



**Government  
of South Australia**

# **NATIVE VEGETATION COUNCIL**

## **2022-23 Annual Report**

**NATIVE VEGETATION COUNCIL**

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To:

Dr Susan Close MP

Deputy Premier

Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science

Minister for Defence and Space Industries

Minister for Climate, Environment and Water

This annual report will be presented to Parliament to meet the statutory reporting requirements of the *Public Sector Act 2009*, the *Public Sector Regulations 2010*, the *Native Vegetation Act 1991* and the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular *PC013 Annual Reporting*.

This report is verified to be accurate for the purposes of annual reporting to the Parliament of South Australia.

Submitted on behalf of the Native Vegetation Council by:

Dr Marilyn Henderson

Presiding Member

Date 27 September 2023

Signature





## From the Presiding Member

It is a pleasure to report on another busy year for the Native Vegetation Council (Council).

This financial year has seen a change in the composition of the Council. Four new members have joined three continuing members to form a full Council of seven members appointed until 22 April 2025.

The Council has considered a significant number of applications for native vegetation clearance during 2022-23. A total of 1,625.58 hectares of native vegetation and 1,868 scattered trees have been cleared under the *Native Vegetation Act 1991* (Act) and *Native Vegetation Regulations 2017*. This has been offset by the management and restoration of 7,825.5 hectares of native vegetation, and \$11,765,324.67 of agreed Significant Environmental Benefit (SEB) payments into the Native Vegetation Fund.

This financial year, the Council held a 'Hills and Fleurieu Revegetation Grant' round. Grant expenditure of \$2,488,705 was approved for five projects, totalling 320 hectares of land to be restored to native vegetation.

A new Heritage Agreements Policy has been approved, accompanied with Guideline for Applications for Financial Assistance.

The Council conducts its work with the support of the Native Vegetation Branch within the Department for Environment and Water. It has also formed valuable partnerships across the state with Landscape Boards, local councils, State Government agencies and native vegetation specialists.

The Council continues to work with the key stakeholders to improve the protection and management of native vegetation in our State. It also used every opportunity to provide comment on significant legislative initiatives, such as the Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Bill.

For information about the Council please visit  
<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/native-vegetation>.



Dr Marilyn Henderson

**Presiding Member**

Native Vegetation Council

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## Overview: about the agency

### Our strategic focus

<b>Our Purpose</b>	The Native Vegetation Council (the Council) is established under the <i>Native Vegetation Act 1991</i> to further the objects of the Act: to protect and enhance the native vegetation of South Australia, to assist and encourage landholders to protect and conserve existing native vegetation and encourage revegetation in parts of the State that have been extensively cleared.
<b>Our Vision</b>	<p>The Council's vision is of a South Australia that values and protects its remnant native vegetation for its many intrinsic qualities. The Council actively supports this vision by providing expert advice and leadership, and partnering and engaging with others, to ensure a contemporary approach to regulating native vegetation management across South Australia.</p> <p>Council achieves this by promoting the ecological, social, economic, and Aboriginal heritage values of our native vegetation and its important contribution to the health of our landscapes and sustaining the livelihoods of South Australians.</p>
<b>Our Values</b>	Promote the value of native vegetation and build community understanding of this value.
<b>Our functions, objectives and deliverables</b>	<p>The Council monitors the overall condition of South Australia's native vegetation and makes decisions on a wide range of matters concerning native vegetation in the State.</p> <p>The key role of the Council is to provide a balanced and considered approach to native vegetation management through engaging with clearance proponents and stakeholder groups. The challenge for the Council is managing native vegetation in balance with economic growth and development for South Australia.</p> <p>Council's functions under the Act include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• review the condition of the native vegetation of the State</li> <li>• advise the Minister in relation to -             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the preservation, enhancement and management of existing native vegetation</li> <li>b) the re-establishment of native vegetation on land where native vegetation has been cleared or degraded</li> <li>c) research into the preservation, enhancement and management of native vegetation and the re-establishment of native vegetation on cleared land</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• keep the principles of clearance of native vegetation under review and to advise the Minister of any changes to the principles that it considers are necessary or desirable</li> <li>• determine applications for consent to clear native vegetation under Part 5 of the Act</li> <li>• assess and respond to applications referred to Council under the <i>Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016</i></li> <li>• encourage the re-establishment of native vegetation on land from which native vegetation has been cleared</li> <li>• encourage research into the preservation, enhancement and management of existing native vegetation</li> <li>• administer the Native Vegetation Fund pursuant to Division 3 of the Act</li> <li>• perform such other functions as are assigned to the Council under this or any other Act.</li> </ul>
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## Our organisational structure

During 2022-23 the Council's members were:

Name	Nominated by	Term of office
Dr Marilyn Henderson, Presiding Member	Minister for Climate, Environment and Water	1 May 2023 to 22 April 2025
Ms Kylie Weymouth, Member	Minister for Planning	23 April 2021 to 15 April 2023; reappointed 23 April 2023 to 22 April 2025
Mr John Neal, Member	Local Government Association of SA	23 April 2021 to 15 April 2023; reappointed 23 April 2023 to 22 April 2025
Mr Michael Cornish, Member	Conservation Council of SA	6 December 2022 to 22 April 2023; reappointed 23 April 2023 to 22 April 2025
Prof Hugh Possingham, Member	Minister for Climate, Environment and Water	23 April 2023 to 22 April 2025
Ms Anna Hooper, Member	Primary Producers SA	23 April 2023 to 22 April 2025

Ms Leanne Muffet, Member	Minister for Climate, Environment and Water for <i>Landscape SA</i>	23 April 2023 to 22 April 2025
Mr Vaughan Levitzke PSM, Past Presiding Member	Minister for Climate, Environment and Water	1 May 2021 to 30 April 2023
Prof Robert Hill, Past Member	Minister for Climate, Environment and Water	23 April 2021 to 22 April 2023
Mr Ross Sawers, Past Member	Minister for Climate, Environment and Water for <i>Landscape SA</i>	23 April 2021 to 22 April 2023

### Changes to the agency

During 2022-23 there were no changes to the agency's structure and objectives as a result of internal reviews or machinery of government changes.

### Our Minister

Hon Dr Susan Close MP is the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water. The Minister oversees the portfolios of:

- Deputy Premier
- Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science
- Minister for Defence and Space Industries

### Our Executive team

The Council has no staff of its own and utilises the services of the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) staff. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEW 2022-23 Annual Report.

Executive, administrative and project support were provided to the Council from DEW resources.

### Legislation administered by the agency

The Council has responsibilities under the following:

- The *Native Vegetation Act 1991*
- The *Native Vegetation Regulations 2017*
- The *Native Vegetation (Credit for Environmental Benefit) Regulations 2015*
- The *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*
- The *Planning, Development and Infrastructure (General) Regulations 2017*

**Other related agencies (within the Minister's area/s of responsibility)**

The Council is supported by staff of the Department for Environment and Water.

## The agency's performance

### Performance at a glance

During 2022-23 the Council had seven (7) ordinary sessional meetings and three (3) special sessional meetings:

- Meeting 239, 3 August 2022
- Meeting 240, 5 October 2022
- Meeting 241, 7 December 2022
- Meeting 242, 14 February 2023
- Special meeting, 3 March 2023
- Special meeting, 27 March 2023
- Meeting 243, 5 April 2023
- Meeting 244, 3 May 2023
- Special meeting, 17 May 2023
- Meeting 245, 7 June 2023.

The table below outlines the number of meetings attended by each member:

Name of member	Number of meetings attended
Dr Marilyn Henderson	3 (appointed 1 May 2023)
Ms Kylie Weymouth	9 (member during the whole year)
Mr John Neal	9 (member during the whole year)
Mr Michael Cornish	7 (appointed 6 December 2022)
Prof Hugh Possingham	3 (appointed 23 April 2023)
Ms Anna Hooper	3 (appointed 23 April 2023)
Ms Leanne Muffet	2 (appointed 23 April 2023)
Mr Vaughan Levitzke PSM	7 (term ended 30 April 2023)
Prof Robert Hill	6 (term ended 15 April 2023)
Mr Ross Sawers	7 (term ended 15 April 2023)

The sessional meetings do not include meetings of the Council's sub-committee, the Native Vegetation Assessment Panel.

### Agency specific objectives and performance

Agency objectives	Indicators	Performance
<p>Native vegetation across the landscape is sustainably managed in recognition of its enduring environmental, social, cultural and spiritual values</p>	<p>The Biodiversity Credit Exchange (BCE) program is designed to offset native vegetation loss and stimulate the Significant Environmental Benefit credit market in South Australia. Areas are protected in perpetuity.</p> <p>Funds are returned to the BCE program to allow further funding of BCE sites.</p>	<p>The Council engaged the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board to deliver the BCE program on the Eyre Peninsula in 2022-2023.</p> <p>The Council approved \$413,890 towards the protection and management of two sites on EP totalling 134 hectares.</p> <p>The Council has not yet sold any of the credit generated from the BCE.</p> <p>The BCE program is in its fifth year and in 2023/2024 will undergo a review.</p>

	<p>Partner and engage with universities and other organisations to gain insights into research and data to inform decision making.</p>	<p>The Ecosystems Services Project culminated in a Final Report being prepared by Dr Ying Xu and Professor Sarah Wheeler of University of Adelaide and presented to the Council.</p> <p>The project provided Council with a better understanding of how South Australia's native vegetation can be valued and the complexities of placing a future value on vegetation. The outcome of this project will continue to inform the development and review of policies and guidelines such as SEB Policy, and will also help guide Council's future efforts to encourage research into the preservation, enhancement and management of native vegetation.</p>
	<p>Implement recommendations of various government commissions and regulatory reviews.</p>	<p>Council continues to work with the Planning and Land Use Services (PLUS) division within the Department for Investment and Trade on improving the planning system, including contributing to the Expert Panel's Planning System Implementation Review.</p>
	<p>Review and update policy positions and metrics based on best available scientific data.</p>	<p>Council adopted the Heritage Agreement Policy and Guideline for Applications for Financial Assistance in February 2023.</p>

	Build strong relationships with other agencies, statutory boards and committees, non-government organisations and First Nations People that have interests in native vegetation protection and regeneration, conservation, habitat, and landscape management.	As part of its Strategic Plan development, Council developed a Communications and Engagement Plan that guided Council's work in strengthening its partnerships.
Building a climate-resilient and ecologically vibrant State by partnering to deliver programs that also increase the state's biodiversity.	<p>The Significant Environmental Benefit (SEB) program delivers on-ground outcomes by partnering with landholders who are willing to improve the condition of degraded native vegetation and/or revegetate areas that have been previously cleared or disturbed.</p> <p>The Council uses the Native Vegetation Fund to support landholders through grants to undertake the on-ground works in areas that are then protected for the long-term by a Heritage Agreement.</p>	<p>The Council held a 'Hills and Fleurieu Revegetation Grant' round in 2022-2023.</p> <p>Grant expenditure of \$2,488,705 was approved for five projects, totalling 320 hectares of land to be restored to native vegetation.</p> <p>The Council (or delegates) also approved the establishment of three private SEB credit sites covering 69.86 ha:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2022/4005 (18.68 ha)</li> <li>• 2022/4011 (48.18 ha)</li> <li>• 2022/4012 (3 ha)</li> </ul>

	<p>The Native Vegetation Heritage Agreement (HA) program assists private landholders to conserve and enhance native vegetation.</p> <p>The program also supports landholders to undertake work, and attract new Heritage Agreements across the State, including supporting landholders to establish new Heritage Agreements.</p>	<p>During 2022-2023, 45 new HA applications were received, as well as nine (9) requests for variations and seven (7) requests for subdivisions to existing HA's.</p> <p>The Minister (or delegate) registered 43 new HA's protecting 989.2 ha of native vegetation.</p> <p>A total of 1,851,527 ha of native vegetation is held under private conservation through HA's across the state.</p> <p>Third and final round of the South Australian Revitalising Private Conservation (RPC) grant program was undertaken. More than 114 applications were received with 45 successful recipients awarded a total of \$341,140 in funding.</p> <p>The election commitment to support Native Vegetation Heritage Agreement property owners was initiated with a Grant Program launched on 30 March 2023. In its first three (3) months it has received 210 expressions of interest, conducted 56 site visits and approved 20 grants, awarding \$430,000 in funding.</p> <p>The Native Vegetation Council has also approved a grant for \$45,951 to a private land holder as an incentive to enter into a new Heritage</p>
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		Agreement over 171 hectares.
	<p>The Council undertakes a range of activities with key stakeholders across all levels of government, with the community, and with industry. The key aims are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• promote the benefits of managing native vegetation for climate resilience;</li> <li>• promote how the Act and Regulations support industry and the community; and</li> <li>• raise the profile of existing initiatives that increase the states biodiversity and empowers landowners to participate.</li> </ul>	<p>Council supported the development of 2 draft statutory guideline documents regarding Cultural and Ecological Burning. The guidelines will build and establish relationships with First Nations Groups. Council noted a whole of government approach is required for cultural burning to ensure holistic and appropriate management of these activities.</p> <p>The Council supported the delivery of training to local Government, planning authorities and consultants on native vegetation interactions with the planning system.</p>
Ensure a contemporary approach to regulating native vegetation management across South Australia.	<p>Clearance approvals (Native Vegetation Assessments) – this function provides certainty to the community and businesses that require native vegetation clearance by providing timely and practical advice. The online portal assists users to navigate their way through the application process. Easy to follow and up to date information and tools are provided to assist applicants.</p>	<p>In 2022-2023, a total of 1,625.58 hectares was approved for clearance under the Act and Regulations (Note: this figure includes approvals issued for applications that were modified to reduce the impact of the clearance).</p> <p>During 2022-23 a total of 1.78 hectares and 91 trees were refused clearance (including partially approved applications).</p>
	<p>Review of key policies and legislation to ensure they are fit for purpose and support key Government strategies.</p>	<p>A Council policy audit has been undertaken and will be finalised in 2023-2024.</p>

### Corporate performance summary

The Council's corporate services are supported by the Department for Environment and Water.

### Employment opportunity programs

Program name	Performance
No programs were run by the Council	N/A

### Agency performance management and development systems

Performance management and development system	Performance
The Council undertakes a performance review every 2 years, including evaluation of its effectiveness and governance responsibilities.	A survey about how the Council performed in relation to governance principles was undertaken in June 2023.
Government employees supporting Council undertake a performance review and development program with their manager.	Two (2) sessions per year are held with all staff.

### Work health, safety and return to work programs

Program name	Performance
The Council abides by the relevant health and safety policies and procedures that have been adopted by DEW to meet whole of Government and legislative requirements.	Reporting on this matter is contained within the DEW Annual Report 2022-2023.

<b>Workplace injury claims</b>	Current year 2022-23	Past year 2021-22	% Change (+ / -)
Total new workplace injury claims	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fatalities	N/A	N/A	N/A
Seriously injured workers*	N/A	N/A	N/A
Significant injuries (where lost time exceeds a working week, expressed as frequency rate per 1000 FTE)	N/A	N/A	N/A

\*number of claimants assessed during the reporting period as having a whole person impairment of 30% or more under the Return to Work Act 2014 (Part 2 Division 5)

<b>Work health and safety regulations</b>	Current year 2022-23	Past year 2021-22	% Change (+ / -)
Number of notifiable incidents ( <i>Work Health and Safety Act 2012, Part 3</i> )	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of provisional improvement, improvement and prohibition notices ( <i>Work Health and Safety Act 2012 Sections 90, 191 and 195</i> )	N/A	N/A	N/A

<b>Return to work costs**</b>	Current year 2022-23	Past year 2021-22	% Change (+ / -)
Total gross workers compensation expenditure (\$)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Income support payments – gross (\$)	N/A	N/A	N/A

\*\*before third party recovery

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/native-vegetation-council-annual-report-data>

**Executive employment in the agency**

Executive classification	Number of executives
N/A	N/A

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/native-vegetation-council-annual-report-data>

The [Office of the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment](#) has a [workforce information](#) page that provides further information on the breakdown of executive gender, salary and tenure by agency.

## Financial performance

### Financial performance at a glance

The following is a brief summary of the overall financial position of the agency. The information is unaudited. Full audited financial statements for 2022-23 are attached to this report.

<b>Statement of Comprehensive Income</b>	<b>2022-23 Budget \$000s</b>	<b>2022-23 Actual \$000s</b>	<b>Variation \$000s</b>	<b>Past year 2021-22 Actual \$000s</b>
Total Income	2 166	7 321	5 155	11 035
Total Expenses	1 235	1 408	173	2 553
<b>Net Result</b>	931	5913	4982	8 482
<b>Total Comprehensive Result</b>	<b>931</b>	<b>5913</b>	<b>5063</b>	<b>8 482</b>

<b>Statement of Financial Position</b>	<b>2022-23 Budget \$000s</b>	<b>2022-23 Actual \$000s</b>	<b>Variation \$000s</b>	<b>Past year 2021-22 Actual \$000s</b>
Current assets	0	0	0	0
Non-current assets	0	0	0	0
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25 794</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19 799</b>
Current liabilities	0	0	0	0
Non-current liabilities	0	0	0	0
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25 701</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19 788</b>
<b>Equity</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25 701</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19 788</b>

### Consultants disclosure

The following is a summary of external consultants that have been engaged by the agency, the nature of work undertaken, and the actual payments made for the work undertaken during the financial year.

### Consultancies with a contract value below \$10,000 each

<b>Consultancies</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>\$ Actual payment</b>
All consultancies below \$10,000 each - combined	N/A	N/A

**Consultancies with a contract value above \$10,000 each**

Consultancies	Purpose	\$ Actual payment
N/A	N/A	N/A
	Total	N/A

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/native-vegetation-council-annual-report-data>

See also the [Consolidated Financial Report of the Department of Treasury and Finance](#) for total value of consultancy contracts across the South Australian Public Sector.

**Contractors disclosure**

The following is a summary of external contractors that have been engaged by the agency, the nature of work undertaken, and the actual payments made for work undertaken during the financial year.

**Contractors with a contract value below \$10,000**

Contractors	Purpose	\$ Actual payment
All contractors below \$10,000 each - combined	N/A	N/A

**Contractors with a contract value above \$10,000 each**

Contractors	Purpose	\$ Actual payment
N/A	N/A	N/A
	Total	N/A

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/native-vegetation-council-annual-report-data>

The details of South Australian Government-awarded contracts for goods, services, and works are displayed on the SA Tenders and Contracts website. [View the agency list of contracts.](#)

The website also provides details of [across government contracts.](#)

## Other information

### Summary of clearance under the *Native Vegetation Act 1991* and *Native Vegetation Regulations 2017*

Table 1 below provides summary of clearance under the *Native Vegetation Act 1991* and *Native Vegetation Regulations 2017* (Regulation 12 specifically).

**Table 1. Summary of Clearance under the Act and Regulations**

	<b>Native Vegetation Act</b>	<b>Native Vegetation Regulations (Regulation 12)</b>	<b>Total</b>
No. of approved clearance applications	33	239	272
Native vegetation cleared (ha)	38.86 *	1586.72 **	1625.58
No. of trees cleared	103	1765 **	1868
SEB (ha)	38.60	7786.90	7825.50
SEB (\$)	\$543,714.69	\$11,221,609.98	\$11,765,324.67

\* excluding brush-cutting approvals of 906 hectares

\*\* these figures exclude applications for change of grazing practice or ecological management, where vegetation has not been removed

The statistics for clearance applications and regulations can be found in Table 2.

**Table 2. Clearance statistics for comparison of financial year 2021-2022 and 2022-23.**

<b>Clearance</b>	<b>Financial year 2021-22</b>	<b>Financial year 2022-23</b>
Clearance Application under Section 28	22	34
Clearance Application under Section 28 refused	2	1
Hectares under Section 28	6.24	38.86
Brush-cutting under Section 28 (ha)	48	906
<i>Total approval under Section 28 (ha)</i>	<i>54.12</i>	<i>944.859</i>
Trees under Section 28	69	103
Applications under Regulation 12	221	242
Applications under Regulation 12 withdrawn/refused	3	3
Hectares applied for under Regulation 12	1030.84	1585.73
Hectares approved under Management Plan (change of grazing regime or ecological management)	175.17	129.92
Total Hectares approved under Regulation 12	1030.84	1586.72
Trees under Regulation 12	2248	1765
\$ SEB under Section 28	205469.11	543,714.69
\$ SEB under Regulation	11,010,071.16	11,221,609.98

Hectares SEB offset under Section 28	66.86	38.6
Hectares SEB offset under Regulation	1812.63	7786.9

A breakdown of the clearance that has occurred under delegation can be seen below in Table 3.

**Table 3. Clearance decisions under Regulations by delegation or via a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) 2022-23**

Organisation with delegated officers	No. of clearance decisions	Native vegetation approved (ha)	Trees approved	Committed SEB \$	Committed on-ground SEB (ha)
DEM Energy	3	422.4	0	\$295,400.24	NA
DEM Mining	13	439.44	8	\$2,193,391.68	430.91
SA Water	27	215.46	38	\$177,326.13	NA
DIT	45	164	158	\$1,159,298.20	NA
Forestry SA	1	144	0	NA	NA
ElectraNet	1	1.1	0	\$500.00	NA
SA CFS	34	331.97	5	NA	NA
SA Power Networks	7	0.18	14	\$20,314.64	NA

**Table 4. Clearance decisions under Regulation 12 by Landscapes Region 2022-23**

Landscape Region	No. submitted	No. completed Applications	Withdrawn/refused	Ha native Vegetation approved for removal	Trees approved for removal	Committed payment into NV Fund (\$)	Committed SEB (ha)
Hills and Fleurieu	67	67	0	94.473	965	1,076,925.78	213.92
Alinytjara Wilurara	2	2	0	0.51	0	1,000.00	0
Eyre Peninsula	25	24	1	687.11	3	3,567,767.13	4986.59
Kangaroo Island	37	26	1	9.88	32	254,914.85	36.31
Northern and Yorke	28	27	1	46.11	202	1,064,051.19	13.27
Green Adelaide	11	11	0	0.771	51	99,376.11	3
Murrayland and Riverland	31	31	0	200.572	27	2,984,596.11	150.79
SA Australian Arid Lands	15	15	0	541.06	0	1,597,993.14	2382.50
Limestone Coast	26	26	0	6.23	485	574,985.67	0.52
<b>Total</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1586.72</b>	<b>1765</b>	<b>11,221,609.98</b>	<b>7786.90</b>

**Table 5. Clearance decisions under section 28 by Landscapes Region 2022-23**

Landscape Region	No. submitted	No. completed Applications	Withdrawn/refused	Ha native Vegetation approved for removal	Trees Approved for removal	Committed payment into NV Fund (\$)	Committed SEB (ha)
Hills and Fleurieu	6	6	0	0.396	15	14,783.74	0
Alinytjara Wilurara	1	1	0	0.55	0	702.52	0
Eyre Peninsula	6	6	0	664.456	0	255,226	0
Green Adelaide	2	2	0	0	2	6214.49	0
Kangaroo Island	2	2	0	2.748	0	44,308.81	1.5
Northern and Yorke	4	4	0	2.21	29	78,546.30	4.22
Murraylands and Riverland	6	6	0	252.33	14	30,901.34	0
SA Australian Arid Lands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Limestone Coast	7	6	1	22.169	43	113,031.49	32.88
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>944.85</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>543,714.69</b>	<b>38.6</b>

### **Compliance with the *Native Vegetation Act 1991***

The Act provides for civil and summary enforcement proceedings for any infringement. Significantly, any conviction for the illegal clearance of native vegetation requires the NVC to initiate proceedings in the Environment, Resources and Development (ERD) Court seeking an order to 'make good' that breach. Offences against the Act lie within the criminal jurisdiction of the ERD Court. This includes failure to comply with a Heritage Agreement.

### **Reports Received 2022-23: Alleged Illegal Clearance**

During the 2022-23 financial year the Native Vegetation Branch received or detected a total of 119 incidents of potential clearance of native vegetation contrary to the Act. The reports are presented according to each NRM / Landscape region in Table 6 below alongside data for the nine preceding financial years.

**Table 6: Reports received by NRM / Landscapes Region 2013-14 to 2022-23**

<b>NRM / Landscape Region</b>	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23
Green Adelaide	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	<b>6</b>
Adelaide & Mount Lofty Ranges / Hills	60	21	29	30	38	51	53	51	43	<b>37</b>
Alinytjara Wilurara	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Eyre Peninsula	22	34	11	32	26	5	21	16	8	<b>15</b>
Kangaroo Island	11	4	8	13	19	8	21	11	4	<b>9</b>
Northern & Yorke	25	8	14	21	12	15	20	37	20	<b>26</b>
SA Arid Lands	1	0	0	1	3	2	1	0	1	<b>2</b>
SA Murray Darling Basin/ Murraylands & Riverland	34	22	25	21	29	38	35	46	13	<b>10</b>
South East/Limestone	23	13	22	20	16	15	34	22	13	<b>14</b>
<b>Sub-total</b>	177	102	109	138	143	134	185	183	102	<b>119</b>
Change Detection Program	22	28	31	40	54	61	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL*</b>	199	130	140	178	197	195	185	183	102	<b>119</b>

A total of 119 incidents were reported for 2022-23 - lower than the average number of reports recorded over the preceding nine years of data collection. The Council is unable to determine at this time the underlying reason for the reduction.

#### **Action taken from Reports received 2022-23: Alleged Illegal Clearance**

There was a total of 119 clearance reports received this financial year. Of this total, 49 reports still require further information on the report (RFI information pending).

Of the reports that had been actioned in the 2022-23 financial year (83 reports):

- 13 were reports received prior to the 2022-23 financial year but finalised within it.
- A total of 30 reports were considered to be either:

- No Further Action (NFA) required,
- Exempt - Non Native or Exempt – Regulation under the *Native Vegetation Regulations 2017*.
- A further 18 reports received Education letters for trivial to minor clearance breaches.
- 12 Caution letters and 6 Enforcement Notices to either stop work and/or make good the clearance and 2 expiations were issued.
- 2 reports that were believed to be serious offences and were referred for investigation to gather further evidence to pursue legal proceedings. The reports included the alleged illegal clearance of over 50ha of native vegetation by a single registered proprietor.

Table 7 and Figure 1 summarises the actions taken from reports of alleged illegal clearance for the 2022-23 financial year. Figure 2 averages out the actions taken across a 9-year period from the 2012-13 financial year to 2021-22 financial year.

**Table 7. Compliance Actions within the 2022-23 financial year**

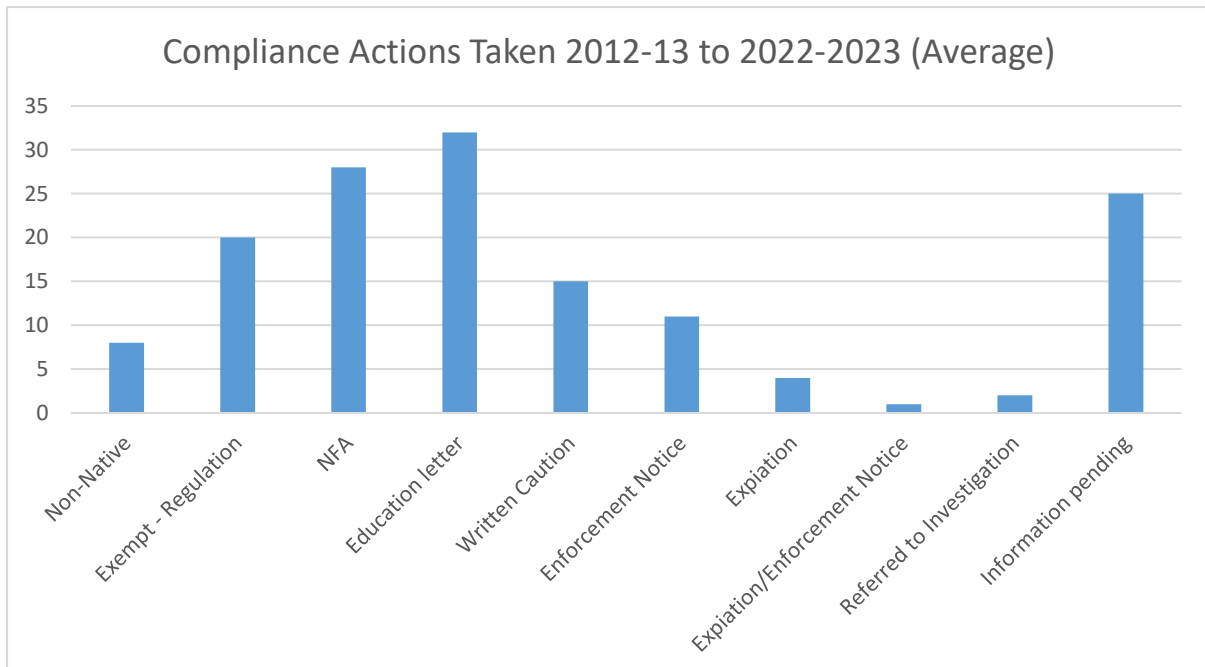
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Number</b>
Exempt – Non native	1
Exempt – Regulation	12
NFA	30
Education letter	18
Written caution	12
Enforcement Notice	6
Expiation	2
Expiation and Enforcement Notice	0
Referred to Investigation	2
RFI Information pending	49
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>132*</b>

\*13 reports finalised within 2022-23 were reported in 2021-22.

**Figure 1. Compliance actions taken for reports received for the 2022-23 financial year**



**Figure 2. Average of compliance actions taken for reports received 2012-13 to 2022-23 financial year.**



### Civil Enforcement Proceedings

In civil enforcement proceedings, the ERD Court may order a respondent to ‘make good’ an illegal clearance of native vegetation. The order may require the respondent to re-establish or rehabilitate native vegetation on the areas cleared or

may require a payment into the Native Vegetation Fund for exemplary damages, or an amount that represents any financial benefit the respondent may have gained or could reasonably expect to gain from the illegal clearance. The ERD Court may also require the respondent to publicise the environmental and other consequences that would follow the breach and the terms of the court order. This is an important process to discourage landholders from future clearance of native vegetation.

For the 2022-23 financial year:

- The Department for Environment and Water (DEW) has continued investigating the clearance of a number of areas of native vegetation in the south-east of South Australia. These clearances were detected between February 2018 and August 2020. They have been identified through reports from the community, observations by DEW and Landscape SA staff and the Department's change detection program. Civil enforcement proceedings have commenced in the ERD Court in relation to a number of these matters;
- The Department initiated Civil enforcement proceedings in relation to clearance of native vegetation on Kangaroo Island where approximately 1.4 hectares were cleared when a landowner constructed a dam. The Civil proceeding are currently ongoing;
- Civil proceedings were concluded in November 2022 for the clearance of approximately 83 hectares for two centre pivots following a guilty plea in criminal proceedings in 2015. The Court Order required a number of actions be taken including \$65,000 into the Native Vegetation Fund and the planting of a minimum of 30 trees and 25 shrubs on a property owned by the respondent.

## Risk management

### Risk and audit at a glance

N/A

### Fraud detected in the agency

Category/nature of fraud	Number of instances
It is declared that there were no instances of fraud detected in the activities undertaken by the Council in this reporting period.	0

NB: Fraud reported includes actual and reasonably suspected incidents of fraud.

### Strategies implemented to control and prevent fraud

Strategies to detect instances of fraud are reported in the DEW Annual Report 2022-23.

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/datasert/native-vegetation-council-annual-report-data>

### Public interest disclosure

Number of occasions on which public interest information has been disclosed to a responsible officer of the agency under the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018*:

Zero (0).

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/datasert/native-vegetation-council-annual-report-data>

Note: Disclosure of public interest information was previously reported under the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1993* and repealed by the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2018* on 1/7/2019.

## Reporting required under any other act or regulation

Act or Regulation	Requirement
N/A	N/A

Requirement under subsection (1) can be found under the agency's performance.  
Requirement under subsection (2) can be found in Financial Statements.

## Reporting required under the *Carers' Recognition Act 2005*

N/A

## Public complaints

### Number of public complaints reported

Complaint categories	Sub-categories	Example	Number of Complaints 2022-23
Professional behaviour	Staff attitude	Failure to demonstrate values such as empathy, respect, fairness, courtesy, extra mile; cultural competency	0
Professional behaviour	Staff competency	Failure to action service request; poorly informed decisions; incorrect or incomplete service provided	0
Professional behaviour	Staff knowledge	Lack of service specific knowledge; incomplete or out-of-date knowledge	0
Communication	Communication quality	Inadequate, delayed or absent communication with customer	0
Communication	Confidentiality	Customer's confidentiality or privacy not respected; information shared incorrectly	0
Service delivery	Systems/technology	System offline; inaccessible to customer; incorrect result/information provided; poor system design	0
Service delivery	Access to services	Service difficult to find; location poor; facilities/ environment poor standard; not accessible to customers with disabilities	0
Service delivery	Process	Processing error; incorrect process used; delay in processing application; process not customer responsive	0
Policy	Policy application	Incorrect policy interpretation; incorrect policy applied; conflicting policy advice given	0
Policy	Policy content	Policy content difficult to understand; policy unreasonable or disadvantages customer	0

Complaint categories	Sub-categories	Example	Number of Complaints 2022-23
Service quality	Information	Incorrect, incomplete, out-dated or inadequate information; not fit for purpose	0
Service quality	Access to information	Information difficult to understand, hard to find or difficult to use; not plain English	0
Service quality	Timeliness	Lack of staff punctuality; excessive waiting times (outside of service standard); timelines not met	0
Service quality	Safety	Maintenance; personal or family safety; duty of care not shown; poor security service/ premises; poor cleanliness	0
Service quality	Service responsiveness	Service design doesn't meet customer needs; poor service fit with customer expectations	0
No case to answer	No case to answer	Third party; customer misunderstanding; redirected to another agency; insufficient information to investigate	0
		<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>

Additional Metrics	Total
Number of positive feedback comments	0
Number of negative feedback comments	0
Total number of feedback comments	0
% complaints resolved within policy timeframes	N/A

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/native-vegetation-council-annual-report-data>

**Service Improvements**

During 2022-23 the Council received no public complaints. The Council with the support of the Department for Environment and Water is closely monitoring the complaints related to the administration of the *Native Vegetation Act 1991* which are not the responsibility of the Council. These complaints are reported by the Department for Environment and Water.

**Compliance Statement**

Native Vegetation Council is compliant with Premier and Cabinet Circular 039 – complaint management in the South Australian public sector	Y
Native Vegetation Council has communicated the content of PC 039 and the agency's related complaints policies and procedures to employees.	Y

## **Appendix: Audited financial statements 2022-23**

# **Native Vegetation Fund**

## **Financial Statements**

For the year ended 30 June 2023

**Native Vegetation Fund**  
**Certification of Financial Statements**  
*for the year ended 30 June 2023*

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We certify that the:

- financial statements of the Native Vegetation Fund:
  - are in accordance with the accounts and records of the Fund;
  - comply with relevant Treasurer's Instructions;
  - comply with relevant accounting standards; and
  - present a true and fair view of the financial position of the Fund at the end of the financial year and the result of its operation and cash flows for the financial year.
- internal controls employed by the Native Vegetation Fund for the financial year over its financial reporting and its preparation of financial statements have been effective.



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Dr Marilyn Henderson  
**Presiding Member**  
Native Vegetation Council  
24 October 2023



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Ben Bruce  
**Acting Chief Executive**  
Department for Environment and Water  
24 October 2023



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Shaun O'Brien  
**Chief Financial Officer**  
Department for Environment and Water  
24 October 2023

**Native Vegetation Fund**  
**Statement of Comprehensive Income**  
*for the year ended 30 June 2023*

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	Note	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
<b>Income</b>			
Intra-government transfers	2.1	-	1 258
Fees and charges	2.2	6 667	9 777
Interest	5.1	629	-
Other income	2.3	25	-
<b>Total income</b>		<b>7 321</b>	<b>11 035</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Supplies and services	4.1	270	70
Grants and subsidies	4.2	1 038	2 474
Other expenses	4.3	100	9
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>1 408</b>	<b>2 553</b>
<b>Net result</b>		<b>5 913</b>	<b>8 482</b>
<b>Total comprehensive result</b>		<b>5 913</b>	<b>8 482</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. The net result and total comprehensive result are attributable to the SA Government as owner.

**Native Vegetation Fund**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
*as at 30 June 2023*

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	Note	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	5.1	24 682	18 526
Receivables	5.2	1 112	1 273
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>25 794</b>	<b>19 799</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>25 794</b>	<b>19 799</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Payables	6.1	93	11
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>93</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>93</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>25 701</b>	<b>19 788</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Retained earnings		25 701	19 788
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>25 701</b>	<b>19 788</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. The total equity is attributable to the SA Government as owner.

**Native Vegetation Fund**  
**Statement of Changes in Equity**  
*for the year ended 30 June 2023*

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	Retained earnings \$'000	Total equity \$'000
<b>Balance at 1 July 2021</b>	<b>11 306</b>	<b>11 306</b>
Net result for 2021-22	8 482	8 482
<b>Total comprehensive result for 2021-22</b>	<b>8 482</b>	<b>8 482</b>
<b>Balance at 30 June 2022</b>	<b>19 788</b>	<b>19 788</b>
Net result for 2022-23	5 913	5 913
<b>Total comprehensive result for 2022-23</b>	<b>5 913</b>	<b>5 913</b>
<b>Balance at 30 June 2023</b>	<b>25 701</b>	<b>25 701</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. All changes in equity are attributable to the SA Government as owner.

**Native Vegetation Fund**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
*for the year ended 30 June 2023*

	Note	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
<u>Cash inflows</u>			
Intra-government transfers		-	1 258
Fees and charges		6 908	9 001
Interest received		549	-
GST recovered from the DEW		28	8
Other receipts		25	-
<b>Cash generated from operating activities</b>		<b>7 510</b>	<b>10 267</b>
<u>Cash outflows</u>			
Payments for supplies and services		(296)	(77)
Payments of grants and subsidies		(957)	(2 474)
Other payments		(101)	(10)
<b>Cash used in operations</b>		<b>(1 354)</b>	<b>(2 561)</b>
<b>Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities</b>		<b>6 156</b>	<b>7 706</b>
<b>Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>6 156</b>	<b>7 706</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		18 526	10 820
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>	5.1	<b>24 682</b>	<b>18 526</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**Native Vegetation Fund**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
*For the year ended 30 June 2023*

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**1. About the Native Vegetation Fund**

The Native Vegetation Fund (the Fund) is established pursuant to section 21 of the *Native Vegetation Act 1991* (the Act).

The Native Vegetation Council (the Council) is responsible for the administration of the Fund in accordance with the Act.

The financial activities of the Fund are conducted through an interest bearing deposit account established pursuant to section 21 of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987* and held with the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF).

A change in the administrative funding arrangements to support the fund was made during the year impacting revenue and expenditure reported by the fund in 2023. Funding is no longer received for the cost of engaging DEW staff in support of the Fund's activities. Funding is now provided directly to DEW. This explains the cessation of intra-govt transfers and the decrease in grants and subsidies expense.

**1.1. Basis of preparation**

These financial statements are general purpose financial statements prepared in compliance with:

- section 23 of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987*;
- Treasurer's Instructions and Accounting Policy Statements issued by the Treasurer under the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987*; and
- relevant Australian Accounting Standards applying simplified disclosures.

For the purposes of preparing the financial statements, the Fund is a not-for-profit entity. The financial statements are prepared based on a 12 month period and presented in Australian currency. All amounts in the financial statements and accompanying notes have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars (\$'000). The historical cost convention is used unless a different measurement basis is identified in the note to the financial statements.

Income, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST except:

- when the GST incurred on a purchase of goods or services is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), in which case GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense item applicable; and
- receivables and payables, which are stated with the amount of GST included.

The Fund is grouped with the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) for GST purposes, and accordingly DEW prepares the Business Activity Statement on behalf of the Fund via the grouping provisions of the GST legislation. Notwithstanding the use of these grouping provisions, intercompany cash alignment occurs to ensure the Fund either recovers the net amount of GST recoverable from or disburses the amount payable to the ATO from DEW.

Cash flows are included in the Statement of Cash Flows on a gross basis. However, the GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are classified as operating cash flows.

Assets and liabilities that are to be sold, consumed or realised as part of the normal 12 month operating cycle have been classified as current assets or current liabilities. All other assets and liabilities are classified as non-current.

**1.2. Objectives and programs**

**Objectives**

The major purpose of the Fund is to provide funds to be applied for research, preservation, enhancement and management of native vegetation in South Australia and encouraging the re-establishment of native vegetation on land from which it has been previously cleared.

In achieving its objectives, the Fund conducts its services through a single program, the Native Vegetation Fund.

**Native Vegetation Fund**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
*For the year ended 30 June 2023*

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**2. Income**

**2.1. Intra-government transfers**

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Intra-government transfers	-	1 258
<b>Total Intra-government transfers</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1 258</b>

Intra-government transfers are recognised on receipt. This relates to appropriation received through DEW.

**2.2. Fees and charges**

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Significant environmental benefits *	6 552	9 504
Fees, fines and penalties	115	273
<b>Total fees and charges</b>	<b>6 667</b>	<b>9 777</b>

\* The owner of land on which native vegetation is growing or is situated, may apply for consent to clear the vegetation under section 28 of the Act. In consenting to the clearance of native vegetation under section 29 of the Act, the Council may attach a condition requiring the applicant to make a payment into the Fund of an amount considered by the Council to be sufficient to achieve a significant environmental benefit. The monies paid into the Fund must as far as practicable, be used to establish or regenerate native vegetation on land that is within the same region of the state as the cleared land and that has been selected by the Council for that purpose having regard to the Regional Biodiversity Plans approved by the Minister for that region.

Revenues from fees and charges are recognised when invoices are raised.

**2.3. Other income**

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Refund of unspent grant funds	25	-
<b>Total other income</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>-</b>

**Native Vegetation Fund**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
*For the year ended 30 June 2023*

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**3. Board, committees and employees**

**3.1. Key management personnel**

Key management personnel of the Fund include the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water and the members of the Native Vegetation Council.

Total compensation for the Fund's key management personnel was \$41 000 (2022: \$51 000).

The compensation disclosed in this note excludes salaries and other benefits the Minister receives. The Minister's remuneration and allowances are set by the *Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1990* and the Remuneration Tribunal of SA respectively and are payable from the Consolidated Account under section 6 the *Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1990*.

***Transactions with key management personnel and other related parties***

No transactions with key management personnel or related parties occurred during 2022-23.

**3.2. Remuneration of council and committee members**

Members during the 2022-23 financial year were:

**Native Vegetation Council**

V J Levitzke  
M Henderson (Presiding Member)  
R S Hill  
R B Sawers  
K Weymouth  
J H Neal  
M Cornish  
H Possingham  
L Muffet  
A Hooper

**Native Vegetation Assessment Panel**

V J Levitzke (Chairperson)  
S Reachill\*  
A Schutz\*  
J H Neal  
M Henderson  
K Weymouth  
M Cornish

\* In accordance with the Premier and Cabinet's Circular No. 016, government employees did not receive any remuneration for board/committee duties during the financial year.

***Board and committee remuneration***

The number of members whose remuneration received or receivable falls within the following bands:

	2023	2022
\$0 - \$19 999	11	7
\$20 000 - \$39 999	1	1
<b>Total number of members</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>

The total remuneration received or receivable by members was \$41 000 (2022: \$51 000). Remuneration of members includes sitting fees, superannuation contributions, salary sacrifice benefits, fringe benefits and any related fringe benefits tax. The remuneration of members is paid by DEW.

For the purposes of the table above, travel allowances and other out-of-pocket expenses paid to members have not been included as remuneration as it is considered to be reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses incurred by relevant members.

**Native Vegetation Fund**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
*For the year ended 30 June 2023*

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**4. Expenses**

**4.1. Supplies and services**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Fee for service	238	42
Accommodation	11	11
Legal costs	11	4
Minor works	4	4
General administration	2	5
Travel and accommodation	1	1
Other	3	3
<b>Total supplies and services</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>70</b>

**4.2. Grants and subsidies**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Recurrent grants (i)	-	1 439
Significant environmental Benefit (SEB) grants	1 038	1 035
<b>Total grants and subsidies</b>	<b>1 038</b>	<b>2 474</b>

(i) Recurrent Grants

Contribution to Incentives Program for Native Vegetation Council (NVC)	-	549
Contribution to DEW for NVC Biodiversity Assessment Function	-	340
Contribution to DEW for Manager Native Vegetation Management Unit	-	149
Contribution to DEW Investigations and Compliance Unit	-	94
Contribution to the NVC for Council Operating Costs	-	77
Contribution to DEW for Principal Advisor Native Vegetation	-	68
Contribution to DEW for Coordinator, Governance and Administration	-	61
Contribution to DEW for NVC Administrative Support	-	56
Contribution to DEW for Operating Costs for Native Vegetation Branch (NVB)	-	45
<b>Total recurrent grants</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1 439</b>

For grants payable, the grant will be recognised as a liability and expense when the entity has a present obligation to pay the grant and the expense recognition criteria are met.

SEB grants are provided to restore, re-vegetate and protect areas of native vegetation within South Australia.

**Native Vegetation Fund**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
*For the year ended 30 June 2023*

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**4.3. Other expenses**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Audit fees	11	11
Impairment loss on receivables	89	(2)
<b>Total other expenses</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>9</b>

**Audit fees**

Audit fees paid/payable to the Auditor-General's Department relating to work performed under the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987* were \$11 400 (2022: \$11 200). No other services were provided by the Auditor-General's Department.

**5. Financial assets**

**5.1. Cash and cash equivalents**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Deposits with the Treasurer	24 682	18 526
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>24 682</b>	<b>18 526</b>

***Deposits with the Treasurer***

The Fund is established under section 21 of the *Native Vegetation Act 1991*. The Native Vegetation Fund deposit account was established under section 21 of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987* and is held with DTF.

The Fund Deposit Account earns a floating interest rate, based on daily bank deposit rates. There was no interest earned during 2022 due to Treasury advising public authorities in November 2020 that, given interest rates were approximately 0%, no interest would be paid on any interest bearing accounts held with the Treasurer. Interest re-commenced being paid in September 2022 on cash balances from May 2022.

**5.2. Receivables**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<b><u>Current receivables</u></b>		
From government entities	250	214
From non-government entities	876	1 063
Less impairment loss on receivables	(94)	(4)
Accrued interest	80	-
<b>Total current receivables</b>	<b>1 112</b>	<b>1 273</b>

Contractual receivables arise in the normal course of selling goods and services to other government agencies and to the public. Contractual receivables are normally settled within 30 days after the issue of an invoice or the goods/services have been provided under a contractual arrangement.

Receivables are non-interest bearing. Receivables are held with the objective of collecting the contractual cash flows and they are measured at amortised cost.

Impairment losses relate to receivables arising from contracts with customers that are external to SA Government.

**Native Vegetation Fund**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
*For the year ended 30 June 2023*

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**6. Liabilities**

**6.1. Payables**

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
<b><u>Current</u></b>		
Trade payables	81	-
Accrued expenses	12	11
<b>Total current payables</b>	<u>93</u>	<u>11</u>
 <b>Total payables</b>	 <u><u>93</u></u>	 <u><u>11</u></u>

Payables and accrued expenses are recognised for all amounts owing but unpaid. Contractual payables are normally settled within 30 days from the date the invoice is received. All payables are non-interest bearing. The carrying amount of payables represents fair value due to their short-term nature.

**7. Outlook**

**7.1. Unrecognised commitments**

***Other contractual commitments***

Commitments include operating arrangements arising from contractual sources and are disclosed at their nominal value.

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Within one year	791	170
Later than one year but not longer than five years	2 299	301
Later than five years	319	164
<b>Total expenditure commitments</b>	<u><u>3 409</u></u>	<u><u>635</u></u>

The Fund's other contractual commitments are for the delivery of grant programs.

**7.2. Contingent assets and liabilities**

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Statement of Financial Position, but are disclosed by way of a note and, if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value.

As at the reporting date, civil proceedings had commenced against landowners who have been convicted of breaching the Act.

The potential amount of fines and/or damages to be received should the proceedings be successful are not quantifiable and as such no estimate of the potential financial effect can be made. There is also the potential for costs to be awarded against the Council for any unsuccessful prosecutions.

**Native Vegetation Fund**  
**Notes to and forming part of the financial statements**  
*For the year ended 30 June 2023*

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**7.3. Restrictions on contributions received**

The Council is restricted on its use of monies in the Fund according to the provisions of the Act. Section 21(6) of the Act specifies that the Council must as far as practicable, use monies paid into the Fund to achieve a significant environmental benefit to offset the approved clearance of native vegetation. Expiation fees, penalties handed down by the Magistrates Court, financial benefits (as determined by the Environment, Resources and Development Court (ERD)) gained from illegal clearance and exemplary damages (as determined by the ERD Court), must be spent within the same region of the State as the land cleared.

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Murraylands and Riverland	5 727	3 401
Northern and Yorke	5 114	3 397
SA Arid Lands	4 434	3 347
Hills and Fleurieu	3 518	3 368
Eyre Peninsula	1 900	2 086
Limestone Coast	1 740	728
Alinytjara Wilurara	908	758
Kangaroo Island	869	637
Green Adelaide (metropolitan region)	418	256
<b>Total restrictions on contributions received</b>	<b>24 628</b>	<b>17 978</b>

**7.4. Events after the reporting period**

There are no known events after balance date that affect these financial statements in a material manner.