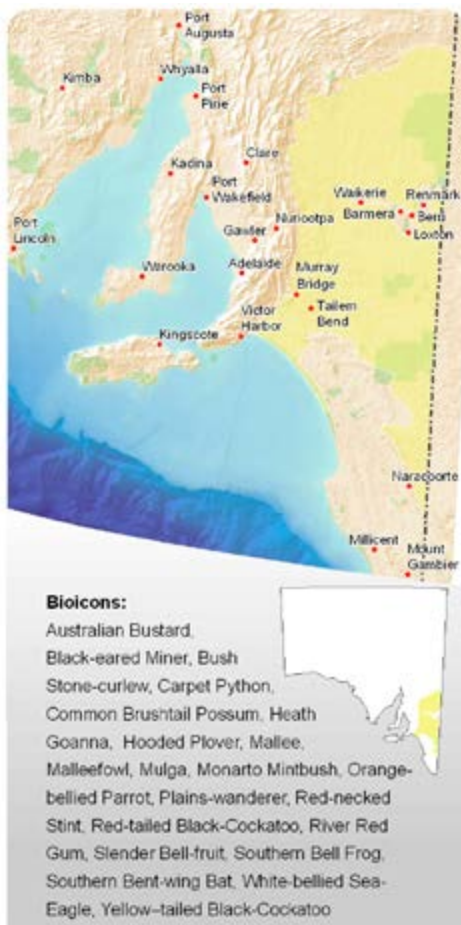


# Murray-Darling Depression



Photo ©SATC/ Matt Nettheim



The Murray-Darling Depression bioregion is in south-eastern South Australia, New South Wales and Victoria. About 19% of the bioregion is in South Australia and it includes the River Murray.

The climate is semi-arid in the north which means that it is hot in the summer and mild in the winter. The south experiences a Mediterranean climate with warm to hot summers and cool moist winters. Average annual rainfall in the bioregion ranges between around 200 to 550mm per year and most of the rain falls in winter.

Much of the native vegetation in the bioregion has been cleared. The cleared land is now mainly used for grazing, irrigated horticulture and growing cereal crops.

## Biodiversity and habitat

This bioregion has broad, rolling plains, sand dunes and lakes. There are large areas of mallee shrublands and woodlands. There are also open woodlands, tussock grasslands, heath and acacia shrublands.

Fire is important to the bioregion's biodiversity and many plant species in this bioregion have special features which help them survive bushfires. Some even need fire to help them reproduce!

Threatened bird species include the Malleefowl, Black-eared Miner and Redlored Whistler. Threatened plant species include the Jumping-jack Wattle and Hairy-pod Wattle. The Carpet Python is a threatened reptile of the region.





Photo ©SATC/ Matt Nettheim

### Threats

Threats to the Murray-Darling Depression bioregion and its dependent species include:

- salinity
- poor fire management
- overgrazing from feral rabbits and goats.

Prior to extensive clearance, the world's largest area of mallee occurred in this bioregion.

### Conservation

Less than 15% of the Murray-Darling Depression bioregion is in conservation reserves. Reserves in the South Australian section of the bioregion include Ngarkat Conservation Park, Billiat Conservation Park and Danggali Conservation Park/Wilderness Protection Area. A large area called 'Gluepot' is managed by Birds Australia.

You can help conserve the Murray-Darling Depression bioregion and its dependent species by:

- finding out more about how fire affects biodiversity
- learning about the Murray River system and its problems from Queensland to the mouth in South Australia
- Being water-wise at home.

## 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

