

Trap and Release Protected Animals Permit (possums)

A Trap and Release Protected Animals Permit for possums entitles the holder to trap and release possums (not as part of an ongoing activity), where they;

- are causing, or likely to cause, damage to environmental amenity (including built structures); or
- may constitute a safety risk or hazard to people or industry but are not dangerous or a biological hazard.

It is an offence to trap or catch a protected animal, or release to the wild any native animal (whether protected or unprotected) without a permit.

Application processing time

Most applications are assessed within 2 weeks (10 business days). During busy periods an application may take up to 4 weeks (20 business days) to process. Complex wildlife management issues or incomplete applications may require further information and take longer to process.

Fees

No permit fee applies.

Assessment criteria

Permit applications are assessed with consideration to the following:

- wildlife is causing, or likely to cause, impacts or damage while occupying a residential or business structure (e.g., roof space)
- extent of damage to being caused, or likely to be caused, by wildlife
- use or effectiveness of non-lethal methods to manage impacts
- proposed trap and release activities are humane and in line with relevant specifications and guidelines, including animal welfare laws
- applicant is a fit and proper person to hold a permit.

Traps used to capture possums

A landholder may use a trap to capture a possum at their property if they are the holder of a valid Trap and Release Protected Animals Permit. Alternatively, a landholder may engage the services of a person who holds a valid Wildlife Management (Controller) Permit to undertake the trapping of possums.

The following possum trap specifications must apply:

- Minimum trap size dimensions: 540 mm (L) x 240 mm (W) x 240 mm (H)
- Maximum individual grid mesh size: 19 mm x 19 mm
- Trap door mechanism: spiral bait holder or pressure mounted foot treadle to activate door release.

Permit conditions

It is an offense for the permit holder, or any person listed on a permit, not to comply with the conditions of a Trap and Release Protected Animals Permit.

Limitations, restrictions and conditions for the trap and release of possums on a permit may include:

- species and quantity of animals that may be trapped and released
- location(s) where trap and release may take place
- persons additional to the permit holder who may undertake trap and release activities
- specification of the trap that may be used, including activation method and trap dimensions
- methods of trap and release comply with the guidelines for trapping possums and animal welfare laws
- restriction on releasing animals that are sick or unlikely to survive in the wild
- a report specifying the species and number trapped and released must be returned within 14 days of permit completion (i.e., when the permitted number of animals is reached) or within 14 days of permit expiry
- any additional conditions placed on the permit by the department.

Submit your application

Complete all sections of the application form and submit to the office below that is located nearest to the property being affected by wildlife.

	Address	Email	Phone
Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges			
Barossa Metro Adelaide Adelaide Hills Fleurieu Peninsula	Post & office: 115 Maryvale Road Athelstone 5076	dew.amlroffice@sa.gov.au	(08) 7133 7300
Yorke and Mid North			
Southern Flinders Mid North Yorke Peninsula	Post & office: 155 Main North Road Clare 5453	yorkeandmidnorth.npw@sa.gov.au	(08) 8841 3400
Riverland and Murraylands			
Berri	Post: PO Box 231 Berri 5343 Office: 28 Vaughan Terrace Berri, 5343	rm.npws@sa.gov.au	(08) 8429 9690
Murray Bridge	Post: PO Box 752 Murray Bridge 5253		
Lameroo	Post: PO Box 21 Lameroo 5302		
Limestone Coast (South East)			
Mt Gambier	Post: PO Box 1046 Mount Gambier 5290 Office: 152 Jubilee Highway East, Mount Gambier	lc.npws@sa.gov.au	(08) 7424 5770
Naracoorte	Post: PO Box 134 Naracoorte 5271 Office: Wonambi Road, Naracoorte		(08) 8760 1203
Meningie	Post: PO Box 105 Meningie 5264		(08) 7133 7270

Eyre Peninsula and Far West			
Port Lincoln	Post: PO Box 22 Port Lincoln 5606 Office: 86 Tasman Terrace, Port Lincoln	epparks@sa.gov.au	(08) 8688 3111
Ceduna	Post: PO Box 569 Ceduna 5690 Office: 50B McKenzie Street, Ceduna		(08) 8625 3144
Gawler Ranges	Post: PO Box 221 Wudinna 5652		(08) 8648 1883
Streaky Bay	Post: PO Box 333 Streaky Bay 5680 Office: 15 Bay Road, Streaky Bay		(08) 8626 1108
Kangaroo Island			
Kingscote	Post: PO Box 39 Kingscote 5223 Office: 37 Dauncey Street, Kingscote	dew.npwsreferralskangarooisland@sa.gov.au	(08) 8553 4444
Flinders and Outback			
Port Augusta	Post: PO Box 78 Port Augusta, 5700 Office: Level 1, 9 Mackay Street, Port Augusta	dew.flindersandoutback@sa.gov.au	(08) 8648 5300
Balcanoona (Vulkathunha Gammon Ranges)	Post: Private Mail Bag 13 Via Copley 5732		(08) 8648 4829
Wilpena Pound (Ikara-Flinders Ranges)	Post: Private Mail Bag 22 Hawker 5434 Office: Wilpena Road, Hawker		(08) 8648 0049



Application for a Trap and Release Protected Animals Permit (possums)

Pursuant to section 53(1)(c) or (d) and 55 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* and National Parks and Wildlife (Wildlife) Regulations 2019

Form not valid for use after June 2026

Part 1: Personal information			
Your personal details			
Title	First name	Surname	Date of birth
Your residential address			
Street No.	Street name	City/suburb/town/locality	Post code
Your mailing address			
<input type="checkbox"/> as above			
e.g., Post Office Box		City/suburb/town	Post code
Your contact details			
Telephone number	Mobile number	Email	
Prior convictions			
Have you ever been convicted of an offence against the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972</i> , the <i>Animal Welfare Act 1985</i> , or equivalent interstate legislation? If yes, please provide details below.			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Description of offence	Year	State/Territory	
Part 2: Property location and use			
2.1 Location where you plan to trap and release the protected animal(s)			
<input type="checkbox"/> residential address stated above <input type="checkbox"/> different location (please provide details below)			
Street No.	Street name	City/suburb/town/locality	Post code
2.2 Primary use of property			
<input type="checkbox"/> private residence			
<input type="checkbox"/> business premises (please specify) _____			
<input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify) _____			



If 'Yes', please tick and describe below:		
Non-lethal methods used to minimise the impact or damage	Length of time trialed	Outcome of method
<input type="checkbox"/> Located/blocked off possum access points to building or structure <input type="checkbox"/> Installed one-way door flap at possum entry points to building or structure <input type="checkbox"/> Removed possum scent markings at entry points with household bleach <input type="checkbox"/> Pruned overhanging branches to building or structure <input type="checkbox"/> Installed tree collars around tree trunks to prevent building or structure access <input type="checkbox"/> Installed a possum box on the property <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify below) <input type="checkbox"/> None (please explain below why you have not trialed non-lethal methods)		
Comments/additional information: 		
Part 5: Method of capture for possums and source of possum trap		
Trapping of possums must use a trap with the following specifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum trap size dimensions: 540mm (L) x 240mm (W) x 240mm (H) Maximum individual grid mesh size: 19mm x 19mm Trap door mechanism: spiral bait holder or pressure mounted foot treadle to activate door release. 		
Where will you source a trap that meets the above specification to trap possums? <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Hire from local council <input type="checkbox"/> Hire from equipment hire business <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> I own/will buy a possum trap <input type="checkbox"/> Borrow from family/friend/neighbour </div> </div>		
Part 6. Persons to carry out trap and release of possums		
Who will be trapping and releasing the possums?		<input type="checkbox"/> applicant <input type="checkbox"/> another person
If a person other than yourself will trap and release the possums, please list their details below:		
Full name		
Residential address		

Part 7: Statement of intent for trapping and releasing possums		
1. Possum traps to be used will comply with the minimum specifications.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
2. Possum traps will only be used within a built structure (e.g., roof space).	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
3. Possum traps will only be operational between dusk and dawn and checked daily in the morning.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
4. I will make a reasonable effort to prevent possum re-entry into the built structure by sealing off possum entry points prior to releasing trapped possums.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
5. I will check that there are no remaining possums within the built structure prior to sealing off all entry points.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
6. Possums contained in a trap will be kept in a quiet place at the same property and will be protected from other people, the weather, temperature extremes, direct light, domestic pets and other wildlife.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
7. Possum traps will be covered with a permeable material that provide adequate ventilation and prevent direct light exposure.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
8. Possums will not be left in a possum trap for a period of more than 24 hours and will be provided with suitable food and water.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
9. Possums will be released within 24 hours of capture, released after dusk on the day of capture, and released on the same property (in the possum's own territory) within 50 metres of the capture site.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
10. Possums that cannot be released back to the wild due to disease, injury, or poor health will be taken to a registered veterinarian for humane euthanasia.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Part 6: Permit duration		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 month <input type="checkbox"/> 2 months <input type="checkbox"/> 3 months		
Part 7: Permit delivery method		
If a permit is granted, how would you like to receive the permit? <input type="checkbox"/> Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email		
Part 8: Declaration by applicant		Form not valid for use after June 2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I have read, understand and will comply with the requirements of the Trapping possums guidelines (as published on the DEW website). I declare that the information included in this application is true and accurate. I understand there are penalties for making a false or misleading statement. I understand that a permit may be declined or granted with parameters different to those applied. I acknowledge that the information provided in this application may be used in accordance with the Government of South Australia's Information Privacy Principles Instruction. 		
Signature of applicant		Dated

Report on taking protected animals (Trap and Release Protected Animals Permit)

Section 53(4) of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* and Regulation 12 of the National Parks and Wildlife (Wildlife) Regulations 2019 requires that you complete this report and return it within 14 days of permit expiry or revocation. Penalties may apply for non-lodgement of this report.

The completed report must be returned to the National Parks and Wildlife Service office at the above address.

If all animals are trapped and released before the permit expiry date, you are requested to complete this report and return it within 14 days of permit completion.

If no protected animals were trapped and released pursuant to the permit, the report must state that fact.

This report may be required before future permit applications are considered.

Permit number:

Permit Holder:

Summary of animals taken and released

Species common name	Actual number trapped and released	Date and time of release of each animal

Permit holder signature: _____

Date: _____

