

# Biodiversity



## Relevant Targets

### 5 Target 5

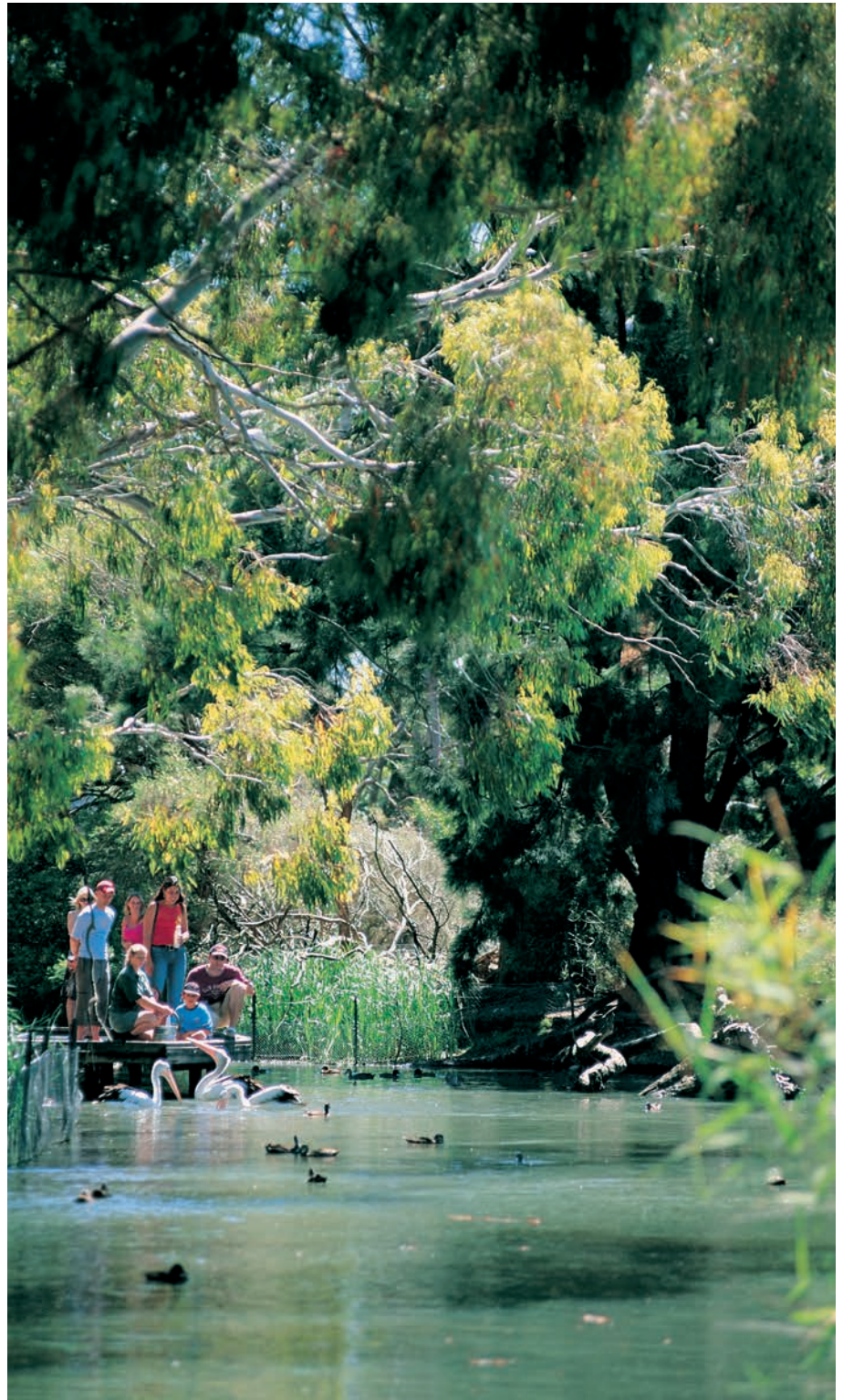
## Valuing our natural environment and enhancing biodiversity

Adelaide is rare in world terms because it is a capital city in the middle of a biologically diverse area. However, our patterns of consumption and development have fragmented and disrupted natural systems, resulting in a significant loss of biodiversity.

Protecting and re-establishing this biodiversity is important to restoring and maintaining our functioning ecosystems – particularly in key areas such as the Mount Lofty Ranges – and making our environment more resilient against the anticipated impacts of climate change.

Protecting and improving biodiversity within our urban environments is also important.

Maintaining a healthy, biologically diverse environment will help make Greater Adelaide a better and more productive place to live. It will provide us with premium food and wine for exporting, clean air and water, building materials, recreational opportunities and increased tourism opportunities.



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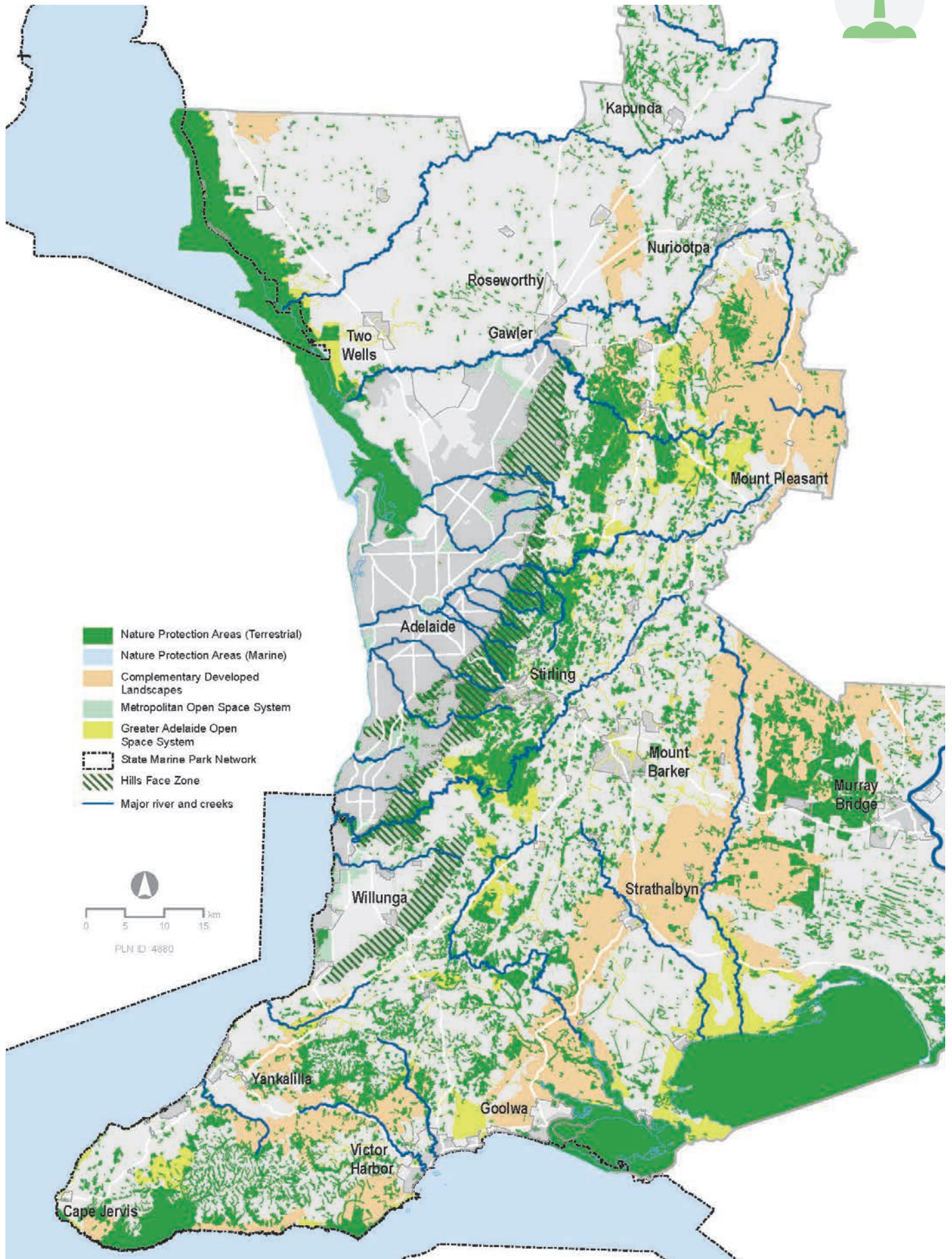
## Policies

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- P90.** Delineate and maintain areas with significant environmental values to protect landscape health; conserve biodiversity; and improve development certainty and transparency (represented in Map 10). This includes:
- **Nature Protection Areas:**  
These are largely undeveloped areas that retain significant environmental values recognised through existing legislation. This includes protected public lands (such as conservation and marine parks), private protected lands (such as Heritage Agreements), and areas of native vegetation and listed wetlands. These areas should be protected from development unless specific exemptions apply.
  - **Complementary Developed Landscapes:**  
These are substantially modified farming landscapes where existing land uses and significant environmental values, different from those in Nature Protection Areas, co-exist in a way that provides mutual benefits. The generally open and undeveloped nature of these landscapes should be maintained through appropriate zoning to support continuation of the primary production systems that create environmental niches for target species.
- P91.** Protect coastal features and biodiversity including:
- habitats that are highly sensitive to the direct impacts of development
  - important geological and/or natural features of scientific, educational or cultural importance
  - landscapes of very high scenic quality.
- P92.** Support the enhancement of the urban biodiversity of metropolitan Adelaide through the development of greenways in transit corridors, along major watercourses, linear parks and the coast and in other strategic locations.
- P93.** Ensure that greenways are landscaped with local indigenous species where possible to contribute to urban biodiversity outcomes.
- P94.** Protect the natural and rural landscape character of the Hills Face Zone and ensure that land uses in this zone contribute to this landscape backdrop and area of significant biodiversity.
- P95.** Support the enhancement of the urban biodiversity of metropolitan Adelaide through a connected and diverse network of green infrastructure.
- P96.** Incorporate information on nature protection areas, complementary developed areas and coastal features within the South Australian Multiple Land Use Framework, to support consideration of benefits and consequences for land users and the wider community in land use decision-making.
- P97.** Minimise or offset the loss of biodiversity where this is possible and avoid such impacts where these cannot be mitigated (for areas not covered by the *Native Vegetation Act 1991*).



### Map 10 — Biodiversity



# Biodiversity

## Case Study: Considering the whole landscape and the future of biodiversity conservation

Recent examination of developed areas in the Mount Lofty Ranges has revealed that some retain very significant values that are not conserved elsewhere (these are the Complementary Developed Landscapes shown on Map 10). Current land use practices (such as low-input, extensive livestock production) may even be essential to the persistence of these values.

In recognition of this, new Natural Resources Management Board projects are emerging that work directly with producers to support the retention of existing production systems and their biodiversity value. For example, \$2 million is currently being invested on private properties in the northern and eastern

Adelaide Hills to replace paddock trees. These sparse trees and their associated open pasture landscapes currently provide critical habitat for a large number of declining woodland bird species. However, the trees in these areas are typically over 200 years old and most will be gone within the next 50 years, resulting in reduced production benefits (from shade and shelter) and local wildlife extinctions. To address this issue, support is being provided to plant and protect a new generation of trees. Almost 200 producers have expressed interest in being involved in this project, encompassing over 15,000 hectares. These plantings will help to maintain the value of these landscapes for both production and conservation into the future.

**Mapped remnants of native vegetation:**  
The traditional focus for conservation investment.



**Unmapped areas of paddock tree cover:**  
An emerging focus for conservation investment.

**Paddock tree landscapes:**  
Support a large number of declining birds and provide shade and shelter for livestock.



Hooded Robin

Red-capped Robin





## Other relevant legislation

### ***Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999***

Applicants/proponents of developments are responsible for determining if their development proposal needs to be referred to the Australian Government's Environment Minister for consideration under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999*. The Minister is responsible for determining if the action is a controlled action, pursuant to the Act, and therefore subject to assessment and approval processes under that Act.

### **Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary**

In 2014, the Premier made a commitment to establish the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary to help protect resident and migratory shorebirds that gather along a 60km stretch of the Gulf St Vincent coast from the Barker Inlet to Port Parham. Each summer, at the peak of the migration season, the area supports an estimated 27,000 shorebirds. The sanctuary will be one of the longest continual coastal reserves in the state.

### **Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary**

The Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary was established in response to community concerns about the safety of the dolphins living in the Port River and Barker Inlet and the need to protect their habitat. It covers a 118 km<sup>2</sup> area reaching as far north as Port Gawler and is home to 30 or more resident Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins and up to 300 regular "visitors".

#### **Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary**



#### **Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary**



### **Marine Parks**

The *Marine Parks (Zoning) Regulations 2012* came into effect on 29 March 2013. They describe the prohibitions and restrictions applicable to each type of marine park zone.

The Greater Adelaide area overlays two marine parks and the zoning in these parks may have implications for land use in the areas adjacent to or within them. This may include coastal development stormwater management, desalination

plant extraction and discharge, and new recreational or transport facilities, such as marinas or jetties.

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## Making it happen - the planning system

### In the short term

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**A53.** Develop policies and maps of the environmental and character values associated with specific nature protection and complementary developed areas.

**A54.** Review the region's key coastal features and waters to inform the development of planning policies.

**A55.** Support the reconfiguration and transition of the Dry Creek salt fields to new land uses that meet environmental outcomes and are complementary to the preservation of the existing habitat for migratory and resident shorebirds as part of the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary.

### Other key levers to unlock opportunity

- Improve terrestrial, coastal and marine environments in partnership with the community, industry and government.
- Re-establish green corridors and urban forests to assist in planting 20 million trees by 2020 through the Federal Government's 20 Million Trees Program.
- Use the network of Terrestrial and Marine Protected Areas to conserve biodiversity and associated habitats, maintain environmental health and underpin primary production and tourism.