

Enquiries: Zoe Drechsler (08 8203 7438)
Reference: ACC2009/84260

29 May 2009

National Biodiversity Response
PO Box 1715
Tamworth NSW 2340

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: *Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2020* -

Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on the consultation draft of *Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2020* (ABCS). The Sustainability Department of Adelaide City Council provides the following response, based on Council's draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy (ESS) that was recently released for public consultation.

Adelaide City Council is committed to conservation of biodiversity. This is reflected in *Creating our Future*, the City of Adelaide Strategic Plan 2008-2012. A Strategic Direction in this document is to *Enhance water quality, ecological systems and biodiversity in the City by advancing biodiversity and ecological outcomes through conservation of remnant habitats, habitat restoration and by encouraging community participation and interaction.*

Urban biodiversity does not receive a high profile in the ABCS. Given that the majority of Australians live and work in urban areas, programs in these areas will be very important in achieving the objectives under Priority 2: Mainstreaming Biodiversity of the ABCS.

The 720ha Park Lands surrounding the City of Adelaide contain valuable biodiversity assets, and provide an accessible space for education, awareness raising and promotion of biodiversity conservation. Strategy 3.4 of the draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy (ESS) is to *Increase community understanding and involvement by providing and supporting biodiversity programs, grants and events and installing interpretive signage in the Park Lands.*

Further to this, it is important to ensure that conservation and awareness raising activities are strategic. Action 1.1.2 of the ABCS (prepare and implement biodiversity plans at all levels) is consistent with Strategy 3.3 of the draft ESS (*Plan and implement an ecological network that protects remnant biodiversity and restores local native vegetation and aquatic habitats and is cognisant of social and recreational uses*).

Please contact Zoe Drechsler, Sustainability Policy Officer, on 08 8203 7438 or at z.drechsler@adelaidecitycouncil.com if you have any questions in regards to this submission.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A Stokes". The letter "A" is large and stylized, followed by "Stokes" in a cursive script.

Adrian Stokes
Manager Sustainability