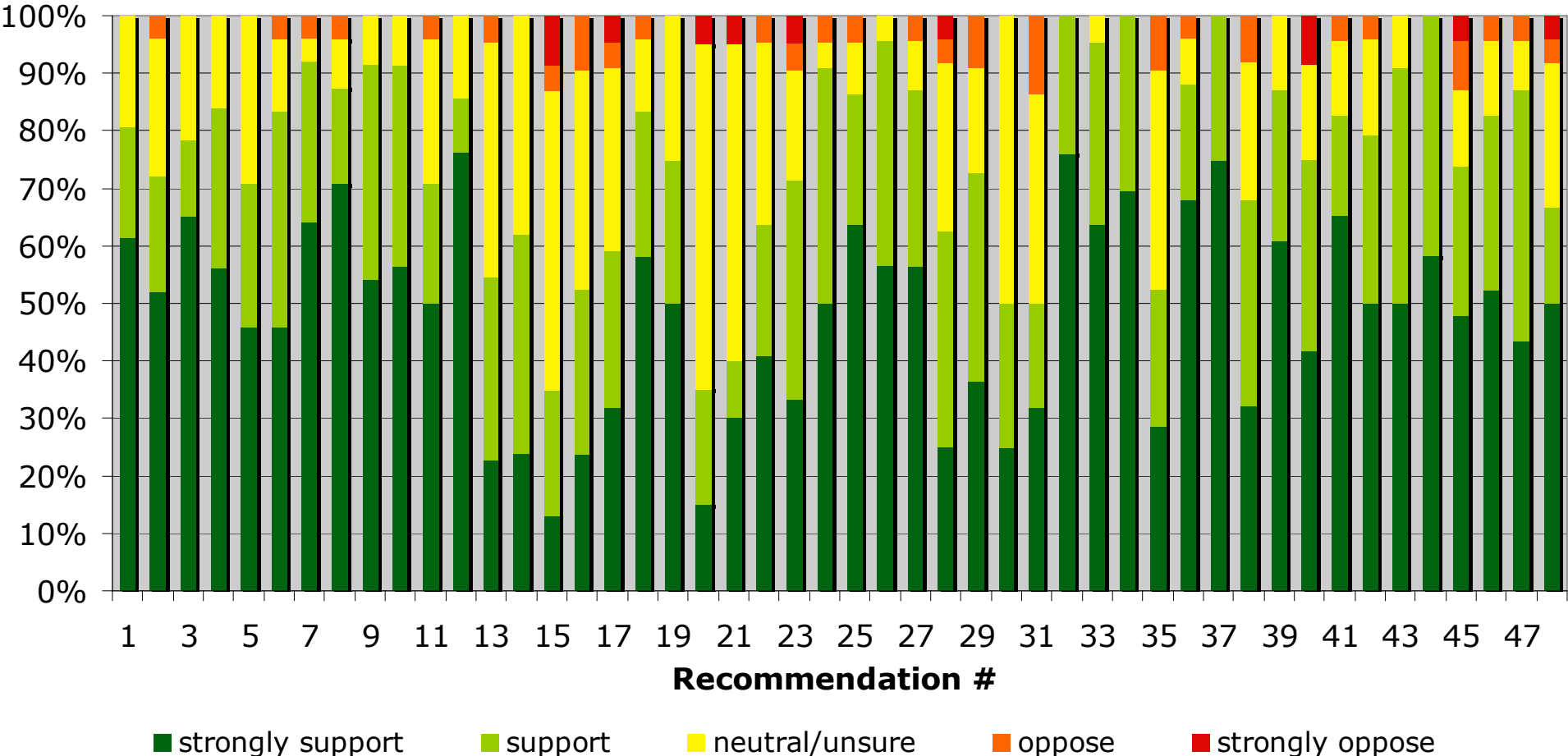


Levels of support for draft biodiversity recommendations



Summary of Recommendations

Current Native Vegetation Management

1. Integrated pest/weed management programs and the management of abundant native species require further investment, both on and off reserve.
2. Referrals for native vegetation clearance need to be made relevant to DEH branches to help strengthen formal ties with the Native Vegetation Council.
3. The Native Vegetation Program continues to be under-resourced. Existing levels of resourcing are inadequate to provide for compliance audits to ensure offsetting activities are being undertaken, or for the necessary monitoring and evaluation of offsets to ensure benefits are being achieved.

Habitat Degradation

4. Fire management needs to be planned at a landscape scale (both reserve and off-reserve), based on the precautionary principle and good science and must prioritise the maintenance of natural biodiversity protection.

Threatened Species

5. The *No Species Loss* Strategy needs to be supported by (the State Biodiversity Act) to ensure that targets are set and objectives are met. These should also be included in the State Strategic Plan.

Forests

6. South Australian forestry management practise, legislation, regulation and administrative arrangements (permits) need to better take into account the use of natural resources (specifically water resources) and the conservation of biological diversity.
7. There is a need to provide private forest owners with technical advice about improved ways of managing for the conservation of biological diversity and offer incentives to promote conservation activities, including rehabilitation programs.
8. There is a need to review agroforestry's impact on indigenous environments due to including groundwater drawdown through water affecting activities, and encourage the use of indigenous species over exotic species.

Wetlands

9. The assessment of wetlands and other water-dependant ecosystems in Water Allocation Plans needs to be monitored carefully in the first few years of the program. This will require sufficient resources for R&D research, monitoring and evaluation..
10. Wetland services to an area need to be evaluated in the context of the regional impact of clearance and development. This could include:
 - nutrient and carbon cycling
 - substrate stabilisation
 - contribution to flood mitigation and aquifer storage & re-charge
11. Given the problem of land availability within the Adelaide metropolitan region, we should:
 - increase the use of wetland areas in small to medium green strips. These could include small parklands and sports fields. These would encourage a greater appreciation of biodiversity in local areas

- introduce, where possible, area-specific flora within created wetlands to assist in encouraging back our native fauna etc.

Wildlife Utilisation and Take

12. There is a need to ensure that native vegetation protection intersects development and planning processes at an inter-agency, whole of government scale by promoting its proper and early consideration in relevant policy and legislation.
13. The State Biodiversity Conservation Act must be established following a review of other relevant legislation and all matters relating to biodiversity management incorporated into the one Act that provides guidance to other Acts engaged in supporting biodiversity conservation – the NPW Act, the WP Act, the NRM Act, the Native Vegetation Act are examples.

National Parks and Wildlife Act

14. The provisions relating to conservation of plants and native animals and threatened species should be included in the State Biodiversity Conservation Act and updated in line with legislation in other Australian jurisdictions to give legislative backing to planning measures such as threat abatement plans, as in the EPBC Act (C'wth) or the Threatened Species Conservation Act (NSW).
15. The statutory protection of game reserves should be increased, including higher penalties for breaches. It is preferable that State Game Reserves be re-proclaimed as Conservation Parks.

Wilderness Protection Act

16. The Wilderness Protection Act needs greater implementation. The nature of and difference between wilderness protection areas and wilderness protection zones needs to be made clearer (it is not spelt out in the Act).

Native Vegetation Act

17. The many exemptions to the Native Vegetation Act should be streamlined, particularly as they relate to subdivision.
18. The Native Vegetation Act urgently requires stronger regulations and management, not the opposite, which has been the trend for the last 5 years.
19. The Native Vegetation Program continues to be under resourced. Existing levels of resourcing are inadequate to provide for compliance audits to ensure offsetting activities are being undertaken, or for the necessary monitoring and evaluation of offsets to ensure benefits are being achieved.
20. There needs to be an expansion of third party appeal and enforcement rights, and a review of the credit system.

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act

21. The open nomination and listing process should be reinstated.
22. The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act needs to deal more effectively with outstanding nominations, and strengthen critical habitat provisions and recovery planning.

Natural Resource Management Act

23. The Natural Resource Management Act needs biodiversity management guidelines to be developed to provide guidance on the management and protection of natural resources as required under the general statutory duty.

State Strategic Plan

24. The SA Strategic Plan needs to demonstrate why its population growth targets will benefit sustainability in general, and biodiversity protection in particular.

NatureLinks

25. The scale of the restoration task ahead needs greater recognition, eg 30% minimum for bioregions if we are to keep our landscapes functioning.
26. Specific partnerships need to be developed with relevant environmental NGO's and NRM Boards to implement Nature-links.

Heritage Agreement Grant Scheme

27. The Heritage Agreement Scheme needs to be amended to accommodate biodiversity management stewardship incentives to help progress biodiversity corridors between protected reserves.

Protected Areas

28. There needs to be an increase in the amount/area of the reserve system protected from the impacts of mining exploration and production.
29. We need to increase investment for protected areas/reserves acquisition to achieve CARRS (20% of terrestrial and marine ecosystems) and management and subsequently increase the health of habitat in reserves.
30. The Classification Review for Protected Areas needs to be completed with appropriate public consultation.
31. The NPW Act needs review in the context of a State Biodiversity Act and to refocus on protected area management as habitat for native species.

Wildlife Corridors

32. The State and Federal Governments need to invest strategically in the concept of 'stewardship' and other forms of incentives for farmers/landholders in particular to participate in biodiversity conservation. As well as contributing to biodiversity management in wildlife corridors in landscape scale land planning, it offers an option for a struggling farmer to stay on the land.

Natural Resource Management

33. The State Government needs to better incorporate local government into the NRM process. They deliver many of the on-ground services that can enhance biodiversity conservation.
34. Greater priority needs to be placed on biodiversity outcomes in NRM Regional plans. This would require greater detail of data, targets and priorities, supported by increased resourcing.

Integration Beyond NRM

35. South Australia needs a comprehensive Biodiversity Act.

Research and Data

36. The current scientific and baseline data on biodiversity is poor, particularly in the marine environment. Resources need to be significantly increased to provide:
 - a greater understanding of what elements of the landscape are critical to provide ecosystem services
 - a better understanding of the management activities that need to be made available, including ecological restoration and implementing disturbance regimes
 - long-term ecological research and strategic monitoring of key biodiversity indicators.

37. There needs to be consistency of access to information between government agencies, as well as cooperative agreements of information sharing between government, NGOs and industry.
38. GIS technology provides the opportunity to record quality data on key areas of biodiversity that we have not had until recently. This area of government research needs to be significantly resourced.
39. The State Government needs to complete SA's Biological Survey program, in both the terrestrial and marine sectors.

Offsets and Incentives

40. The State Government needs to review the existing frameworks being implemented and discussed for biodiversity offsets, to deliver consistent biodiversity conservation outcomes. These could include using income from voluntary offsets to fund the expansion of WildCountry/NatureLinks corridors.
41. Bio-carbon- bio-planting and credits for biodiversity need to be explored for accreditation.

Aboriginal People

42. Given the extent of indigenous managed land within SA, and the largely high quality of its vegetation, communities there need to be more involved and better equipped in habitat and species protection. The State Government must expand the co-operative management program with Aboriginal communities for protected areas.

Industry

43. Businesses, particularly corporate workers, need to be targeted in a biodiversity awareness campaign, to help them understand how to minimise risk to biodiversity and how to make a more positive contribution.
44. The environment sector needs to view business engagement as an opportunity to source investment in biodiversity.

State Government

45. The State Government needs to work with local government to:
 - address the lack of urban environmental corridors. These could deliver increased biodiversity benefits, and help engage an urban populace as to the value of increased native vegetation in an urban environment
 - use the opportunity to link South Australian waterways as biodiversity corridors.

Biodiversity Education

46. Education needs to extend beyond single aspects of biodiversity such as trees, to incorporate projects such as NatureLinks, which can demonstrate how those single aspects contribute to the bigger picture.
47. We need to mandate the knowledge, education and requirements of biodiversity conservation in school curriculums. Currently it is up to individual schools or passionate teachers to educate children about our local biodiversity.

Strengthening Capacity to Act

48. Public liability can be prohibitive for community groups engaging volunteers in their work. Government resourcing would make a big difference in this capacity.