

I wish to provide feedback on the proposed draft Biodiversity Bill. I am a community member involved in volunteering services to nature, via projects directed by the Dept of Environment and local Councils.

I have completed the online survey. I don't think that is addressing the disregard our government has for nature.

I reflect that given we already have extensive legislation to relate to protecting the needs of nature, for it to remain viable for diverse species, to halt illegal and inappropriate actions, it is unlikely that legislative change will change anything. It seems our laws are about justifying handballing between authorities, with continuing lack of accountability for negligence. This remains inherent in the proposed changes.

There remains a critical need for enforcing regular reviews of species incidence and diversity in our conservation areas. Having audits of the reviews submitted would go further to ensuring action, than simply a legal requirement, as exists and is proposed.

While there is not a precise number for how many species are becoming extinct in South Australia each year, data indicates a significant number of species could be considered at risk of extinction annually. The exact number is difficult to pinpoint due to insufficient monitoring and irregular review of changing environmental conditions in local areas and beyond.

https://www.google.com/search?q=How+many+species+are+becoming+extinct+in+South+Australia+each+year&oq=How+many+species+are+becoming+extinct+in+South+Australia+each+year+&gs_lcrp=EgZiaHJvbWUyBggAEUYOTIHCAEQIRiPatIBCjQ2NjUwajBqMTWoAgiwAgHxBVsBmkjdQ-mI&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8

There is a strong pointer here to how responsible authorities fail to detect the clear local changes that are occurring. The big picture such authorities are focussed on, fails to engage local incidence and threats. Primary time and resources are dedicated to administrative encumbrance. Feedback I have had from numerous staff in different sections and levels of government in South Australia, is that there is inadequate resource, staff numbers and a priority given to nature. Most frequently resource and time just goes to administration levels. The morality of this disgusts many active participants in our community.

I expect that the draft legislation will almost certainly further delay action. Facilitating handballing to a committee, fulfilling an administrative role, is inaction.

The Establishment of Biodiversity Council, a Native Plants Clearance Assessment Committee, a First Nations Expert Biodiversity Committee, a Scientific Committee and Other committees, advisory bodies and trusts has some positive overlay, re engaging expert witnesses. However, it can also be seen to be about facilitating further handballing and delay. Inherent in the lack of administrative action.

The additional inclusion of inviting the [SA Health research ethics](#) committee to consider exploring the ethics of the wider impact of environmental destruction on our community, could add to a reduction in health risks.

A lack of evidence to activate legal action when it is appropriate, is so much the case in the environmental area on roadsides already. Collecting and reviewing evidence of environmental neglect is not being prioritised in our government sector or in Ministerial roles. There is virtually no audit of planning activity, implicating environmental loss or public health risk.

Prompted by the absolute lack of government accountability and action, ways of boosting environmental evidence has independently driven our universities and community in the last few years. Examples are in [INature](#) *inaturalist*, [Atlas of Living Australia – Open access to Australia's biodiversity data](#).

It goes way beyond creating more committees. The data being collected and accumulating at these sites, and others, should well be a part of the priority for change, and certainly integrated as a constant monitor for administration.

It is important there should also be a constantly reviewed perspective on the quality of community life around and within the environment. The real need for integrated understanding of the essence of how our environments contribute to our community, and evidence within public health, of just what is happening. This is again reference to SA Health research ethics.

The reality of what is occurring in our local environments, has a more critical part in community wellbeing than credit given. The strength of nature engages many in our community in a very positive way. Without diversity and quality within it, there is little invitation for our community to relax and put stressful issues aside. This is reflected in many public health articles in scientific journals, and the essence of community wellbeing delivered by Prof John Glover with Health Mapping. [Phidu - Torrens University](#). http://phidu.torrens.edu.au/Story;_Acclaimed_Public_Health_Information_Development_Unit_...

An Act to provide for the conservation, enhancement and restoration of biodiversity in the State for the benefit of current and future generations, to make related amendments to various Acts, is needed. As I have reflected here, the change should not be primarily about legal responsibility, as failure there is seemingly inherent in the legal system and practitioners.

We desperately need government to have greater recognition of the value of diverse species in our natural environments. Given our Ministerial and legal systems fails continuously to examine what is occurring, our community is in despair. So many native species are disappearing. That is impacting significantly on our own species.