

# News Release

23 October 2006

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## Pygmy Bluetongue Lizards need your help

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Staff from the Department for Environment and Heritage are on the look out for the elusive Pygmy Bluetongue Lizard. Once thought to be extinct, the Pygmy Bluetongue Lizard was rediscovered 14 years ago. Being found at only 22 sites, all on private land in the Mid North of South Australia, the lizards are now rated as a "Critically Endangered" species. The work being undertaken by DEH is providing the Pygmy Bluetongue Lizard with a second chance to avoid extinction.

DEH Threatened Fauna Ecologist, Julie Schofield, is looking for volunteers to help with population monitoring and area of occupancy projects near Burra, Jamestown, and Peterborough. This is your opportunity to help look after a true South Australian icon! Food and accommodation can be provided for volunteers. Volunteers are welcome for entire trips, a whole day, or for the area of occupancy project, even a half day.

Population monitoring project: 10-13 February and 16-20 February 2007.

This project aims to assess the population dynamics of the lizard populations at nine sites. Volunteers are needed to help with searches for spider holes and lizards within one-hectare quadrats.

Area of occupancy project: 11-12 November and 2-3 December 2006, and 20-21 January 2007.

The project aims to document the spatial extent of the lizard populations at known sites. Volunteers are needed to help with searches for spider holes and lizards across the area of these sites.

For more information about volunteering on these projects, please contact Julie Schofield on 8841-3403 or [schofield.julie@saugov.sa.gov.au](mailto:schofield.julie@saugov.sa.gov.au). For more information about the Pygmy Bluetongue Lizard, visit [http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/biodiversity/bcp/pdfs/pygmy\\_bluetongue\\_info\\_sheet.pdf](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/biodiversity/bcp/pdfs/pygmy_bluetongue_info_sheet.pdf)

**The Pygmy Bluetongue Lizard Recovery Project is supported by the Northern and Yorke Natural Resources Management Board. Food and accommodation for volunteers is provided thanks to grants from Friends of Parks Inc and the Wildlife Conservation Fund Grant.**

Images of the Pygmy Bluetongue Lizard are available on request.

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