14 February 2024

Nature Play SA
Connection • Wellbeing • Belonging

Biodiversity Coordination Unit
Department for Environment and Water

Dear Biodiversity Conservation Unit

We would like to express our support for the development of South Australia's first Biodiversity Act. We are hopeful that this new legislation will offer much-needed biodiversity protection so that future generations can enjoy the wonder and awe of our plants, animals, and ecosystems.

At Nature Play SA, biodiversity is our inspiration, bringing colour and life to our storytelling and shaping our education programs and events. Our core belief, supported by comprehensive research, is that spending time in nature supports wellbeing and fosters deeper connections with the environment and ourselves. Each year, we work with thousands of students, families, and learning providers, growing community understanding of biodiversity (and its links to our wellbeing), Aboriginal cultures, sustainability, nature's intrinsic values, and respect for all living things.

South Australia is home to many of the most precious species on the planet, and we are passionate about protecting and celebrating our biodiversity. We support the broad range of matters presented for consideration in the Discussion Paper and recognise that new and strengthened partnerships, particularly with the planning, agriculture and health sectors, can help avoid and minimise impacts to biodiversity – and strengthen awareness of the interconnections with human health and wellbeing. Providing incentives and increasing penalties to align South Australia with other jurisdictions is also supported.

We are interested in discussing innovative ways that Nature Play SA can support the work of the Biodiversity Coordination Unit through our programs and events to build deeper community understanding of the significance of the Act, either in its development or implementation phase. For example, our community, including partnered schools, could champion a campaign to support the proposed biodiversity duty of care.

We look forward to learning how feedback from First Nations groups will elevate the protection of biodiversity and provide increased cultural and economic benefits to communities. Envisioning the future of our grandchildren, beyond a 2030 timeframe, we encourage the Act to be bold and ambitious. Setting a new standard for contemporary biodiversity management, embedded with Traditional Knowledge and expertise.

Congratulations on putting together the comprehensive Discussion Paper and generating broad community involvement in the development of the much-needed Biodiversity Act. We know there is a short amount of time to get this right and we are pleased to offer our support for this critical project.

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J Tyndall

Jason Tyndall
Chief Executive

Cc Ben Bruce, Chief Executive