



# BIODIVERSITY ADVISORY GROUP

## TERMS OF REFERENCE December 2018

**These Terms of Reference are to be read in conjunction with Council's Advisory Group Operation and Conduct Policy.**

### BACKGROUND

In November 2013, Adelaide Hills Council adopted a *Biodiversity Strategy* (the Strategy) to guide how Council manages land under its care and control in order to achieve regional biodiversity outcomes.

The Strategy outlines a number of short, medium, and long term objectives, strategies and actions. It was recognised that the development of an advisory group whose focus was to provide advice and direction to Council for the district as a whole, would be the most efficient and effective way to achieve a number of these objectives, strategies and actions.

These Terms of Reference set out the operating framework, roles and responsibilities of the Biodiversity Advisory Group ('the Group') and its members.

### ROLE

The role of the Advisory Group shall be to provide specialist advice to the Executive Officer in the implementation of Council's Biodiversity Strategy and provide feedback and information from and to other interested community groups and community members.

The Advisory Group shall provide Council staff with access to external expertise, networks and links to other organisations, community groups and the wider community with regard to biodiversity issues.

### STRATEGIC LINKS

#### Strategic Plan

<b><i>Prosper</i></b> - People and business prosper	1.12	We will seek opportunities to increase the wellbeing and resilience of our community to withstand, recover and grow in the face of challenges
<b><i>Connect</i></b> - Activities and opportunities to connect	2.5	We will support opportunities for learning in our community to increase the confidence, wellbeing and health of our citizens
<b><i>Place</i></b> - Activities and opportunities to connect	3.3	We will complete the road reserves and reserve assessments (blue marker project, leading the nation in conservation and biodiversity management practices

## **FUNCTIONS**

The advice the Biodiversity Advisory Group will provide to Council is based on achieving (but not limited to) the following objectives and actions outlined in the Biodiversity Strategy:

- Identify policy options to better address issues between native vegetation and surrounding incompatible activities.
- Plan for connectivity linkages between habitats to increase range and enable adaptability of native flora and fauna.
- Undertake a proactive, strategic and practical program to balance bushfire management with biodiversity outcomes.
- Maintain road safety while supporting biodiversity value (within the Blue Marker Sites).
- Keep a register of council areas where known populations of threatened or declining indigenous species are extant and prioritise management.
- Generate community interest and facilitate new community involvement in conservation activities.
- Build community capacity to deliver biodiversity outcomes.
- Facilitate and engage in liaison between experienced land management groups to learn from each other.
- Improve, expand on and develop new partnerships that assist in biodiversity planning, management and funding opportunities within the region.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

The Biodiversity Advisory Group shall comprise of up to nine (9) members;

- Three (3) of whom shall be Council Members.
- Three (3) from partnering conservation organisations, assessed against selection criteria below
- Three (3) members shall be community representatives, assessed against selection criteria listed below

The Manager Open Space (or delegate) or other officer appointed by the Chief Executive Officer shall act as Executive Officer for the Biodiversity Advisory Group.

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

A partnering conservation organisation is an organisation that has a focus on biodiversity and meets one or more of the following criteria,

- provide programs within the district.
- have entered into a formal Agreement with Council
- are closely linked to Council in delivery of biodiversity projects
- provide or gain financial support to or from Council for biodiversity projects within the district

Organisations that meet the criteria to be a partnering conservation organisation shall then be eligible to be selected on the basis of the criteria outlined below.

Community representatives and partnering conservation organisations shall be selected on the basis of their skills, knowledge and experience in one or more of the following:

- natural resource management;
- native flora and fauna conservation;
- active participation in regional biodiversity projects;
- community education and development;
- managing fire risk in high conservation/biodiversity areas

- Grant processes (Government or otherwise);
- Links to relevant networks, community groups, and wider community;
- any other areas of relevance.

Appointments shall be to persons and not representatives of particular interest groups (with the exception of the 3 members from partnering conservation organisations), organisations or partisan interests. Appointees shall be appointed to represent all stakeholders. This does not preclude members of particular interest groups or those aligned with particular stakeholder interests from being appointed to the Group.

It shall be a pre-requisite that community representatives live, work or have an active interest in the Adelaide Hills Council area.