

Native Vegetation Council

Member Profiles 2023-2025



Government
of South Australia



Native Vegetation
Council

Dr Marilyn Henderson

Presiding Member

Nominated by the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water

Dr Henderson has been a primary producer for over 40 years; she is a Back Valley Beef farmer and a semi-retired research scientist. Dr Henderson is an Elected Member of the City of Victor Harbor and has represented her local council on the Tree Assessment Panel. She is experienced in revegetation of rural properties and vegetation management and has experience of local board membership. Dr Henderson holds a PhD in Animal Science, a Graduate Diploma in Environmental Studies and has volunteered in several zoological roles.

Ms Leanne Muffet

Member

Nominated by the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water for Landscapes SA

Ms Muffet qualified as a social scientist in 1995, and has 25 years' experience working at the forefront of strategy, biodiversity, natural resource management, planning, engagement, and governance. This includes as Chair, Deputy Chair and/or member of national and state committees and boards. Leanne is a member of the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board.

Prof Hugh Possingham

Member

Nominated by the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water

Prof Possingham is a Professor at The University of Queensland, the co-Chief Councillor of the newly created Biodiversity Council and Chief Scientist of Accounting for Nature. Most recently he was the Queensland Chief Scientist and Chief Scientist of The Nature Conservancy (globally). Prof Possingham is a conservation scientist who engages with community, government and industry on issues such as vegetation management, threatened species, regional planning and biodiversity offsetting. He has co-authored over 750 peer-reviewed scientific papers and supervised over 90 PhD students.

Mr Michael Cornish

Member

Nominated by the Conservation Council SA

Mr Cornish is a public policy professional with specialist skills in economics, law, international relations, and conflict management. He currently works as the Policy Lead for the Australian Land Conservation Alliance, the Australian peak body for private land conservation. His consultancy and project management roles have ranged across areas of work such as development economics, aid-for-trade, inclusive business, environmental policy, international trade, and tertiary education.

Ms Anna Hooper

Member

Nominated by the Primary Producers SA

Ms Hooper has 20 years' experience in the grape and wine sector. She has been a non-executive director of private and government boards in the fields of biosecurity, conservation, natural resource management, and grape and wine business. She is currently a non-executive director on the board of Landcare Australia. Ms Hooper has tertiary qualifications in Agricultural Science (oenology), a Masters of Agribusiness, a Graduate Diploma in Business Law and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Mr John Neal

Member

Nominated by the Local Government Association of SA

As a fourth-generation farmer, Mr Neal has significant knowledge and experience of regional priorities and issues. He has demonstrated a commitment to native vegetation and grassland management and restoration and is the current Chairman of the Mid-North Grassland Working Group. Mr Neal brings an understanding of local government, with experience as an elected member and Deputy Mayor of the Regional Council of Goyder. He also has an understanding of bushfire management with over 40 years' experience in the South Australian Country Fire Service. He is former vice president and treasurer of South Australian Farmers Federation.

Ms Kylie Weymouth

Member

Nominated by the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water in consultation with the Minister for Planning

Ms Weymouth is a qualified urban planner who has held a number of key roles in the recent state planning reforms, including Theme Lead, Natural Resources and Environment. She brings significant understanding and knowledge of the new planning system including the interaction of planning and native vegetation legislation. Ms Weymouth has over 20 years' planning experience including senior roles in local government and 15 years in State Government, as well as extensive experience in policy writing and development, strategic planning and community engagement. She also has experience in development assessment including large scale projects and Council Development Assessment Panel experience.