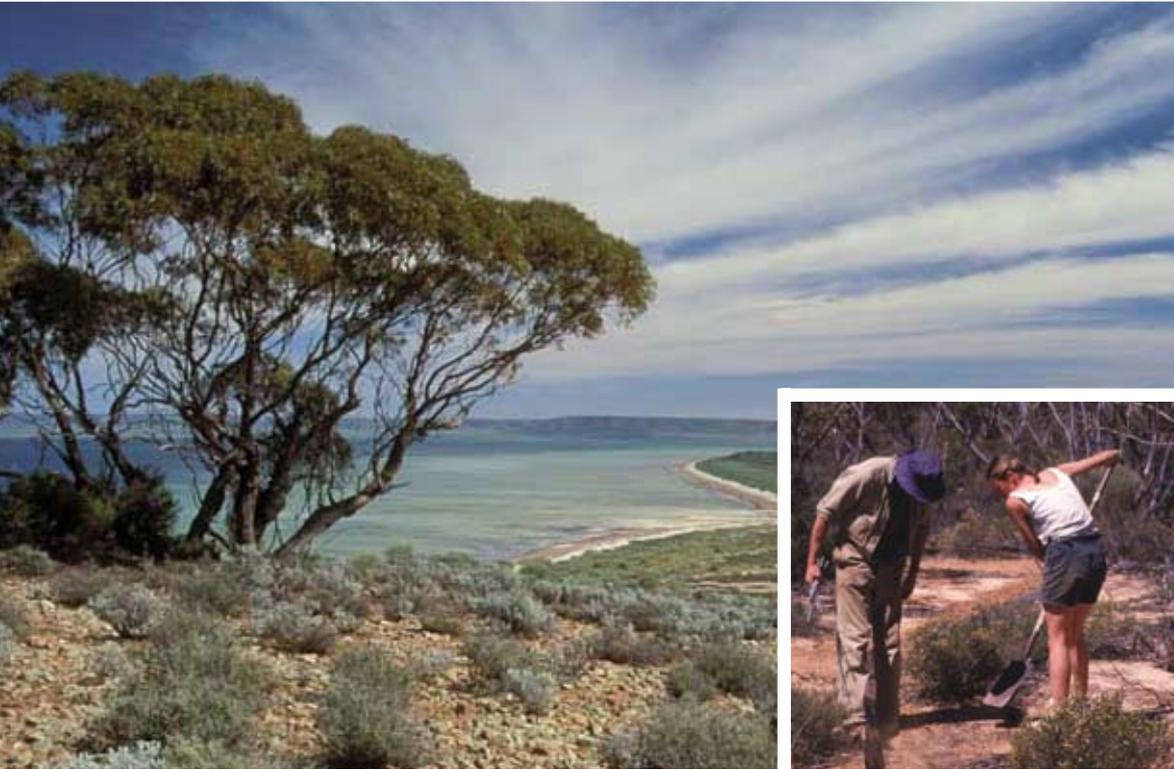


Department for Environment and Heritage

No Species Loss

A Nature Conservation Strategy
for South Australia 2007–2017



Our nature, our future



Government
of South Australia



What is the key to *No Species Loss*?

Central to the aim of *No Species Loss* is the concept of biodiversity, which refers to the diversity among living things. The variety of plants and animals within our land, fresh water and marine ecosystems must be maintained for these systems to remain healthy. The extinction of just one species in an ecosystem can vastly affect the workings of the ecosystem as a whole.

How does biodiversity affect us?

Healthy natural environments provide the basics of life – food, water, shelter, and clean air. They regulate climate, decompose organic wastes, stabilise soils, control pests and diseases, and pollinate plants.

Landscapes and seascapes also inspire us and provide us with a sense of place.

The health of the State's biodiversity is a good measure of health for our land and sea environments, and is intimately linked to our quality of life.

In fact, many of the goods and services that contribute to South Australia's economy have healthy ecosystems to thank for their superior quality. From the fish you eat and the milk you drink, to the leather in the shoes you wear, all rely on the successful workings of ecosystems.

Today, more than 1,000 plant and animal species in South Australia are threatened and there are probably many more that we don't even know about. Our current conservation efforts are not enough to stem the decline in biodiversity.

Ongoing biodiversity decline will lead to deteriorating water and air quality, lost tourism and lifestyle opportunities, and a fall in the quality of goods and services that we rely on each day.

Now is the time to do all that we can.



Since European settlement an alarming number of South Australia's plant, mammal and bird species have become extinct. Today, our State's extinction rate is one of the highest in the country.

Our quality of life is intimately linked to the biodiversity that surrounds us. Some species are gone forever, and without action we will continue to lose more.

To protect our native species from extinction, and preserve the quality of life we enjoy, the State Government has created the No Species Loss Strategy.

No Species Loss was developed by staff from the Department for Environment and Heritage in consultation with other government agencies; natural resource management and conservation bodies; and urban, rural and Indigenous communities.

What is the Strategy?

As its name suggests, the aim of the *No Species Loss Strategy* is to lose no more species in South Australia, whether they be on land, in rivers, creeks, lakes, estuaries or the sea. The Strategy defines what is required within the next ten years to protect the State's wide array of ecosystems – the native plants and animals, and the environments in which they live. The Strategy also recognises that some of the damage we have done to our ecosystems may take hundreds of years to repair.

What is the vision?

The 100-year vision for *No Species Loss* is:

The people of South Australia actively supporting their native plants, animals and ecosystems to survive, evolve and adapt to changes in the environment.



Who will deliver the Strategy?

No Species Loss is one of the targets of the *South Australian Strategic Plan* which will be delivered by a range of government agencies and their support partners.

In achieving the goals of *No Species Loss*, the Department for Environment and Heritage will take the lead role and work closely with a range of government agencies including:

- The Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation
- Environment Protection Authority
- The Department of Primary Industries and Resources SA
- Planning SA.

Government agencies and their support partners will have responsibility for specific tasks that match their areas of expertise.

The Natural Resources Management Council will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the contribution of *No Species Loss* to the *State Natural Resources Management Plan*.

How does the Strategy link to NatureLinks and marine parks?

NatureLinks is a State Government program that supports the delivery of *No Species Loss* through the restoration of species and habitats within five key areas across the State. These areas have been selected because they offer the opportunity for significant conservation gains, particularly in the face of climate change. The NatureLinks program involves developing new biodiversity corridor links to connect habitats that have been broken up. These linking corridors will span public and private land.

South Australia is also committed to developing protected areas within its coastal waters. These marine parks will help safeguard and conserve the precious biodiversity that exists within the sea.



How will *No Species Loss* be achieved?

The *No Species Loss Strategy* outlines five goals that must be achieved if we are to protect South Australia's native species from extinction.

Goal 1

Conservation of South Australia's biodiversity

Conserving biodiversity is the key to maintaining healthy ecosystems. Preventing further loss of species will involve:

- Looking after ecosystems that are currently in good condition.
- Improving ecosystems by removing, controlling and reducing threats.
- Rebuilding habitats that can improve the health of neighbouring ecosystems.
- Improving our protected area systems, including National Parks, and creating 19 marine protected areas by 2010.



Goal 2

Community ownership and stewardship for biodiversity

Everyone has a role to play in ensuring no further loss of our native plants and animals. People in local neighbourhoods and rural and Indigenous communities, private landowners, industries and government can all help. Achieving the second goal of the Strategy will involve:

- Educating people about biodiversity through programs that start at school and continue throughout life.
- Developing new programs, urban environments, reward schemes and Indigenous partnerships aimed at protecting biodiversity.

Goal 3

Ecological knowledge that can influence decision making

Knowledge is power. In order to learn everything we can to make sure our *No Species Loss* aim is achieved, we will:

- Identify and fill gaps in what we already know about our native environments.
- Develop ways to control over abundant nuisance causing native species.
- Open up communication networks where we can collect and share information on biodiversity.



Goal 4

Adjustment to the impacts of climate change

The damage that humans have done to the world environment has revealed itself in the form of climate change - the seasons and temperatures we have come to expect are changing. To prepare for this uncertain future we will:

- Improve our understanding of the impact of climate change on biodiversity and how we can respond appropriately.
- Create programs and protected area systems to minimise this impact.
- Take climate change into account when managing our natural resources and making plans for land use.
- Develop five NatureLinks biodiversity corridors that focus on on-ground restoration of species and habitats across key areas of the state.

Goal 5

Active and integrated natural resources management partnerships

Conserving biodiversity requires partnerships that involve all South Australians. Natural resource management frameworks will need to be improved so that we can bring people together in a way that helps us to achieve the aim of *No Species Loss*. Changes will include:

- Aligning *No Species Loss* targets with relevant State policy, plans and reports.
- Improving the environmental legislation and natural resources policy framework to allow for better protection and management of biodiversity.
- Ensuring that future planning and development minimise effects on biodiversity.
- Introducing incentives that encourage biodiversity conservation, and removing those that discourage it.
- Putting in place ways to assist, monitor and report on *No Species Loss*.

How to get involved

Successful management of the natural environment requires the active involvement of interested people in the community. Whether you have a large amount of land in a rural area, a small 'lifestyle' farm or a tiny plot in the city, you can help protect the environment and add interest to your surroundings. For information about this go to: <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/biodiversity/involved.html>

More information about *No Species Loss* is available online at http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/biodiversity/bio_strategy.html

You can also call the Department for Environment and Heritage Information Line on (08) 8204 1910 or refer to the White Pages for your local regional DEH office.

For more information about related topics or lead organisations please refer to:

Department for Environment and Heritage
<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au>

Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity
<http://www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au>

Department for Primary Industries and Resources South Australia
<http://www.pir.sa.gov.au>

Environment Protection Authority
<http://www.epa.sa.gov.au>

NatureLinks
<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/naturelinks/>

Marine Protect Areas
<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/coasts/mpas.html>

Urban Forest Biodiversity Program
<http://www.urbanforest.on.net>

NRM Boards
<http://www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/nrm/nrmboardwebsites/index.html>

Conservation Council of South Australia and members groups
<http://www.ccsa.asn.au>

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