

Bioregional planning pilot project

Field surveys



The Pilot Project

The South Australian Department for Environment and Water (DEW), in partnership with the Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEE) is piloting a bioregional planning approach in two regions of the State.

What is bioregional planning?

It is an environmental planning approach that brings together biodiversity, land use and development data to support smarter land-use planning and decision-making. It helps identify where:

- Biodiversity values should be protected or restored.
- Development may have fewer environmental impacts.

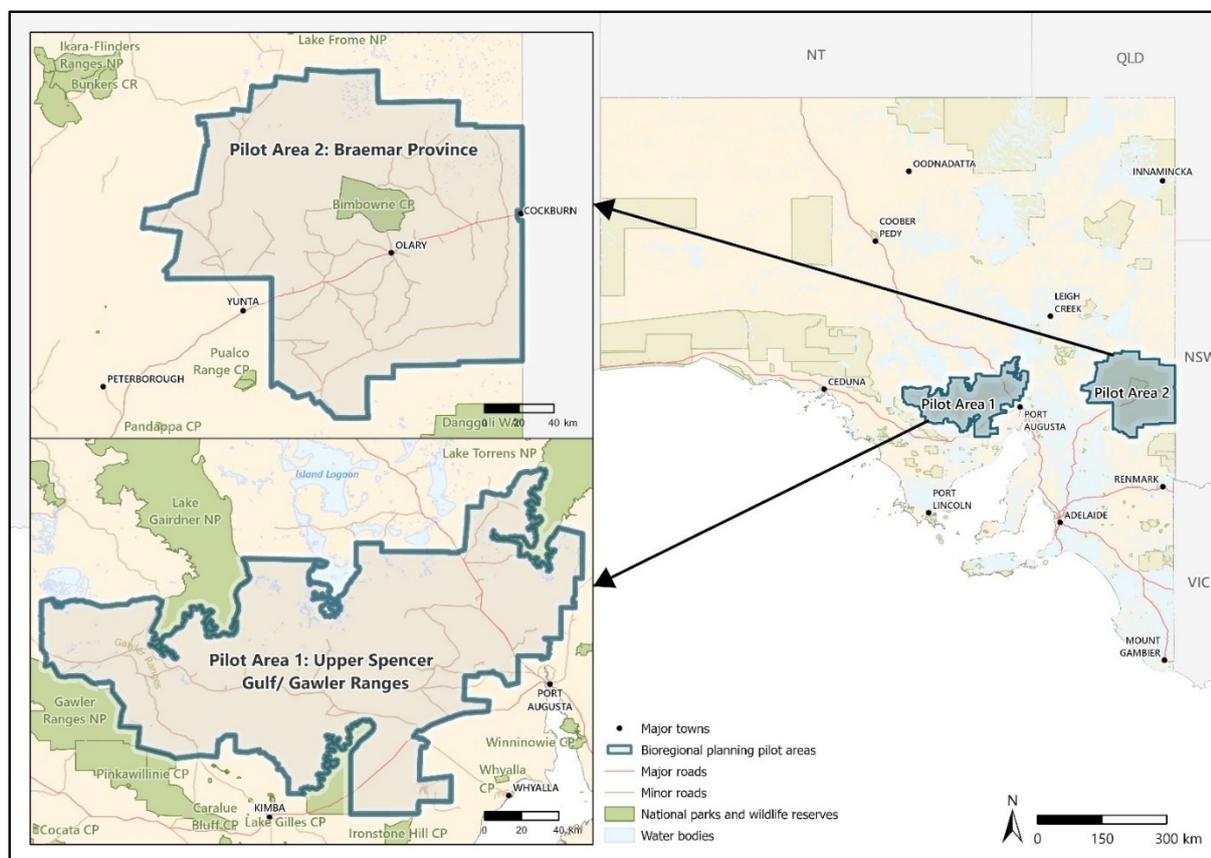
This approach supports long-term regional environmental planning that's more consistent, transparent, and informed by better information.

Where the pilots are happening

Pilot area 1: Upper Spencer Gulf / Gawler Ranges.

Pilot area 2: Braemar Province.

Both areas contain significant biodiversity and overlap with potential development areas for renewable energy and critical minerals.



Field surveys

Targeted field surveys will take place in both pilot areas between mid-2025 and December 2026. The aim of the field surveys is to fill critical data gaps on native plants and animals that are threatened or of conservation importance, particularly in locations where previous surveys have been limited.

Survey methods will vary depending on the species but may include:

- Area searches and transects.
- Camera trapping.
- Acoustic recording.
- Species-specific trapping techniques.

Surveys will be undertaken by qualified contractors and follow state and national data quality standards and best practice ecological field survey methods.

Landholders in target areas may be contacted to share knowledge or provide voluntary access to their property.

How you can get involved

Your knowledge can directly improve biodiversity information and planning outcomes.

You may be able to support the project by:

- Sharing knowledge about local species, habitats or past sightings.
- Providing site access for surveys (you will be contacted directly if your property is in a target area).
- Telling us about conditions, restrictions or areas of concern.
- Helping identify data gaps or features not captured in existing records.

Participation is voluntary and based on consent. Sensitive information will be handled securely.



Key messages:

- This pilot project will not change landholder rights or lease conditions.
- All field surveys will follow ethical guidelines and data protocols.
- Field surveys will only happen with landholder consent and will be coordinated to minimise disruption.
- The field surveys will improve evidence for planning - it won't make development decisions.

Benefits of the Project

- Builds a clearer picture of biodiversity using local and scientific knowledge.
- Improves mapping to support regional planning and development assessments.
- Enhances data availability and understanding of a region's biodiversity values.
- Information products will improve access to evidence and knowledge.

To register your interest, learn more, or share local knowledge

Contact us

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