



## WILDLIFE ETHICS COMMITTEE

# STATE-WIDE FAUNA SURVEY APPROVALS INFORMATION SHEET

*Enquiries and Completed forms (in Word or PDF format) should be sent to the Executive Officer, of the Wildlife Ethics Committee (WEC) at: [DEW.WildlifeETHICSCommittee@sa.gov.au](mailto:DEW.WildlifeETHICSCommittee@sa.gov.au)*

## What is a State-wide Fauna Survey Approval?

The Wildlife Ethics Committee (WEC) considers applications to undertake wildlife research and fauna surveys on an individual basis and can approve an individual project for a period of up to three years. However, many researchers undertake fauna surveys using a standard vertebrate survey method on a regular basis to monitor the impact of activities on the ecology of areas. These surveys are generally conducted using the same techniques by the same people each time. Therefore, the WEC will consider issuing an approval for fauna surveys at multiple locations conducted by a primary investigator (researcher) for the duration of the approval.

## Who can apply for a State-wide Fauna Survey Approval?

In most cases State-wide approvals can be issued to primary investigator who undertake fauna surveys for contractor work that is yet to be determined, such as for environmental impact assessments for mining companies.

A State-wide Fauna Survey approval is available for primary investigators who have held multiple approvals for different fauna survey projects. The primary investigator needs to demonstrate to WEC their competency from a history of individual project fauna survey approvals by:

- collecting voucher specimens and preserving according to SA Museum standards;
- identifications are correct;
- meeting all reporting requirements of the WEC;
- adverse events are reported in a timely manner and progress and final reports are received by due dates;
- providing a set protocol, such as standard fauna survey, camera trapping or call playback for bird surveys that can apply to more than one location;
- submitting credentials and experience in handling and trapping of animals of all persons listed on the application, in particular the primary investigator; and
- abiding by WEC policies and standard operating procedures.

In the first instance, this State-wide approval will be for twelve months. Based on satisfactory reporting for projects, subsequent State-wide Fauna Survey Approvals may be granted for up to three years.

## What conditions are imposed on a State-wide Fauna Survey Approval?

- The Executive Officer must be notified as soon as a tender for work is received, and a list of proposed survey locations and dates for field work must be submitted (approximately four to six weeks prior to the commencement of any survey work being carried out).
- Prior to any survey, applicants must establish the current state of knowledge of vertebrate diversity within the proposed survey area, and what species may be required by the South Australian Museum as voucher specimens. A critical element in fauna surveys is accurate, challengeable, and reviewable taxonomic identifications. All applicants are expected to liaise with the South Australian Museum to seek advice on the identification of species, numbers, and species that may need to be collected as voucher specimens.
- Any adverse incidents, including unplanned deaths, must be reported immediately by phone or email to the WEC Executive Officer.
- The researcher must promptly lodge a [Minor amendment to an approved project](#) if there is any change in researcher, methodology, a request to leave semi-permanent pitfalls in situ or animal numbers during the approval period.
- WEC Ethics Training must be completed every three years by all participants of a project.

Failure to comply with these conditions or changes in personnel or circumstances that no longer meet the criteria of the approval may result in the state-wide approval being revoked or no longer valid.

## How do I apply for a State-wide Fauna Survey Approval?

In the first instance, contact the WEC Executive Officer to ensure that you are eligible. If you are eligible, complete the Fauna Survey application form indicating you are requesting State-wide approval.

## What if I need assistance?

If you need assistance, contact the Executive Officer – Wildlife Ethics Committee Department for Environment and Water [DEW.WildlifeEthicsCommittee@sa.gov.au](mailto:DEW.WildlifeEthicsCommittee@sa.gov.au)

Approved by	Science and Information Branch DEW	Date Approved	28/3/2024
-------------	------------------------------------	---------------	-----------