



Environment and Heritage Expertise

Technical Guideline

TG 0875.22 – Fauna

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**Government of
South Australia**

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Significant/major changes incorporated in this edition

Not applicable - this is the first edition of the Technical Guideline.


Document controls

Version history

Version	Date	Author	Comments
1.0	28 August 2025	Various	Issued for Use

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Approvers

Approver Name	Approver Role	Signature
Tim Kildea	Manager Environment and Heritage Expertise	<div>16/09/2025</div> <div>X </div> <div>Tim Kildea Manager Environment and Heritage Expertise Signed by: KI000359</div>
Brooke Swaffer	Manager Environment and Recreation	<div>16/09/2025</div> <div>X Brooke Swaffer</div> <div>Brooke Swaffer Manager Environment and Recreation Signed by: SW001471</div>

Reviewers

Name	Role	Version	Review Date
Environment and Heritage Expertise Team	Team review of guidelines.	1.0	28-08-2025

1 Introduction

This guideline relates to the assessment and management of fauna (including terrestrial and aquatic fauna including fauna habitat, protected fauna species and fisheries) which may be encountered during a project's planning, construction, operations or maintenance activities.

It forms part of the TG 0875 - Environment and Heritage Technical Guidelines and is designed to provide insight into regulatory obligations associated with vegetation, as well as suggested approaches to manage risk.

Note the guideline is not exhaustive, and additional requirements may be necessary based on project- or site-specific activities, geographical location, or approval conditions.

1.1 Environment and Heritage Technical Guidelines Suite

The SAWG-ENV-0875 Environment and Heritage Technical Guidelines suite includes:

- TG 0875.00: General requirements
- TG 0875.11: Aboriginal heritage and Native Title
- TG 0875.12: Non-Aboriginal heritage
- TG 0875.21: Vegetation
- **TG 0875.22: Fauna (this guideline)**
- TG 0875.23: Weed hygiene
- TG 0875.24: Phytophthora
- TG 0875.31: Surface water
- TG 0875.32: Groundwater
- TG 0875.33: Recycled water
- TG 0875.34: Sediment, erosion and stormwater
- TG 0875.35: Dewatering, dredging and earthworks drainage
- TG 0875.41: Site contamination
- TG 0875.42: Acid sulfate soils
- TG 0875.43: Hazardous substances
- TG 0875.51: Dust
- TG 0875.52: Odour
- TG 0875.53: Noise and vibration
- TG 0875.61: Spoil management
- TG 0875.62: Recycling
- TG 0875.63: Waste management

This guideline must be read in conjunction with TG 0875.00: General requirements

1.2 General requirements

TG 0875.00: General requirements apply to all aspects of the work:

1. Purpose
2. Application
3. Scope
4. Statutory obligations
5. Strategic alignment
6. Terms and abbreviations

2 Fauna

2.1 Overview

MANAGEMENT	
Commitment	It is important to prevent harm to wildlife by avoiding contact with animals and safeguarding their habitats from damage. Native wildlife is protected under federal and state government environment or wildlife regulations.
Strategic objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment Corporate Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our culture creates empowerment, increased accountability for environmental decisions and demonstrates proactive leadership Our communities live in greener environments with thriving ecosystems Asset Management Corporate Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An integrated approach enables the sustainability outcomes our customers, community and owner expect
Key Performance Indicator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KPI 1: Preliminary assessment undertaken to identify potential impact to fauna and fauna habitat KPI 2: Incident management procedures embedded in management plans and construction plans KPI 3: No environmental incidents as a result of native fauna impacts or disturbance
Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth) – EPBC Act Native Vegetation Act 1991 (SA) - Native Vegetation Regulations 2017 (SA) National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 (SA) – NPW Act Landscape South Australia Act 2019 (SA) – Landscape Act Fisheries Management Act 2007 (SA) – Fisheries Act Animal Welfare Act 1985 (SA) Animal Welfare Regulations 2012
Regulatory approvals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protected Species Permit (Fisheries Act, NPW Act) Native Vegetation Clearance Matters of National Environmental Significance Referral (EPBC Act)
Statutory obligations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Landscape South Australia Act 2019 (SA)</i>, Section 8: A person must act reasonably in relation to the management of natural resources within the State. <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)</i>; Part 3: Requirements for environmental approvals relating to MNES: A person must not take an action that will or is likely to have a significant impact on a MNES without approval from the Commonwealth Minister.
Reference material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matters of National Environmental Significance: Significant impact guidelines 1.1 Light Pollution Guidelines: National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife - Including marine turtles, seabirds and migratory Shorebirds Fish Passage Requirements for Waterway Crossings PIRSA Ministerial Permits and Exemptions

MANAGEMENT**Related guidelines**

- TG 0875.21: Vegetation
- TG 0875.53: Noise and vibration

2.2 Planning and design

MITIGATION MEASURES	STAKEHOLDERS
A Preliminary Fauna Assessment (desktop) must be undertaken to identify any potential fauna habitat constraints and risks. For threatened fauna or migratory species, a likelihood of occurrence assessment may be required.	Environmental Officer Asset Planner
Potential fauna impact minimisation options must be identified to influence options selection and decision making.	Environmental Officer Project manager Design Manager
Where there is a risk of impacting fauna habitat that requires further investigation, a Detailed Fauna Assessment (which may include a fauna survey) is required and must be undertaken by an Accredited Consultant.	Environmental Officer Project Manager Design Manager
For threatened fauna or migratory species, where there is a potential to have, or likely to have, a significant impact, consider opportunities to programming works outside of breeding/migratory season for identified species and undertake a self-assessment in accordance with EPBC Act significant impact guidelines.	Environmental Officer Project Manager
Design of waterway structures and crossings should consider native fish passage to allow native aquatic fauna and fish movement during operation.	Design Manager Project Manager Environmental Officer
Requirements for aquatic environments, disturbance of water bodies, removal or relocation of animals or plants in an aquatic environment, to comply with will require authorisation under relevant legislation.	Environmental Officer Project Manager
Design of operational lighting should consider the impact of artificial lighting on any neighbouring wildlife i.e. light only the area needed or use adaptive light controls to manage timing and intensity.	Design Manager Project Manager Environmental Officer

2.3 Construction

MITIGATION MEASURES	STAKEHOLDERS
Exclusion zones for significant fauna habitat must be established, fenced or flagged off with signage prior to mobilisation to site or commencement of land or vegetation disturbance.	Contractor
Protected trees or other native fauna habitat must be flagged or otherwise easily identifiable prior to mobilisation to site or commencement of land or vegetation disturbance.	Contractor

MITIGATION MEASURES	STAKEHOLDERS
Inspect vegetation and the work site for fauna prior to clearing or trimming. For relocation of any protected native fauna, a person holding a valid Wildlife Management (Controller) permit must be used.	Contractor
All vehicles must use designated access tracks and laydown areas, and maximum speed limits around the site must be set and enforced.	Contractor
During excavation activities ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holes, pits or trenches are backfilled immediately so as not to leave any holes, pits or trenches open for longer than necessary. Holes, pits or trenches that cannot be backfilled immediately are plugged, fenced, covered or appropriately managed to reduce the likelihood of animals falling into the excavation. Install fauna ramps where required to ensure that any trapped fauna have a path to exit the excavation. 	Contractor
Recognised wildlife rescue providers must be used in the event wildlife becomes injured, entrapped or requires relocation.	Contractor
Provide a sealed bin or similar for site waste to discourage fauna from foraging on the site.	Contractor
Ensure works are undertaken with regard for the Weed Hygiene Guideline to minimise adverse impacts to native fauna habitat.	Contractor
Ensure management plans include defined protocols for wildlife encounters (either planned or unplanned) to minimise the potential of harm to fauna and site personnel.	Contractor
Ensure appropriate permits are in place for any impacts to native fauna (including aquatic fauna), which may relate to killing, injuring, catching, damaging, destroying, or collecting.	Contractor
Ensure any measures or recommendations identified during any vegetation assessment or fauna survey are incorporated into management plans.	Contractor
Ensure management plans recognise all approval conditions associated with the protection of native fauna, including those with conservation significance at the federal, state or regional level.	Contractor
Ensure management plans include appropriate detail on the type and location of all control measures to be implemented to manage risk to native fauna.	Contractor

2.4 Monitoring requirements

DESCRIPTION	METRIC	FREQUENCY	ACCOUNTABILITY
Fauna mitigation control measures	Visual inspection	Daily	Contractor