

Department for Environment and Water Corporate Plan 2022-2026

Our purpose

To help South Australians conserve sustain and prosper

Goal 1: A healthy, resilient environment

South Australia's biodiversity, ecosystems and wildlife are conserved, restored and resilient to climate change. We run world-class national parks and botanic gardens to protect our iconic places and recognise the intrinsic value of nature.

Goal 2: Improved liveability and wellbeing

Our natural resources and cultural heritage provide for the needs of our communities and are used to deliver enhanced lifestyle and cultural values for all peoples.

Goal 3: A prosperous South Australia for current and future generations

Our sustainably managed natural resources underpin the growth of a climate-resilient economy through increased productivity, competitiveness, innovation and private investment.

Our approach

We put nature first

We respect the intrinsic value of nature by:

- protecting and enhancing biodiversity
- restoring ecosystems and native species
- maintaining the ecological character of water-dependent ecosystems
- protecting and conserving our iconic natural places, parks, botanic gardens, rivers, wetlands and coastline
- building resilience to climate change in our natural systems
- regulating the clearance of native vegetation
- mitigating development impacts to our coastline
- using science as a basis for sound decision making and policy setting.

We engage community in our work

We work to ensure the liveability of our state and its ongoing attractiveness to local communities, visitors and business by:

- ensuring that secure water supplies are available to support our needs
- mitigating the risk of bushfires
- respecting Aboriginal culture, knowledge, experience and connection to country
- providing opportunities to connect with nature and heritage
- protecting the welfare of animals
- managing dogs and cats as part of our community
- protecting our built and natural heritage
- creating greener and cooler urban environments
- helping to build resilience to a changing climate
- supporting private land conservation and the broader environmental sector.

We enable sustainable growth

We support South Australia's ongoing prosperity by:

- supporting action to reduce emissions and support climate change adaptation through leadership and policy
- sustainably managing the condition of and access to natural resources
- proactively managing pastoral leases and Crown land tenure
- reducing the inundation of land and the impacts of dryland salinity in the South East
- creating unique and highly valued tourism opportunities
- implementing efficient and robust regulatory environments that create environmental and heritage sustainability and provide certainty and security to stakeholders
- providing access to natural resource information that encourages investment and enables more efficient and better quality decision making
- coordinating flood management (prevention, preparedness, response and recovery).

Foundational goal: A high-performing agency

Effective policy, programs and assets delivered by a capable workforce equipped with strong governance and robust systems. Stakeholders are supported to sustainably manage and enhance South Australia's natural and built environment and make sound long-term decisions for the benefit of all.



Partnerships and collaboration

We achieve meaningful outcomes by building trust and collaborating genuinely across government, and with the community, research partners, businesses, industry, and First Nations.



Community at the centre

We are genuine, creative and authentic when we engage with stakeholders and the community. We clearly communicate if we are engaging to inform, consult, involve, collaborate or empower.



High performance and adaptive management

We deliver important public value by pursuing efficiency, being accountable, valuing and empowering our people, and focusing on getting the right things done. Our governance - the decisions we make and the actions we take - are informed by evidence, engagement, analysis and expert advice.



People, diversity and inclusion

We support and value our people, their safety and their professional and personal development. We encourage diversity and inclusion to create a resourceful and vibrant workplace, and to truly represent the community we serve.



Respect for First Nations

We are committed to taking action with First Nations groups to support their objectives through engendering respect, building relationships, and creating opportunities. We respect the need for meaningful reconciliation and connection to Country.



Customer service

We are focused on our customers and take a 'yes if...' rather than a 'no, because...' approach. We work hard to understand and anticipate their needs and what they value. We provide service of the highest possible standard and where possible, develop innovative solutions to achieve the best possible outcomes.

Our outcomes and priorities



Goal 1: A healthy, resilient environment

- Improved landscape resilience
- Improved ecosystem health
- Improved species population viability

- Protection of existing biodiversity
- Reversal of declines in biodiversity and repair of past impacts
- Transformation of biodiversity to adapt to climate change
- Sustainable management of our rivers, watercourses, wetlands, ground water and floodplains
- A comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system
- Protection of privately owned natural/conservation areas to conserve natural heritage
- The natural environment is valued and prioritised by stakeholders

- Deliver conservation programs with our partners to protect existing habitat and recover threatened and declining species, ecosystems and landscapes
- Enable access to environmental water and undertake environmental watering in the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin
- Acquire strategic land parcels to add to the reserve system
- Manage our national parks, marine parks and other protected areas for biodiversity conservation outcomes
- Administer appropriate Crown land tenure and manage pastoral leases
- Undertake fire management for biodiversity outcomes
- Manage invasive and impact-causing native species in our national parks
- Support landholders to manage impact causing native species and protect native vegetation
- Regulate and mitigate the impact of development to native vegetation and biodiversity
- Protect, rehabilitate and restore our coastline
- Respect Aboriginal knowledge and incorporate it into planning and management approaches
- Maintain and improve our knowledge of species distribution and abundance across land and seascapes
- Understand the current state and future outlook for biodiversity across the state and prioritise action accordingly
- Engage in strategic research partnerships and provide credible scientific advice to enhance the effectiveness of conservation activity
- Implement Murray-Darling Basin Plan policy
- Deliver state based Basin Plan commitments

Goal 2: Improved liveability and wellbeing

- Greener, climate-resilient towns and cities
- Secure water supplies
- Enhanced wellbeing and cultural values
- Protection of animal welfare and management of dogs and cats in our community
- A safer community through reduced risk and effective response to bushfires and floods

- Improved access to and connection with nature and heritage
- Enhanced visitor experiences
- Enhanced connection to Country for First Nations Australians
- Climate-resilient supply of water for communities
- Effective fire management to manage fuel loads
- State heritage is protected
- Effective and coordinated flood risk management
- Animal welfare standards reflect community expectations

- Enhance and maintain visitor infrastructure in our national parks
- Engage and communicate with the community
- Deliver our volunteer programs
- Deliver priorities under the Water Security Statement
- Enhance urban water resource management
- Protect state heritage places, areas, objects and shipwrecks
- Protect animal welfare by ensuring effective legislation, systems and policy
- Secure international recognition of iconic natural and cultural heritage
- Engage and partner with First Nations
- Support and collaborate with landscape boards
- Undertake prescribed burning and other mitigation works to reduce fuel loads
- Improve management of South Australia's coastline in a changing climate
- Co-manage national parks
- Promote the conservation and responsible use of built, natural and cultural heritage
- Coordinate flood management across South Australia

Goal 3: A prosperous South Australia for current and future generations

- A low emissions, climate-resilient and more sustainable economy
- Sustainable economic development supported by well-managed natural resources
- SA is a destination of choice for travellers
- Activation of regional economies

- Support for climate risk management and emissions reduction
- Sustainable availability of an appropriate quantity and quality of water
- Realisation of the non-use benefits of our natural assets
- Sustainable and productive use of our land and other assets supports intergenerational and cultural equity

- Lead and deliver climate change science, policy and programs
- Allocate tenure and oversee the use of Crown land
- Facilitate the sale of surplus Crown land and the transfer of land to other government agencies
- Support tourism through promotion, public engagement and partnerships
- Manage water regulation and compliance
- Support water markets
- Develop, maintain and operate water related infrastructure
- Plan water management with the community
- Implement the National Water Initiative
- Supply cultural water
- Provide access to and oversee the sustainable use of pastoral leases
- Ensure sustainable rangeland management with compatibility between conservation and primary production

Foundational goal: A high-performing agency

Critical functions:

- Manage people to ensure a healthy, safe, engaged, diverse and inclusive workforce
- Enable robust corporate governance
- Responsibly and accountably manage finances
- Implement asset management policy
- Adhere to project management frameworks
- Administer grant funding mechanisms
- Administer legislation and regulation
- Optimise ICT to deliver agency outcomes
- Engage the community in our work
- Communicate with the public
- Implement DEW's Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan
- Create, translate and provide high-quality data and information
- Develop and maintain fair data management systems

Intermediate outcomes:

- Strong corporate governance and risk management
- Relevant policy and strategy
- Efficient systems and processes
- Efficient fair and timely administration of regulation
- Data is fit for purpose, useful, authoritative and is readily accessed
- Continuous improvement of our programs and functions
- Increased awareness and understanding of our work and our value
- Leverage of funding and expertise
- Effective stakeholder engagement and coordination
- Effective relationships with First Nations

Strategic outcomes:

- Effective programs
- Well-managed assets and resources
- Effective regulatory environment and regulation
- High-performing and effective boards and councils
- Quality data and science contribute to evidence-based policy, planning and investment
- Trusted and influential adviser
- Social license to operate
- High customer satisfaction