

Bandicoots rediscovered north of the River Torrens

For the first time in over 40 years, evidence has been found to show that Southern Brown Bandicoots live north of the River Torrens, in the South Para area, more than 20 kilometres away from the nearest known population.

Southern Brown Bandicoots are a nationally endangered species, with populations in the Mount Lofty Ranges known only to occur south of the River Torrens, from Morialta Conservation Park in the north to Deep Creek Conservation Park at the tip of the Fleurieu Peninsula.

Kirstin Long from the Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) said the discovery was made by members of a community conservation group called the South Para Biodiversity Project.

"Members of the South Para Biodiversity Project were collecting fox scats from the South Para area, including Warren Conservation Park, and two of these scats were found to contain bandicoot hairs," Kirstin said.

"The discovery is very exciting, because it was feared that bandicoot populations north of the River Torrens were extinct.

"We don't know the precise location of the bandicoot population, because foxes can travel several kilometres.

"In the coming months, staff from DEH's Bandicoot Recovery Program will be working with the South Para Biodiversity Project and Forestry SA to conduct surveys in the area, with the hope of finding where the bandicoots live."

The Bandicoot Recovery Program and South Para Biodiversity Project are both funded by the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board.

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