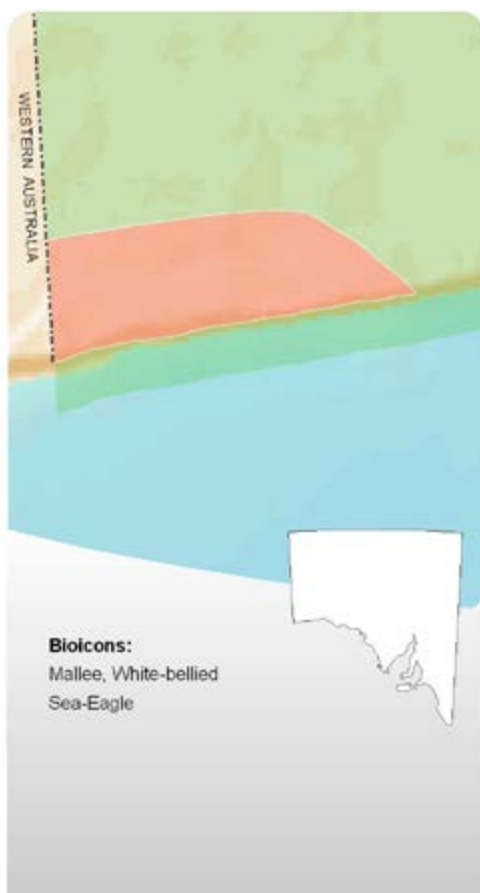


# Hampton



Photo DEH



The Hampton bioregion is located on the border of South Australia and Western Australia near the Great Australian Bight. Only 4% of the bioregion is in South Australia.

It has a semi-arid climate with mild to hot summers and cool to mild winters. The bioregion receives about 250mm of rain per year with most falling during the winter.

Most of the land in the bioregion is used for grazing sheep and cattle and some is used for conservation. The entire South Australian portion of the bioregion is set aside for conservation within the Nullarbor Conservation Park.

## Biodiversity and habitat

The bioregion has marine dunes with shifting white sands and limestone rock faces.

The vegetation is a mixture of mallee shrublands and woodlands, eucalypt and myall woodlands.

The limestone slopes and sandy conditions of the bioregion provide good habitat for many plant species. The harsh conditions harbour rare surprises like the Quandong, which is also known as the Native Peach. Rare or threatened species in the bioregion include the Grey Currawong (north western subspecies), Prickly Wattle and Coastal White Mallee. The Greater Stick-nest Rat is now extinct in this region.



## Threats

Threats to the Hampton bioregion and its dependent species include:

- invasive animal species including foxes, wild dogs, feral cats, starlings, camels, horses and rabbits
- invasive plants like the Sea Spurge.

There are caves in the bioregion with locally endemic fauna.

## Conservation

Reserves include Nuytsland Nature Reserve and Eucla National Park in Western Australia. The entire South Australian section of this bioregion is protected within Nullarbor National Park. You can help conserve the Hampton bioregion and its dependent species by:

- raising awareness about the impacts that introduced plants and animals are having on your local environment
- participating in special events, information sessions, tree planting days and weed eradication programs.

## For further information

### Public enquiries

For more local information on any of the species in this resource please contact your nearest Natural Resource Centre office on:

**Eastwood:** (08) 8273 9100

**Gawler:** (08) 8523 7700

**Lobethal:** (08) 8389 5900

**Willunga:** (08) 8550 3400

### Education enquiries

For teachers wanting more information about environmental education resources and opportunities please contact the relevant NRM Education sub regional team on:

**Northern Adelaide:** (08) 8406 8289

**Barossa:** (08) 8563 8436

**Central Adelaide:** (08) 8234 7255

**Southern Adelaide:** (08) 8384 0176

**Southern Fleurieu:** (08) 8551 0524



# Mallee

*Eucalyptus spp.*



Map courtesy of Mapping Unit, Customer and Commercial Services.

Map is not intended to indicate spatial distribution of the species, only the bioregions in which the species is found.

Mallee comes from an Aboriginal name for a group of eucalypts that grow two to nine metres high. They are multi-stemmed and grow from underground woody bases called lignotubers. Mallee is also the name for the vegetation communities in which Mallee eucalypts grow. These communities usually include several layers of vegetation from large shrubs to small grasses and ephemerals. Mallee support a wide range of biodiversity, including the Malleefowl.

Leaf litter is slow to decompose in Mallee areas because of the dry conditions, so there is often plenty of fuel for a fire. Mallee eucalypts have adapted to cope well with fire. They grow vigorously from dormant shoots under the bark of the branches, the trunks, or the lignotuber. This is called epicormic growth.

Lignotubers store water and nutrients so new branches can grow if they have been damaged or cut to the ground. This has been very annoying for farmers trying to cut them down. They are also very difficult to remove from the ground and used to break a lot of ploughs as they are solid and rock-like. Large-scale clearance started in SA around 1900 when the stump-jump plough was invented. Farmers then conquered the Mallee, but when the trees were gone there were problems with the soil becoming too salty and eroding away. It was realised too late that plant cover is very important for keeping the soil stable and stopping salt water from rising to the surface.

## Habitat

Mallee eucalypts grow in the semi-arid parts of southern Australia, and have many adaptations that help them survive the hot, dry conditions. Like most eucalypts, they close the pores of their leaves (stomates) during the heat of the day so they lose less moisture through evaporation.

## Threats

Being cleared for agriculture is the biggest threat to Mallees both historically and today. Drought caused by climatic change and too frequent and intense bushfires put pressure on populations of these trees. Their understorey is often grazed on by sheep, cattle and goats. Rabbits also graze on new shoots which can make it more difficult for them to grow. Salinity and habitat fragmentation are other problems Mallee plants face.



Musical Mallees! Didgeridoos are made from the stems of Mallee eucalypts that have been hollowed out by termites.

### Conservation

You can help Mallee eucalypts by:

- preserving these trees on your property
- being waterwise at home and helping ease the strain on our limited water sources
- getting involved with revegetation projects like the Million Trees Project.

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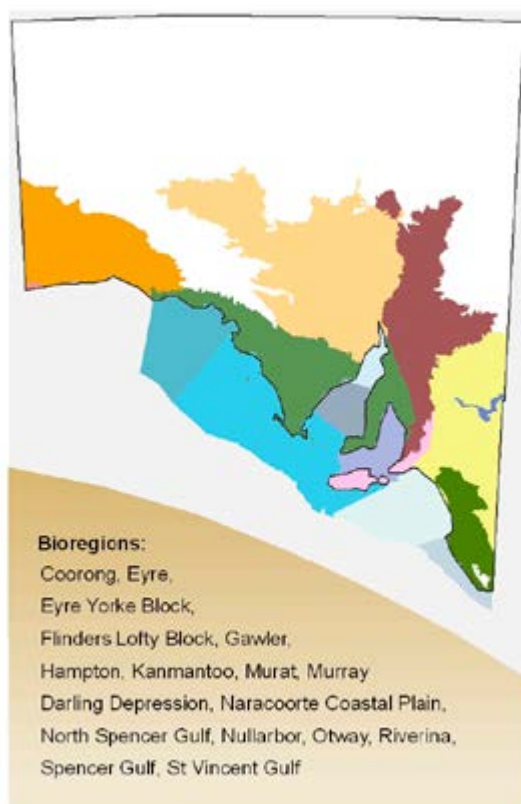
**Southern Fleurieu:** (08) 8551 0524





# White-bellied Sea-Eagle

*Haliaeetus leucogaster*



Map courtesy of Mapping Unit, Customer and Commercial Services.

Map is not intended to indicate spatial distribution of the species, only the bioregions in which the species is found.

White-bellied Sea-Eagles are large birds of prey. They are graceful in flight and spend their time soaring over the surface of the sea, or perching on rocks or branches beside the water. They live for up to 30 years in the wild.

## Diet

These birds hunt fish, tortoises, sea-snakes, waterfowl, reptiles, nestling birds, rabbits and also eat carrion. They are aggressive and skilled hunters both at sea and on the land. Their large talons and powerful curved beaks help them to grab and kill their prey. Thick scales on their legs protect them like armour. Excellent eyesight makes it easy for them to target their next meal. Occasionally, they harass other birds such as ospreys and terns until they drop their prey which the eagles then collect.

## Breeding

These eagles mate for life and share the same hunting range. In the morning and evening they roost and sometimes sing together. When breeding begins, sometime from May to October, White-bellied Sea-Eagles put on great aerial displays. They soar and call, loop-the-loop, drop fish from a height and then dive to catch it in midair. Nests are built on cliffs or in trees, and sometimes on the ground on treeless islands. Both sexes help with the construction and repair of a nest. Nests are made of sticks, and are huge structures up to four metres deep and 2.5m wide. Nests are lined with stems and green leaves and females lay a clutch of two eggs. Eggs are incubated for around six weeks, mostly by the female. One egg is laid several days before the other, and it is usually only the chick with the head start that survives because the parents feed the noisiest, most active chick first. If the first egg is infertile, or the chick is weak and dies, the second chick has a better chance of survival.

## Habitat

White-bellied Sea-Eagles are found throughout Australia along coasts and beside lowland rivers and lakes. They also occur in south-east Asia and India.

## Threats

The loss of nesting sites due to development is a major threat to the White-bellied Sea-Eagles. Disturbance of nesting pairs by human activity can cause them to abandon their nests. Deterioration of inland water sources and over-fishing in the ocean makes it harder for them to find food. Competition for food and nesting sites with Wedge-tailed Eagles (*Aquila audax*) is a potential problem.



Big birds! White-bellied Sea-Eagles have a wingspan of up to 2.2 metres. Their home ranges can be up to 100 square kilometres.

### Conservation

You can help the White-bellied Sea-Eagle by:

- always keeping your distance from eagles and their nests as they are easily disturbed by human activity
- protecting areas of native vegetation in your local area
- reporting anyone you see interfering with nests or disturbing sea eagles.

## For further information

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