

Frequently asked questions

Why are you progressing the statutory body regulations first?

The four bodies (one council and three committees) play key roles in either approving or advising on supporting elements – including regulations, policies and guidelines – required for the Act to function.

The Biodiversity Council is a key approver of several guidelines and policies. Members from the three committees must be represented on the Council, meaning it is critical to establish all bodies simultaneously.

For this reason, the regulations that establish these statutory bodies are being progressed first. They are a foundational step in implementing the Act and enabling the development and approval of the broader regulatory framework. This is why we are seeking your feedback on these draft regulations as our first stage of consultation.

How are you planning to implement the rest of the Biodiversity Act?

The Biodiversity Act will be implemented in three stages:

1. Key administrative functions, including statutory bodies
2. Wildlife elements – absorbed from the existing *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*
3. Native plants elements (replacing the existing *Native Vegetation Act 1991*) and policies relating to Aboriginal peoples.

You can learn more about the implementation process by visiting [our website](#).

You can [sign up](#) to stay informed about when you can have your say.

Will there be opportunities to give feedback on future stages?

Yes. Public consultation will be undertaken on regulations, policies and guidelines to ensure community and stakeholder feedback is considered.

Will statutory body members be paid and supported?

Yes. Remuneration (pay) levels have not yet been set, however, this information will be determined prior to a call for nominations.

Members of the statutory bodies will be entitled to be paid sitting fees and have travel and accommodation expenses covered while on official business.

Public service members (government employees) who might also be committee members are not eligible for payment of sitting fees.

The four bodies will be formed and paid in line with [state government standards](#).

The four bodies will also be supported by paid public service members who will act as secretaries and support staff.

What will happen to the Native Vegetation Council?

The Native Vegetation Council will dissolve when the *Native Vegetation Act 1991* formally concludes. Until then, it will continue to operate as normal.

How does the role of Biodiversity Council differ from the Native Vegetation Council?

The Biodiversity Council will:

- provide advice to the government on biodiversity matters
- be responsible for setting policy direction through guidelines that assist in native vegetation clearance assessment
- administer the Biodiversity Restoration Fund - equivalent to the Native Vegetation Fund currently administered by the Native Vegetation Council
- review some decisions of the Clearance Assessment Committee if required

The Biodiversity Council, unlike the Native Vegetation Council, will not decide on applications to clear native plants. Under the Biodiversity Act this is a function of the Clearance Assessment Committee.

Will the Aboriginal Biodiversity Committee represent all of SA's First Nations groups?

The Aboriginal Biodiversity Committee is not intended to represent all First Nations groups or Native Title bodies across the state. Committee members will be chosen through a public expression of interest process, with appointments based on applicants' cultural and environmental expertise.

You can learn more about membership, skills and expertise in the [explanatory guide](#).

What is the Biodiversity Administration Fund and why does it need regulation?

The Biodiversity Administration Fund is one of three funds established by the Biodiversity Act. These are:

- Biodiversity Restoration Fund
- Biodiversity Conservation Fund
- Biodiversity Administration Fund.

While the Biodiversity Restoration Fund and the Biodiversity Conservation Fund are carried over from funds already established under the *Native Vegetation Act 1991* (Native Vegetation Fund) and the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* (Wildlife Conservation Fund) respectively, the Biodiversity Administration Fund is a new fund, created to receive application and permit fees and other administrative monies which can be used to support the operation or administration of the Act.

The Act set out most of the details required to establish these funds, but regulations are needed to prescribe an initial amount of money to be transferred from the Native Vegetation Fund into the Biodiversity Administration Fund.

How was the amount determined for the Biodiversity Administration Fund?

The amount specified for the Biodiversity Administration Fund comprises a portion of the Native Vegetation Fund made up of funding from earlier state-appropriation funds and interest accrued from the accumulation of the Native Vegetation Fund. The amount does not include funds previously received as Significant Environmental Benefit (SEB) payments under the Native Vegetation Act.

The amount specified in the regulations is an estimate and will be reviewed to determine an exact amount ahead of being tabled in Parliament.

Will a proxy be appointed if statutory body members are unable to attend a meeting?

No, the Biodiversity Act does not allow proxies nor deputy members to be appointed.

How will you ensure that Scientific Committee members possess the required skills and expertise?

All nominations for the Biodiversity Council and the three committees will require prospective members to demonstrate they hold the relevant skills and expertise as part of their application. The Minister may require members of the Scientific Committee to undertake specific training that supports them in performing their duties. This is expected to include training in threatened species assessments using the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List methodology.

How often will the groups meet?

The meeting frequency and duration for each group have not yet been determined. They are expected to vary between the groups and may change over time as their work progresses.

- The Biodiversity Council may meet five to six times per year. The exact frequency will depend on the development of key deliverables such as the State Biodiversity Plan, policies and guidelines, and the provision of Ministerial advice.
- The Clearance Assessment Committee will largely take over the role of the Native Vegetation Council to assess applications for native plant clearances and is likely to meet monthly.
- The Aboriginal Biodiversity Committee is expected to meet four times per year and more often during the early stages of its establishment to support the co-design of several policies which are required under the Biodiversity Act.
- The Scientific Committee's frequency of meetings will depend on the number of nominations and assessments for threatened species. It is expected they could meet at least four times per year.

Why don't the regulations outline the composition of the Biodiversity Council?

The composition of the Biodiversity Council is already described in the [Biodiversity Act 2025](#).