



**Nature
Foundation**



Wildlife

Recovery Fund

Grant Program Guidelines 2026



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INTRODUCTION

The Wildlife Recovery Fund is a joint initiative between Nature Foundation and the South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service, aimed at helping to finance projects promoting recovery and increased resilience of vital habitats damaged or destroyed by fire.

While many Australian ecosystems have evolved alongside fire and can recover over time, in today's fragmented landscape some species can be at risk of disappearing locally if a single fire affects too much of their habitat and other threats are not managed.

The Wildlife Recovery Fund's current focus is supporting the recovery of landscapes and native species impacted by the recent fires on the Fleurieu Peninsula, South Australia. The outcomes generated by the funded projects will help to provide additional habitat to support recovery of native animals and plants and improve scientific knowledge in future bushfires.

KEY DATES:

Applications close:
5pm ACST Monday 14/09/2026

Assessment period:
Late September 2026

Successful applicants announced:
October 2026

Projects begin: October 2026

GRANTS BEING OFFERED

Applications are invited via two funding streams in the 2026 Wildlife Recovery Fund Grant Program:

FUNDING STREAM	NUMBER OF GRANTS OFFERED	GRANT AMOUNT	TOTAL FUNDING POOL	FUNDING PERIOD
Management and Monitoring	4	\$10,000	\$40,000	2 YEARS
Honours	2	\$3,000	\$6,000	1 YEAR

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for consideration for the above grants, proposed projects must meet the following criteria:

- Applicants for \$10,000 management and monitoring grants must be a private landowner or a registered South Australian organisation
- Applicants for \$3,000 Honours grants must be enrolled at an Australian University
- The project location must be in areas (Fig. 1) affected by:
 - The Tooperang fire near Mount Compass
 - The Deep Creek National Park fire, which also impacted almost all the Talisker Conservation Park.
- The proposed research must benefit native South Australian flora and fauna (particularly threatened species) and their habitats affected by the fires
- Applications must include a description of all methods to be used in the proposed research
- Applications must have relevant insurance, ethics and permits approvals, and landowner permission in place at the time of application
- Applications must include a budget detailing annual expenditure, with quotes for any proposed equipment purchases totalling \$5,000 or more
- Applications that include co-contributions will be considered favourably
- Applications will not be accepted from students or organisations that have outstanding obligations or grant acquittal reports for projects previously funded by Nature Foundation or the Wildlife Recovery Fund

ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE

Funding is available for a variety of activities which promote recovery, protection and increased resilience of fire impacted habitat and native flora and fauna (particularly threatened species) in South Australia.

Projects must be undertaken either on fire impacted land or for the benefit of fire impacted habitat, native flora and fauna (particularly threatened species) in South Australia.

Funded activities may include but are not limited to:

- Fence repair
- Weed control
- Habitat restoration
- Erosion control
- Feral/pest animal control
- Monitoring and research to understand the effects of the fire and how populations of threatened species recover

WHAT WILL NOT BE FUNDED

- Projects, works or activities already funded by existing or future insurance claims, unless funding through the Wildlife Recovery Grants Program would provide for additional enhancement of a project that is already funded.
- Activities that are causing or likely to cause environmental damage, either directly or indirectly.
- Control of overabundant native species.
- Reimbursement for personal labour costs.
- Property boundary fencing (if no fire related damage has occurred).
- Preparation of the grant application.
- Purchase of larger machinery, plant, and equipment.
- Retrospective funding of activities.
- Project management and administration costs of the applicant's sponsor organisation (payee).
- Existing debts or shortfalls.
- Marketing and promotion of the organisation or existing services (unless directly associated with the project and educational in nature).
- Activities that are unlawful.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The assessment panel will consider expressions of interest (EOI) for projects based on the following criteria:

1. Does the project meet the eligibility criteria?
2. Does the EOI have a clear statement of aims/objectives, that are achievable within the funding period?
3. Is the budget realistic and cost-effective, and does it include co-contributions?
4. Does the project have clear and tangible conservation outcomes for native flora and fauna impacted by the fires?
5. Do project outcomes directly benefit any threatened species?

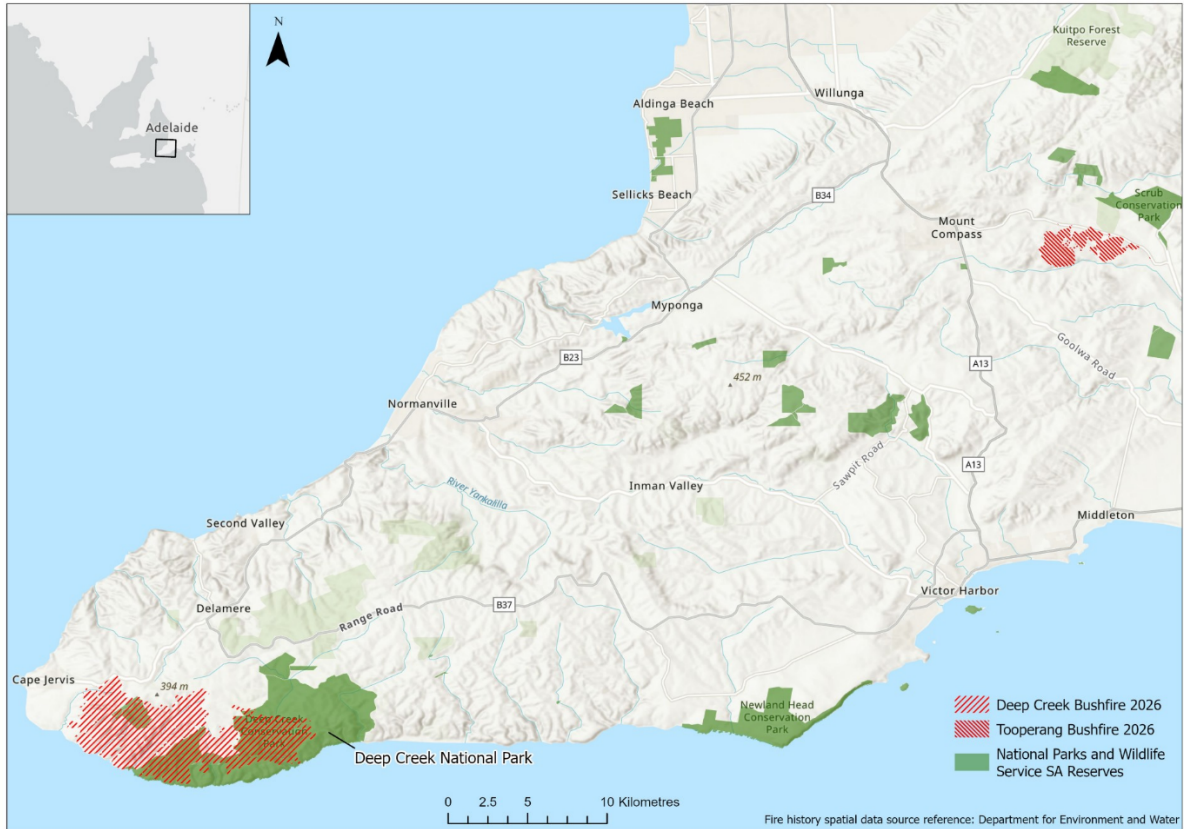


Figure 1. Locations eligible for project funding through this program (red shading).