

Land-Based Protected and Conserved Area Strategy



Background on the Strategy

The Conserving Nature 2012-2020 strategy was adopted to guide establishment of protected areas on public and private lands in South Australia.

Following the expiration of that strategy in 2020, the Parks and Wilderness Council (the Council) and the Department for Environment and Water (the Department) undertook to develop an updated strategy.

A stakeholder workshop was held in June 2021 and a draft strategy was completed in December 2021. However, it was the advice of the Council to the then Minister for Environment and Water that further work was required before the strategy was adopted, including further consultation.

Commitments made prior to the 2022 state election have also informed the development of the strategy, including updating an inventory of wilderness values, reviewing SA's performance in delivering Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative protection of ecosystems, and undertaking a climate refugia assessment to inform future protected and conserved area priorities.

Further, the Australian Government has since set a national target to protect and conserve 30% of Australia's landmass by 2030 (the '30 by 30' target) to align with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

In October 2022, state and national Environment Ministers agreed to work together to reach the national 30 by 30 target. The Australian Government has since released a national roadmap for achieving 30 by 30. These commitments and national strategies are of direct relevance to the strategy, and will shape the final document.

An updated strategy has been developed in collaboration with the Council, with input from key stakeholders from across the protected area sector.

Three workshops have been held to progress the strategy in 2024. The first, held in May 2024, involved key stakeholders from across the protected area sector, with attendance from Landscape Boards, Conservation Council SA, Friends of Parks SA, Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation, and various other eNGOs and private conservation partners. The second, held in June 2024 with internal Department subject matter experts, further developed the strategy. The final workshop with key stakeholders was held November 2024, where updated strategic outcomes were explored in detail.

These workshops helped inform the development of this draft strategy, which is now open for consultation with the wider South Australian community.