



MOUNT BARKER
DISTRICT COUNCIL

2026 - 2030 Nature and Wildlife Action Plan



Acknowledgement of Country

Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands of the Mount Barker District. We respect the First Nations people and their spiritual relationship with their country and their cultural and heritage beliefs.



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Prepared by Climate Cavalry

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Our 2044 vision To be the most liveable region in South Australia.

Which means...

“A liveable place is somewhere that is: safe, attractive, inclusive, and environmentally sustainable; with affordable and diverse types of housing, public open space, local shops, health and community services, leisure and cultural opportunities; with opportunities for employment and education all accessible by convenient public transport, walking and cycling.”

— Australian Urban Observatory, 2024

Our five pillars to achieve this are...



Executive Summary

Nature and wildlife are central to the Mount Barker District's identity, liveability and long-term resilience. Native vegetation, wetlands, waterways and wildlife support biodiversity, climate adaptation, community wellbeing, economic value and the character of places people care deeply about. As one of South Australia's fastest-growing regions, Mount Barker faces increasing pressure on these natural assets, alongside a strong and growing community expectation that nature be protected, restored and enhanced.



The Nature and Wildlife Action Plan 2026–2030 is Council's four-year implementation plan to deliver the Environment and Sustainability Strategy objective to protect, restore and strengthen biodiversity across the district. The Plan focuses on practical actions to manage Council's biodiversity assets, improve habitat condition and connectivity, and support nature-positive outcomes across both public and private land.

This Action Plan is one of five interlinked action plans nested under Council's Environment and Sustainability Strategy. Many actions in this Plan align closely with the Township Greening Action Plan, particularly in relation to protecting big trees, creating biodiverse and climate-resilient corridors, and prioritising predominantly native species in township environments. Together, these plans recognise that biodiversity, greening, climate resilience and liveability outcomes are strongly interconnected.

Key priorities

- Protect, manage and maintain biodiversity assets
- Expand and connect existing habitats for native wildlife
- Strengthen Council capacity to manage biodiversity assets
- Partnering for biodiversity on private land
- Support volunteering for nature conservation

The Plan builds on Council's previous Biodiversity Strategy adopted in 2016 and strong volunteer partnerships. It responds to increasing responsibilities, growing community interest and the need for a more structured, asset-focused and scalable approach to biodiversity management.

The actions in this Plan contribute to Council's 2035 climate targets, including:

- Increase investment in managing biodiversity areas, measured through staff, contractor and volunteer time, to establish a baseline and track improvement.
- All remnant vegetation sites over 0.5 ha under Council care have fully resourced management plans in place by 2035, with Category 1 sites completed by 2030.

A summary of the priority actions is provided below. Over the next four years, this Plan will guide coordinated action to protect high-value sites, restore and reconnect habitats, strengthen Council capability, and work in partnership with the community to support nature to persist and recover in a changing climate.

Nature and Wildlife Action Plan

Summary of Actions and Strategic Alignment

REF	ACTION	CONTRIBUTE TO ESS PRIORITIES				
		PROTECT, MANAGE AND MAINTAIN BIODIVERSITY ASSETS	EXPAND AND CONNECT HABITATS	STRENGTHEN COUNCIL CAPACITY	PARTNERING FOR BIODIVERSITY ON PRIVATE LAND	SUPPORT VOLUNTEERING
Governance, policy and processes						
N1	Strategic Biodiversity Corridors		X			
N2	Review Cat Policy	X				
Track, plan and manage						
N3	Integrate Nature Positive Outcomes into Council decision making	X	X	X	X	
N4	Establish the Nature Conservation Program	X	X	X		X
Educate, inspire and involve						
N5	Expand biodiversity promotion				X	X
N6	Improve biodiversity volunteer support	X				X
Protect and maintain						
N7	Increase biodiversity maintenance	X	X	X		X
N8	Wildlife water stations	X	X			
Establish, expand or restore						
N9	Restore, link and buffer habitats	X	X		X	
N10	Tree hollow and fauna protection protocols	X	X			
Partnerships and advocacy						
N11	Partner with Peramangk and Kurna people	X	X	X	X	
N12	Leverage impact with Landscape Board and other State Government Agencies	X	X		X	
N13	Environment Centre business case			X	X	X

Introduction

The Nature and Wildlife Action Plan sets out Council's priority actions to protect, restore and strengthen biodiversity and natural systems across the Mount Barker District over the next four years.

It focuses on practical measures to conserve high-value habitats, improve ecological connectivity and embed nature-positive outcomes into planning, land management and community partnerships, in line with Council's Environment and Sustainability Strategy.

Nature and wildlife are foundational to the district's identity, liveability and resilience. Healthy ecosystems support biodiversity, climate adaptation, water quality, recreation, tourism and community wellbeing. As pressures from growth, land use change and climate impacts intensify, a more deliberate and coordinated approach is needed to ensure nature can persist, recover and thrive alongside development..

The Plan includes the following areas of nature and wildlife action:

Biodiversity conservation and habitat protection

Protecting remnant native vegetation and high-value sites, and improving their condition through targeted management, restoration and threat control.

Habitat connectivity and nature-positive design

Strengthening ecological connections across the landscape through linear reserves, road reserves, waterways, green corridors and development design, recognising that connected systems are more resilient and deliver broader environmental and social benefits.

Nature as a shared responsibility

Recognising Council's role as a land manager, regulator and partner, while supporting stewardship by volunteers, community groups, landholders and developers to achieve outcomes beyond Council-managed land.

This Nature and Wildlife Action Plan 2026–2030 builds on Council's Biodiversity Strategy adopted in 2016, as well as on-ground delivery, community stewardship and partnerships developed over time. It responds to growing community expectations, expanding management responsibilities and emerging nature-positive frameworks at state and national levels.

The Plan covers the period 2026–2030. Actions will be implemented, monitored and reviewed through Council's existing planning, reporting and governance processes, with progress informing future updates to Council strategies and action plans.

Guiding Principles

Our District's environment supports a liveable, resilient, thriving and creative community. That's why we value it so highly. These endorsed principles from the Environment and Sustainability Strategy establish the foundation for Council's approach, actions and decision-making.

A better future together

Council will work proactively with First Nations, community groups, developers, landholders, the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board (HFLB) and other partners – and embed action across Council – to amplify shared efforts and outcomes.

Celebrate, empower and inspire

We seek to inspire a love of nature and sustainable living by telling stories, celebrating our assets and achievements, connecting people and nature, sharing knowledge, and empowering people to act.

Protect and prioritise nature

We will protect and connect wildlife habitats and grow protected areas, prioritising planting indigenous species where practical, because healthy ecosystems are vital to a thriving community.

Take urgent climate action

Council will take immediate and ambitious action on the climate emergency, working with the community to reduce our impact and adapt to increased storms, heat, bushfires, flood and drought.

Be bold yet practical

Council will take bold action on immediate priorities, learning and improving along the way. Our efforts will be practical, evidence-based and achievable, with clear pathways to success. Council will lead by example, pursue best practice, and advocate for positive change.

Strategic Framework

Council's strategic framework

The Nature and Wildlife Action Plan 2026–2030 is a four-year action plan nested under Council's Environment and Sustainability Strategy and supports delivery of Council's Community Plan vision and priorities.

This Action Plan forms part of a suite of five interlinked four-year action plans under the Environment and Sustainability Strategy, alongside:

- Climate Change
- Waste to Resources
- Township Greening
- Integrated Water Management

Together, these action plans provide an integrated approach to improving environmental outcomes, reducing risk and enhancing liveability. Many actions in this Plan align with and reinforce actions in the other plans, recognising that climate resilience, emissions reduction, greening, water management and biodiversity outcomes are interdependent.

This Plan also connects with and supports implementation of other Council strategies and plans, including (but not limited to):

- Open Space Management Plan
- Integrated Transport Strategy
- Strategic Asset Management Plan
- Long Term Financial Plan
- Emergency Management Plan
- Public Health and Wellbeing planning
- Advocacy Plan



Figure 1: Strategic context

Alignment with state and national policy

The Nature and Wildlife Action Plan aligns with key South Australian and Australian Government policy and legislative frameworks focused on biodiversity protection, restoration and nature-positive outcomes. This includes state and national commitments to halt biodiversity loss, strengthen habitat connectivity, protect threatened species and embed nature considerations into land use planning and development, not least of which is the SA Biodiversity Act 2025. This Plan also contributes to Australia's commitments under the Global Biodiversity Framework, including Target 3 (protect and conserve 30% of land and waters by 2030). Achieving these targets requires coordinated action across all landholders including Local Government.

Regional collaboration

Nature conservation outcomes are strengthened through regional collaboration. Council works closely with regional partners including the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board, neighbouring councils, community organisations, research institutions and volunteer networks to coordinate planning, share data, align priorities and deliver on-ground outcomes at a landscape scale.

Regional collaboration supports more effective management of threats such as invasive species, habitat fragmentation and climate pressures, while enabling coordinated effort across boundaries.

Further reading

For more detail, please refer to the following resources available at www.mountbarker.sa.gov.au

- *Environment and Sustainability Strategy 2025*
Sets Council's long-term vision, objectives, guiding principles and priority focus areas for environment and sustainability, and provides the strategic framework.
- *State of the Environment Report 2024*
A detailed evidence base including policy context, community values, benefits, emerging trends, current status and review of progress since 2018 across key environmental themes.
- *Biodiversity Strategy (2016)*
Outlines Council's earlier strategic direction for biodiversity conservation and rich detail on biodiversity assets across the district.
- *Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Plan (2021–2026: currently being updated)*
Sets regional priorities for biodiversity, water and landscape management, guiding coordinated action across the Adelaide Hills and Fleurieu Peninsula.



Current Snapshot

Nature and wildlife underpin the health, liveability and identity of the Mount Barker District. Native vegetation, wetlands, waterways and wildlife contribute far more than environmental outcomes alone, they support climate resilience, community wellbeing, economic value, attractive places and long-term sustainability. The benefits of nature span ecological, social and financial dimensions, as illustrated in Figure 2, reinforcing why investment in nature delivers returns across Council's responsibilities.

The district contains a diverse range of natural assets across townships, rural areas, roadsides and reserves. However, only a small proportion of original native vegetation remains, and many remnant habitats are fragmented and under increasing pressure.

Rapid growth, infrastructure expansion, climate change, invasive species and competing land uses are collectively driving habitat loss, reduced connectivity and declining ecological condition in some areas.

As one of South Australia's fastest-growing regions, Mount Barker faces a critical challenge: how to accommodate growth while protecting, restoring and reconnecting nature. Growth increases the extent and complexity of land requiring active management, including remnant vegetation, unmade road reserves, waterways, wetlands and new conservation assets secured through development or land acquisition. At the same time, growth presents an opportunity to embed nature-positive outcomes through better planning, early intervention and coordinated restoration.



Community interest and expectations around nature conservation are strong and continuing to grow. Residents consistently value wildlife, bushland, trees and natural places as defining features of the district, and there is high engagement in volunteering, stewardship and advocacy for biodiversity outcomes. This strong social mandate reinforces nature and wildlife as a core priority within Council's Environment and Sustainability Strategy.

Council already plays a significant role as a land manager, regulator, partner and enabler for biodiversity outcomes. However, the scale and intensity of nature management responsibilities have increased over time as new areas are added, expectations rise and climate pressures intensify. This creates a clear need for a more structured, evidence-based and well-coordinated approach to nature conservation.

Protecting and improving biodiversity is therefore both an environmental and community priority. A more coordinated, evidence-based and asset-focused approach is needed to protect high-value sites, strengthen ecological connections, manage threats and support nature to persist and recover in a changing climate. This Plan seeks to move from largely reactive management toward a more strategic, nature-positive approach.

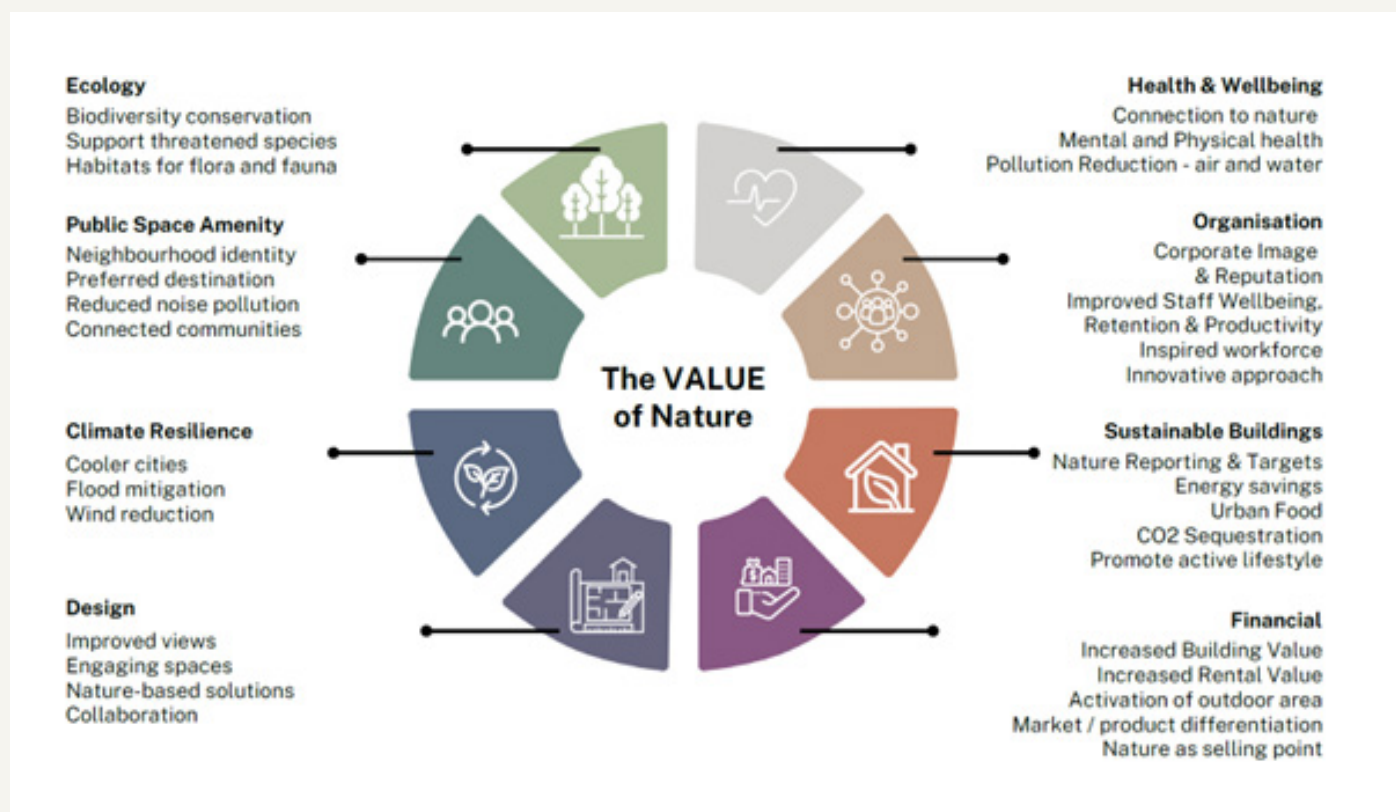


Figure 2: Process diagram of the value of nature and nature positive design. Source: Stephanie Sirianni, Nature Collective

Key Achievements to Date

Key recent achievements include:

- Biodiversity management, planning and coordination.
- Establishment of a dedicated biodiversity team (2 FTE) to undertake on-ground works and work with community volunteer.
- Preparation and update of the Roadside Vegetation Management Plan, including renewal of Roadside Marker Scheme (RMS) sites.
- Inclusion of new linear reserves and revegetated corridors within greenfield developments, supporting habitat connectivity.
- Establishment of the Mount Barker Community Nursery as a hub for local provenance plants and community-led revegetation.
- Longterm and ongoing support for Bush for Life sites, Friends of Groups and community planting days.
- Delivery of Bird Fairs, wetland tours and biodiversity-focused community events to build awareness and participation.
- Installation of interpretive signage and nature-based infrastructure at key sites such as Laratinga Wetlands, including habitat features like the bee hotel to support pollinators.
- Integration of biodiversity outcomes with climate, water and food system initiatives, including Living Lightly Locally and the Hills and Fleurieu Food Futures Project.

Since adopting the Biodiversity Strategy in 2016, Council, volunteers and other partners have made tangible progress in protecting natural assets, building community stewardship and improving the evidence base for future action.

These achievements provide a strong foundation for nature conservation in the district. However, the scale of Council-managed land, growing population, climate pressures and strong community interest mean expectations for biodiversity outcomes are increasing. This Action Plan responds by moving toward a more structured, evidence-based and resourced approach to managing biodiversity assets, strengthening partnerships and supporting nature-positive outcomes across both public and private land.



Objective

Protect, restore, connect and extend habitat for native species.

Why this matters

Biodiversity is vital for a healthy environment, supporting clean air, water, and resilient plants, animals and ecosystems. Across Mount Barker district's townships and rural areas, nature and wildlife are under pressure from urban growth, climate change, land use changes, and invasive species. This focus area takes an integrated approach to protecting remnant vegetation, restoring habitats, and creating new spaces for native species to thrive. By managing biodiversity assets well, sharing knowledge, and fostering collaboration, we can ensure the district remains a place where nature and people coexist sustainably.

Related priorities and integration

Protection of big trees, creation of biodiverse and climate resilient corridors and planting predominately native species is addressed through the Township Greening focus area of this strategy.

Key priorities

Protect, manage and maintain biodiversity assets

Develop and implement funded, evidence-based management plans to safeguard and maintain Council's biodiversity assets, especially remnant vegetation and habitat areas, while using sound metrics to track outcomes.

Expand and connect existing habitats for native wildlife

Undertake restorative plantings of endemic, indigenous and threatened species to create functional habitats that support local wildlife such as woodland birds. This will also contribute to the Mount Barker Parklands.

Strengthen Council capacity to manage biodiversity assets

Build resourcing and capacity for biodiversity management to enhance in-house expertise and operational effectiveness.

Partnering for biodiversity on private land

Work with the landscape board, NGOs and private landowners to encourage protection and expansion of native vegetation and biodiversity-friendly practices on their properties.

Actions

This section sets out the actions Council will deliver between 2026 and 2030.

Actions are organised into functional areas that reflect how Council operates, from strategy and decision-making, through to service delivery, partnerships and on-ground outcomes. Using a consistent functional structure across all action plans helps embed priorities into core business and supports coordinated implementation, monitoring and reporting. It also helps ensure responsibility, timing and budget allocations are aligned to the appropriate stage of work.

The actions listed are not intended to be exhaustive. They represent a prioritised set of actions where focused effort over the next four years will have the greatest impact in progressing Council's objectives and 'moving the needle' on outcomes, alongside the continued delivery of core services and existing programs.

Each action may contribute to multiple strategic priorities and may also support outcomes across other action plans, reflecting the interconnected nature of Council's work.

Governance, policy and processes

Establishing or updating the policies, frameworks and internal processes that guide Council decision-making and enable improved implementation.

Track, plan and manage

Building the evidence base, tools and systems needed to plan effectively, manage performance and support informed decisions over time.

Educate, inspire and involve

Supporting learning, engagement and participation to build capability, influence behaviour and enable action by Council and the community.

Protect and maintain

Managing risks, maintaining existing assets and services, and carrying out any relevant regulation roles.

Establish, expand or restore

Delivering new projects and on-ground actions that create or improve assets, services, systems or environments.

Partnerships and advocacy

Working with partners, stakeholders and other levels of government to align effort, leverage resources and influence outcomes beyond Council's direct control.

Nature and Wildlife Actions Table

ACTION	KPI	INDICATIVE RESOURCING*	TIMING				LEAD	PLAN LINKS			
			26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30		C	R	G	W
Governance, Policy and Processes											
N1. Strategic Biodiversity Corridors Identify, prioritise and map strategic lands for conservation, habitat connection and possible purchase, focused on priority wildlife corridors and ecological links aligned to the Mount Barker Parklands planning process. This includes identifying Native Vegetation Heritage Agreement opportunities on suitable land. Establish the internal governance and decision making framework so that Council is positioned to assess quickly when suitable opportunities arise.	Process established	Additional staff time. Any resulting acquisition subject to separate Council approval.	X	X	X	X	Strategic Planning	X		X	X
N2. Review Cat Policy Review cat management policy and by-laws to assess current curfew and limit provisions and consider further measures that strengthen biodiversity outcomes.	Review completed	Existing staff time			X	X	Health and Public Safety				
Track, Plan and Manage											
N3. Integrate Nature Positive Outcomes into Council Decision Making Work with planning and landscape teams to embed Biodiversity Sensitive Urban Design principles into Council's development assessment referrals, capital works briefs and project planning processes.	Process established	Existing staff time	X	X			Strategic Planning	X		X	

ACTION	KPI	INDICATIVE RESOURCING*	TIMING				LEAD	PLAN LINKS			
			26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30		C	R	G	W
N4. Establish the Nature Conservation Program - Prepare and deliver site-specific management plans, with spatial mapping layers, for all Council-managed remnant vegetation patches. - Support Mount Barker Parklands planning with local ecological and cultural expertise. - Conduct rolling biodiversity condition audits (five-year cycle, BAM-based, volunteer-assisted where feasible). - Integrate new monitoring data and identify current and potential habitat connections. - Develop threatened species profiles and management actions for locally at risk flora and fauna. - Align resourcing to priority sites and available delivery capacity - Prioritise protecting existing assets before focusing on expansion.	At least 1 major and 4 small-medium site management plans delivered per year, with rolling biodiversity condition monitoring implemented across priority sites.	FTE establishment (1.0 FTE ongoing with specialist ecological expertise)		X	X	X	Strategic Planning	X		X	X
Educate, Inspire and Involve											
N5. Expand Biodiversity Promotion Expand community education through workshops, restoration success stories and “Backyards for Wildlife” campaigns, increase plant nursery promotion, wildlife friendly fencing and how to restore habitats of listed species / at risk plants and fauna.	At least 6 activities or resources delivered per year	Existing staff time plus extra project \$5-\$10K	X	X	X	X	Operations	X		X	
N6. Explore Biodiversity Volunteer Support Improvements Investigate options to better support biodiversity volunteers, for example assess feasibility of providing a dedicated vehicle, tools, reducing risks, multi-year grant agreements, biodiversity network or other resources to enhance delivery of weeding, planting, and watering activities.	Options paper and engagement	Existing staff time (subject to resourcing N3)	X	X			Operations	X		X	
Protect and Maintain											
N7. Increase Biodiversity Maintenance Scale-up on-ground maintenance program to implement new Nature Conservation Program plans and keep pace with new areas being added with population increase – including priority weed, pest, fire, fencing and habitat management works at high value sites.	Annual increase in number of hours currently devoted to biodiversity maintenance	FTE establishment (2.0 FTE ongoing) plus \$50-\$100K operational	X	X	X	X	Operations			X	X

ACTION	KPI	INDICATIVE RESOURCING*	TIMING				LEAD	PLAN LINKS			
			26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30		C	R	G	W
N8. Wildlife Water Stations Trial wildlife water stations in parks and reserves to support wildlife into climate change and less rainfall, in collaboration with ReBird the Ranges.	Trial at least 2 stations	Existing staff time plus extra project \$1-\$5K		X	X		Operations	X			X
Establish, Expand or Restore											
N9. Restore, link and buffer Habitats Expand seed collection, propagation, planting, direct seeding and habitat restoration works in line with new Nature Conservation Program – including replacement of exotic grasses with native species in and around natural areas and trial new dryland revegetation techniques with focus on riparian zones and coordinating with NVHA landholders where relevant.	TBD once plan developed	Existing staff time plus Project \$10 - \$100K seek grants to leverage			X	X	Operations	X		X	X
N10. Tree Hollow and Fauna Protection Protocols Establish identification, protection and replacement protocols together with related wildlife management for council projects and development. Partner with community organisations on site-specific fauna protection and rescue where risks to wildlife are identified.	Protocols developed	Existing staff time plus New project \$10-\$50K	X	X			Operations	X		X	
Partnerships and Advocacy											
N11. Partner with Peramangk and Kaurna people Collaborate on and co-deliver nature and wildlife projects e.g. biocultural visioning, plant signage, cultural burning. Mentor and train Council staff and volunteers on First Nations land management practices.	At least 2 connections per year and track number projects worked on	Existing staff time and additional project funds (TBD) via annual budget / seek grants	X	X			Operations	X	X	X	X
N12. Leverage Impact with Landscape Board and other State Government Agencies Work with Landscape Board and others to coordinate feral animal, weed control and planting programs including roadside vegetation.	At least one coordinated project every 2 years	Existing staff time	X	X	X	X	Operations	X			
N13. Develop Environment Centre Business Case In partnership with Greater Adelaide Environment Network and aligned groups.	Business case developed	Existing staff time plus Project \$5-\$20K	X	X			Strategic Planning	X	X	X	X

*Resourcing is indicative only and subject to annual budget processes. Existing staff time = action can be delivered within existing roles and workloads | Additional staff time = action is not currently resourced but may be delivered through reprioritisation or existing workloads | FTE establishment = delivery of action is expected to require new staff capacity, subject to future Council consideration and approval.

Implementation

The Nature and Wildlife Action Plan 2026–2030 will be implemented through Council's existing governance, planning and delivery processes. Actions will be led by nominated business units, with delivery supported through collaboration across Council where required.

Implementation will be staged over the four-year period, recognising that some actions focus on developing or updating policies, plans or tools, while others relate to delivery or on-ground outcomes. Where actions require additional resourcing, these will be considered through Council's annual business planning and budget processes.

Council will actively seek to leverage external funding, partnerships and collaborative delivery opportunities to support implementation. This includes pursuing grants and joint initiatives with regional partners, State Government, research organisations and industry, particularly where shared challenges or economies of scale exist.

Delivery of this Plan will be coordinated alongside Council's other Environment and Sustainability Strategy action plans to maximise alignment, manage dependencies and avoid duplication. Where appropriate, Council will adapt and build on existing tools, guidelines, policies and resources developed by Council or partner organisations, rather than duplicating effort. For example, shared templates, regional guidance or co-developed programs may be tailored to local needs.



Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

Progress against actions will be monitored internally using the success measures identified for each action, supported by asset registers, management plans, and tracking of staff, contractor and volunteer effort. Reporting will occur through Council's existing governance and reporting processes. This includes public reporting where appropriate, such as inclusion in Council's Annual Report and other relevant publications.

Biodiversity outcomes are influenced by long timeframes, climate conditions and external pressures. Monitoring results, new ecological data and partnership opportunities will inform adaptive management and refinement of actions over time.

Contribute towards 2035 targets

The actions in this Plan also directly contribute to Council's longer-term climate targets to 2035 in the Environment Sustainability Strategy:

- 8. Increase investment in managing biodiversity areas, measured through staff, contractor and volunteer time, to establish a baseline and track improvement.** (Time and effort will be used as an interim measure while condition monitoring approaches are further developed.)
- 9. All remnant vegetation sites over 0.5 hectares under Council care have fully resourced management plans in place by 2035, with Category 1 sites completed by 2030.** (In 2025, Council manages approximately 836 hectares of land and 150 km of unmade road reserves containing biodiversity assets.)



Glossary of Terms

TERM	DEFINITION
Adaptation	Actions that help people, infrastructure, services and ecosystems adjust to climate impacts that are already occurring or locked in, to reduce harm and take advantage of emerging opportunities as the climate changes.
Biodiversity / biodiverse	The variety of all plants, animals and microorganisms, their genes, and the ecosystems they live in.
Biodiversity Sensitive Urban Design (BSUD)	An approach to planning, design and development that seeks to protect, enhance and connect habitats, support native species, and embed nature into streets, buildings and public spaces alongside other urban functions.
Canopy	The upper level of a tree or trees. In cities this is typically measured for trees tall enough to provide functional shade for people (3m+).
Climate change	Long-term changes in temperature, rainfall patterns and the frequency and severity of extreme weather events, driven primarily by greenhouse gas emissions from human activities.
Ecosystem	A community of living organisms interacting with each other in their habitat.
Emissions	The release of gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane, into the atmosphere from activities like burning fossil fuels.
Habitat	Food, water, shelter and space that supports plant or animal life.
Habitat connectivity	The degree to which landscapes allow plants and animals to move between habitat areas, supporting healthy populations and genetic diversity.
Infrastructure	Human-engineered structures like roads, buildings, footpaths and car parks.
Native Vegetation Heritage Agreement (NVHA)	A permanent conservation agreement established in perpetuity between landholder and the Minister. Currently under the Native Vegetation Act 1991, transitioning to Biodiversity Agreements under the Biodiversity Act 2025.
Nature Positive	An approach that aims to halt and reverse biodiversity loss so that nature is measurably better off over time.
Net zero emissions	A state where the amount of greenhouse gas emissions released into the atmosphere is balanced by the amount removed or offset, resulting in no net increase in atmospheric greenhouse gases.
Remnant vegetation	Patches of native trees, shrubs and grasses that remain from before European settlement.
Resilient / resilience	Able to survive, adapt and thrive no matter what kind of chronic stresses and acute shocks are experienced.
Resource recovery	The process of obtaining materials or energy from discarded materials.
Restoration	Actions that assist the recovery of degraded ecosystems to improve structure, function and biodiversity.
Sustainable / sustainability	Responsibly managing our current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. This includes social, financial and environmental resources.
Township/Urban greening	All trees and plants on public and private land.
Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD)	Planning that manages the water cycle sustainably, promoting rainwater reuse, reducing runoff and incorporating green infrastructure.



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