creation of wildlife corridors.

It is Council's aim to strategically identify key areas to improve landscape connectivity by investing and partnering in restoration and revegetation programs to build resilience and provide long-term conservation benefits to the region.

4. Support – *Support community groups, support from project partners*

Community partnerships and collaboration are vital to the success of implementing Council's Biodiversity Program. Council aims to continue to work closely with public and private community organisations, to engage local knowledge and support and facilitate biodiversity outcomes outlined in the Strategy. Working collectively can make a difference to enhancing the natural environment, whist also providing a sense of achievement and increasing overall fulfilment to volunteers through achieving strategic and long term objectives in biodiversity management.

5. Inform – *Interpret the natural environment and educate the community*

To improve attitudes and increase knowledge and environmental awareness, it is essential that Council engage and educate the community on the value of our natural environment and what it means to live in the Adelaide Hills environment. It is Council's priority to continue to involve local schools and kindergartens in Council programs, projects and initiatives that increase the knowledge and awareness of Biodiversity in our young residents.

The strategies and associated actions with projected timeframes for implementation are listed in the tables under *Management Actions* section. Many of the actions cross over multiple management theme areas and have therefore been listed in the most appropriate theme to avoid excessive repetition.

Strategy Review and Assessment

By adopting an adaptive management approach, any progress on management actions will be gathered and communicated annually providing the basis for review of the effectiveness of the Strategy. This will involve reviewing the currency and content of the information within the Strategy and the relevance of the management actions. If necessary, the actions and/or priorities may be adjusted as new knowledge becomes available.

Management Actions

Goal 1 - Protect

Protect and maintain areas of high biodiversity or habitat value

Theme	Strategy	Action	Timeframe
Goal 1: Protect	Undertake Council activities to protect native species and habitat	Review *Adelaide Hills Council Roadside Vegetation Management Plan (2015-2020)* and undertake internal information sessions to inform and update staff of changes	2020
		Maintain the Council's Sensitive Site Register	Ongoing
		Support the development and promote the use of *Native Vegetation Council Local Government Tree Management Guidelines* (2018)	2019
		Develop AHC best practice procedure for maintenance of AHC riparian zones and investigate implementation	2021
		Continue to promote use of AHC Best Practice Operating Procedure (BPOP) and help facilitate permit applications under the Natural Resources Management Act, 2003 for Water Affecting Activities (WAA)	Ongoing
		Provide support for review of AHC Community Lands Register and Community Lands Management Plan to better reflect land uses	2019
		Support new initiative *AHC Exotic fuel reduction in roadside vegetation* by facilitating the collection and collation of weed data to help strategically manage areas of high weed infestation across the Council road network	2019-2024
		Seek greater compliance support under Council Bylaws	Ongoing
		Proactively review Unformed Public Roads to ascertain connectivity potential and habitat value. Prioritise biodiversity value /connectivity potential for future management	2022
	External formal and permanent protection	Seek Heritage Agreement status (*Native Vegetation Act* 1991) over high value Council Reserves	Ongoing
		As an accredited Third Party Provider under the under Section 25C(12) of the Native Vegetation Act 1991, facilitate site applications to nominate Significant Environmental Benefits (SEBs) on council lands	Ongoing
	Prevent and manage encroachments	Develop Encroachment Policy (eg Kuringai's Bushland Encroachment Policy) (James/Andrew/Richard) to manage 'encroachment' and development (access points, recreational facilities, trails), Heritage Agreements/Biodiversity sites surveyed, managing fuel loads, dumping	2022
		Proactive review of AHC lands which back on to private properties, send letters and information to adjacent properties	2023
	Ongoing monitoring and management of Council reserves and NVMS sites	Biannual bird surveys conducted at all sites incorporated in the DEW Burning on Private Lands Program	Ongoing
		Protect and develop a record of important habitat trees, especially mature hollow bearing individuals	2020 - ongoing
		Managing fuel loads (weed management programs (DEW Burning on Private Lands Program, AHC Woody Weed Control Program, and management of APZ's, Council Management Plans and collaborative Work Plans, collaborations (Trees for Life / Conservation Volunteers Australia, etc) and other volunteer organisations (eg Friends, Landcare, The Old School Community Garden (TOSCCG) etc)	Ongoing
		Facilitate baseline surveys and repeat assessments of reserves and NVMS	Ongoing

Theme	Strategy	Action	Timeframe
		sites using NVC developed Bushland Assessment Monitoring technique	
		Undertake audit of NVMS (blue marker) sites. Develop a process for nominating new NVMS sites and for appropriate removal of degraded sites and maintain database to capture audit data	Ongoing
		Explore fire as an ecological tool (ie *DEW Burning on Private Lands Program*)	Ongoing
		Monitor the need for installation of Phytophthora hygiene stations in Council reserves and appropriate signage	Ongoing
	Promotion and utilisation of GIS tools to inform AHC staff of areas of biodiversity/habitat value	Aims to package GIS layers to help inform internal staff of potential sensitivities across the council district - SSA – Spectral Spatial Analyst)	2019
		BDBSA data • provide threatened species data to DEW (for inclusion into BDBSA) • Obtain annual datasets from DEW • Identifying key habitats for threatened species	Ongoing
		Annually renew data sharing Agreement with DEW/ NRAMLR	2019 - ongoing
	Participate in collaborative groups	Bushfire Management Operational Group (AHC)	Ongoing
		Community Conservation Groups/NGOs • Green Web • Friends meetings	Ongoing
		State Government eg. • NRM District Officer meetings • Scott Creek and Mt Bold Biodiversity Group • South Para Biodiversity Project	Ongoing
		Local Councils in the region	Ongoing
		Resilient Hills and Coasts - Climate Change Adaptation Regional Groups	Ongoing
		Local Government Biodiversity Network	Ongoing
	Prevent and manage unauthorised activities where AHC have powers	Compliance/expiations/enforcement under LG Act – • Identifying council powers to halt works and designate responsible officers to respond/enforce and potentially issue expiations. • Develop formal Council process for halting/dealing with unauthorised native vegetation clearance • Make enquiries regarding the utilisation of Authorised Officers under NRM Act, 2003	2019-2020
		Proactive detection of unauthorised native vegetation clearance by analysis of aerial imagery	2020
		Reporting of breaches under the *Native Vegetation Act*, 1991, to NVC Compliance unit	Ongoing
	Participate in Planning reforms	Share GIS datasets to State Government • NVMS Layer • Roadside weeds layer	Ongoing
	Recognise and manage the importance of weeds as habitat	Develop a Council Weed Management Policy to assist with the management approach, control methods and the habitat potential of the species	2019

Theme	Strategy	Action	Timeframe
	Identification of underrepresented vegetation communities for active monitoring and management	Generate accurate vegetation association GIS layer for AHC lands	2019
		Develop and review Council Management Plans for high value reserves	Ongoing
		Support and collaborate with NRM on Council reserve Work Plans and the AHC Roadside Weed Control Work Plan.	Ongoing
	Increase protected area network	Investigate opportunities to increase protected areas within the council reserve network	Ongoing

Goal 2 - Restore

Increase or maximise habitat value of degraded sites

Key Theme	Strategy	Action	Timeframe
Goal 3: Restore	Manage key threatening processes across Council lands	Undertake restoration activities in Council's highest value reserves and NVMS/roadside sites	Ongoing
		Support NRM Work Plans for Council reserves and NVMS/roadside sites	Ongoing
		Annually review Bushland Assessment monitoring data to determine the highest priority sites for management	Ongoing
		Continue Woody Weed Control Program. Annually review of sites to comply with the developed criteria	Ongoing
	Collaborate with DEW on the *Burning on Private Lands Program* on Council Lands	Undertake post burn weed management to assist with the secondary benefits of prescribed burning (weed management and bush restoration outcomes)	Ongoing
		Investigate opportunities with DEW for ecological burns in other location on Council Lands (not included in the *Burning on Private Lands Program*) to encourage the emergence of fire responsive native flora species and weed management objectives.	Ongoing
	Seek and maintain collaborations to deliver restoration projects	Seek, maintain and facilitate essential partnerships and collaborations in biodiversity management in Council reserves and NVMS/roadside sites: • Government, • philanthropic • Landcare • Trees for Life • private organisations • NGO organisations, • Friends Groups (volunteers)	Ongoing
	Proactively identify underrepresented vegetation communities for active monitoring and management	Generate accurate vegetation association GIS layer for AHC lands	2019
		Develop and review Council Management Plans for high value reserves	Ongoing
	Habitat creation	Relocate hollows and other disused organic materials (trees) to enhance habitat	Ongoing
		Recognise and manage the importance of weeds as habitat - Develop a Council Weed Management Policy to assist with the management approach, control methods and the habitat potential of the species.	2019
		Use of other material for habitat creation (ie wooden crates for Southern Brown Bandicoots)	Ongoing
	Investigate programs to assist with climate change resilience	Explore programs including Vision 202020 "Where should all the trees go?"	2022
		Green infrastructure – Water Sensitive Urban Design/multi use of urban space (for habitat/biodiversity)	2023
		Collate data on climate change related impacts to local biodiversity (eg Stringybark mortalities)	2020 - ongoing
	Register appropriate sites for SEB Third Party Offsets	Attract external funding for restoration projects currently under resourced – eg, Watercourses, degraded and previously managed reserves	Ongoing

Key Theme	Strategy	Action	Timeframe
	Investigate management of watercourses	Identify all sections of watercourses that occur on Council land for assessment and consideration of management	2020
		Seek collaborative programs between NRM/AHC to focus on key watercourses (if funding/resourcing can be secured)	2021
		Produce Watercourse Management Plans for key rivers and creeks within the AHC region	2022-24

Goal 3 - Link

Connect habitat remnants to increase range, facilitate gene flow and species movement

Theme	Strategy	Action	Timeframe
Goal 2: Link	Identify corridors and linkages	Build on findings of Draft *Adelaide Hills Council Biodiversity Corridor Linkages* report (2016)	2022
		Develop GIS datasets detailing valuable clusters of reserves, road reserves, vegetation remnants, key habitats linked by pollinator movement	2020
		Continue to capture and review threatened species and threatened ecological community (TEC) data	Ongoing
		Investigate potential protection measures for high value Unformed Public Roads	2021
		Seek information regarding NRAMLR work plans in relation to private landowners to ascertain connectivity potential with Council lands	2023
		Identify priority sites for linking based on spatial information (GIS) or Draft *Adelaide Hills Council Biodiversity Corridor Linkages* report (2016) to assist with developing linkage plans	2022
		Investigate opportunities to promote wildlife friendly fencing for private properties to allow for fauna movement	2022
		Partner with surrounding Councils – especially Hills Face Zone shared roads/roadsides – Seek to develop MOUs	2023
	Register linkage sites for SEB Third Party Offsets	Attract external funding for underrepresented vegetation communities or functional linkages where AHC are currently under-resourced to actively/effectively manage., eg, Watercourses, degraded and previously managed reserves	Ongoing
	Manage existing linkages	Support broader NRM initiatives for landscape scale restoration, (including NRM Work Plans for Council reserves and NVMS/roadside sites)	Ongoing

Goal 4 - Support

Support community groups, support from project partners

Key Theme	Strategy	Management Action	Timeframe
Goal 4: Support	Resource and knowledge sharing	Engage with experienced land management groups to promote knowledge exchange. • SA Power Networks • State Government (County Fire Service (CFS), Native Vegetation Council (NVC), Native Vegetation Management Unit (NVMU) and Fire Management Unit, Natural Resources Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges (NRAMLR), Department of Planning and Transport (DPTI) • Local Government Association (LGA) and Local Government Biodiversity Network • Community Conservation Groups (Friends) • Education Department (Schools and Kindys) • Non-Government Organisations (NCSSA (Nature Conservation Society of South Australia), NT (National Trust), TFL (Trees for Life (BFL), Landcare) • Local landholders	Ongoing
	Project collaboration/delivery	Continue to support of: • Trees for Life (Bush For Life) funding and partnership Agreement • NRM on Council reserve Work Plans and the *AHC Roadside Weed Control Work Plan*	Ongoing
	Continue providing support to biodiversity projects	Support teams / projects (Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) TFL / BFL (Bushcare's Big Day Out etc) and other volunteer organisations	Ongoing
		Administrative support, mailouts, purchase of community tools, use of plant nursery, co-funding on Council Land, promotion of activities through social media and newsletters, knowledge support	Ongoing
	Environmental grants	Support community grant applications	Ongoing
		AHC will continue to seek and apply for grants to assist with biodiversity management projects	Ongoing
	Revegetation projects	National Tree Day	Ongoing
		Foster involvement with Schools/Kindergarten groups	Ongoing

Goal 5 - Inform

Interpret the natural environment and educate the community

Key Theme	Strategy	Action	Timeframe
Goal 5: Inform	Develop informative and attractive signage in Council reserves/ playgrounds	Identify well used parks that require signage upgrade and include what activities are/are not permitted	Ongoing
		Target specific reserves with specific interpretive signage to inform park users of unique features of reserve. Interpretive signage including: • Aboriginal heritage • Phytophthora affected sites • Biodiversity values (Threatened species habitat, Threatened Ecological Communities etc) • Regulatory issues (wildlife feeding, use of trapping devices etc) • Active volunteering /contribution to conservation	Ongoing
	Develop Council Website environment/biodiversity section	Build on and consistently update existing information content	Ongoing
		Link to other Websites to support citizen science initiatives (eg fungi foray, frog watch, Great Australian Bird Count etc)	2020
		Develop fact sheets for each Council reserve. Include: • appropriate use of the park • links to volunteer/Friends group • develop 'find a reserve near me' mapping tool	2020
	Promote biodiversity	Update Native Habitat Landscape and Gardening e-book	Ongoing
		Develop Publications for community use - 1 page flyer series (quick guide) - SEB Offsets, Vegetation/ Threatened fauna and flora / Fungi/ common native grasses of the Adelaide Hills, weed management, watercourse management, Phytophthora awareness, habitat creation (Native insect hotels, Southern Brown Bandicoots, Rakali etc), Living with wildlife (Possums, kangaroos, snakes, ants, spiders etc), Climate change	2020
		Butterfly kits annually available to residents	Ongoing
		Promote what the Biodiversity team does with physical displays in supermarkets/libraries	Ongoing
		Educational engagement with schools/kindy groups (STEM, monitoring, revegetation, presentations etc)	Ongoing
		Contribute relevant information in new resident welcome pack	2019
		Use media (Newspaper, Social media and radio) to promote events (ie Posts and Biodiversity Blog), volunteer groups and achievements	Ongoing

Appendices

Appendix 1- Glossary and Abbreviation of Terms

Adaptive management	An approach to the management of natural resources that is based on learning by doing, and on making decisions as part of an on-going process of monitoring, review, and adaptation. A planned course of action is kept under constant review, and is adapted where appropriate as new information becomes available from the monitoring of results, publication of new findings and expert judgments, and changing needs of society.
BDBSA	Biological Database of South Australia (managed by DEW)
Biodiversity	The variability among living *organisms* from all sources (including ne and other aquatic *ecosystems* and the ecological complexes of which they are part) and includes diversity within and between species and the diversity of *ecosystems*.
Conservation	All the processes and actions of looking after a *place* so as to retain its *natural significance* and always includes *protection*, *maintenance* and *monitoring*.
Degradation	Any significant decline in the quality of natural resources or *natural integrity* of a *place* or the viability of an *ecosystem*, caused directly or indirectly by human activities.
DEW	Department of Environment and Water
Ecosystem	A dynamic complex of *organisms* and their non-living environment, interacting as a functional unit.
Ecosystem services	The biological transformation of a set of natural assets (soil, plants and animals, air and water) into things that we value. For example, when fungi, worms and bacteria transform the raw "ingredients" of sunlight, carbon and nitrogen into fertile soil this transformation is an ecosystem service.
Endemic	A plant or animal that is native to a certain limited area.
Enhance	To increase or improve native vegetation or habitat quality, value, or extent.
EPBC Act	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
Habitat	The structural environments where an *organism* lives for all or part of its life, including environments once occupied (continuously, periodically or occasionally) by an *organism* or group of *organisms*.
Heritage Agreement -	A contractual agreement between a landholder and the State Government for the protection in perpetuity of a particular area of native vegetation.
Indigenous species	A species that occurs at a *place* within its historically known natural range art of the natural *biodiversity* of a *place*.
Introduced species	A translocated or alien species occurring at a *place* outside its known natural range as a result of intentional or accidental dispersal.
Native Vegetation	Flora indigenous to the area
NPW Act	*National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*
NPW	National Parks and Wildlife
NRAMLR	Natural Resource Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges
NRM Act	*Natural Resources Management Act 2004*
NV Act	*Native Vegetation Act 1991*
NVC	Native Vegetation Council
Regeneration	The natural recovery of *natural integrity* following disturbance or *degradation*.

Remnant	Vegetation remaining after an area has been cleared or modified.
Resilience	The capacity of an ecosystem to tolerate disturbance without collapsing into a qualitatively different state that is controlled by a different set of processes. A resilient ecosystem can withstand shocks and rebuild itself when necessary.
Restoration	Returning existing *habitats* to a known past state or to an approximation of the natural condition by repairing *degradation*, by removing *introduced species* or by *reinstatement*.
Revegetation	Replanting endemic plants similar to what existed before the site was disturbed. Revegetation can increase the area of suitable habitat in the landscape, improve the quality of existing habitat and help to link remnant or isolated habitats by providing 'stepping stones' and corridors.
NVMS	Native Vegetation Marker Scheme
SEB	Significant Environmental Benefit
Species diversity	The variety of species in a *place*.
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community
Weeds	Plants growing where they are not wanted and in competition with desired plant species.
Woody Weeds	Any perennial weed that has a woody stem – includes species such as Pine and Olive, Gorse, Broom and Spanish Heath.