



**Government
of South Australia**

NATIVE VEGETATION COUNCIL

2024-25 Annual Report

NATIVE VEGETATION COUNCIL

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2024-25 ANNUAL REPORT for the Native Vegetation Council

To:

Lucy Hood MP

Minister for Climate, Environment and Water

This annual report will be presented to Parliament to meet the statutory reporting requirements of the *Native Vegetation Act 1991*, the *Native Vegetation Regulations 2017*, 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 1 October 2025 Signature 

This Annual Report is provided after 31 October 2025 because the audited financial statement and the Auditor-General's report on those statements were not available by the statutory deadline. Under section 12(7) of the *Public Sector Act 2009* and Premier and Cabinet Circular PC013, the Annual Report must include audited financial statements and the Auditor-General's report. These were not finalised in time, as the Auditor-General required additional time to complete the audit of the Department for Environment and Water's financial statements. The report is presented with this written statement of reasons in accordance with section 12(9) of the *Public Sector Act 2009*.

From the Presiding Member



It is a pleasure to report on the 2024-25 year for the Native Vegetation Council (Council). The new Council was appointed in April 2025. I am pleased to have been reappointed by the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, along with Professor Hugh Possingham, Ms Kylie Weymouth, Mr Michael Cornish, Ms Anna Hooper, Mr John Neal, and newly appointed, Ms Robbie Davis. The Council thanks Ms Leanne Muffet for her contributions to the work of the Council during her Term.

The Council implemented its Investment Strategy, facilitating the timely expenditure of Significant Environmental Benefit (SEB) payments made into the Native Vegetation Fund (Fund) to offset native vegetation clearance. Two Restoration Grant Rounds were implemented, investing Fund money in large scale projects with high conservation value. Nineteen successful applicants were awarded over \$10 million in Restoration Grant payments, protecting and improving 19,558 hectares of native vegetation across the State.

The Council progressed a review of the SEB Policy and formula, ensuring actions generate a positive environmental impact over and above the negative impact of clearance activity. This work is intended to stop an overall decline in biodiversity across South Australia. The Council will continue its review during 2025-26, considering changes to both Policy and formula.

The Native Vegetation Heritage Agreement (NVHA) Grant Program (State Government Election Commitment 2023-26) continued to be delivered successfully, with an additional 30 grants awarded. This brings the total program grant expenditure to \$3.8 million. The Council continued to support the Program by providing Incentive Grants, funding the establishment of new Heritage Agreements (HAs). This resulted in 10 successful applications, sharing \$300,054 to protect and enhance 104.2 hectares of native vegetation.

The Council received 70 applications for new HAs and registered 34 new HAs, protecting an additional 7669.62 hectares of native vegetation. This contributed to an overall total of 1,859,196.62 hectares of native vegetation held under private conservation through HAs across the state.

The Council considered a significant number of applications for native vegetation clearance during 2024-25 and approved the clearance of 1599.23 hectares of native vegetation and 459 scattered trees under the *Native Vegetation Act 1991* (Act) and the *Native Vegetation Regulations 2017* (Regulations). This clearance was offset by commitments to manage and restore 1042.67 hectares of native vegetation on-ground (all to be secured under HAs, some of which are still progressing through the registration process); and \$15,017,401.42 of agreed SEB payments into the Fund.

The Council conducted its work with the support of the Native Vegetation Branch within the Department for Environment and Water (DEW). The Council's valuable partnerships across the state with landscape boards, local councils, State Government agencies and native vegetation specialists continued to be fostered, improving the protection and management of native vegetation in our State. The Council fulfilled its commitment to biannual regional visits, gaining valuable

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information and developing connections with key stakeholders in the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Region and the Kangaroo Island Landscape Region.

The Council submitted a response to nine key national, state-wide, regional and local policy consultations. Council supported the Buffel Grass nomination as a Weed of National Significance; and provided input into the *Mining Act 1971* review. Council also developed advice for statutory referrals; and issued correspondence to various stakeholders on a range of other matters.

For information about the work of the Council, please visit

<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/about-us/boards-and-committees/native-vegetation-council>.



Dr Marilyn Henderson

Presiding Member

Native Vegetation Council

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Overview: about the agency

Our strategic focus

<p>Our Purpose</p>	<p>The Council is established under the <i>Native Vegetation Act 1991</i> to further the objects of the Act: to conserve, 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.</p> <p>The Council’s purpose is to provide incentives and assistance to landowners in relation to the preservation and enhancement of native vegetation, and to control the clearance of native vegetation.</p>
<p>Our Vision</p>	<p>The Council’s vision is to improve the extent and condition of native vegetation in South Australia.</p>
<p>Our Values</p>	<p>The Council promotes the value of native vegetation and builds community understanding of this value.</p>
<p>Our functions, objectives and deliverables</p>	<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 role of the Council is to provide a balanced and considered approach to native vegetation management through engaging with clearance proponents and stakeholder groups, whilst also providing assistance to landowners in relation to the preservation and enhancement of native vegetation.</p> <p>Council’s functions under the Act include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review the condition of the native vegetation of the State • advise the Minister in relation to – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the preservation, enhancement and management of existing native vegetation; b) the re-establishment of native vegetation on land where native vegetation has been cleared or degraded; c) research into the preservation, enhancement and management of native vegetation and the reestablishment of native vegetation on cleared land; • 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 • determine applications for consent to clear native vegetation under Part 5 of the Act • assess and respond to applications referred to Council under the <i>Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016</i> • encourage the re-establishment of native vegetation on land from which native vegetation has been cleared

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• encourage research into the preservation, enhancement and management of existing native vegetation• administer the Native Vegetation Fund pursuant to Division 3 of the Act• perform such other functions as are assigned.
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Our organisational structure

The Council is established in accordance with section 7 of the Act and consists of seven (7) members appointed by the responsible Minister, for a term of up to two (2) years.

During 2024-25, the Council membership included:

Name	Position	Term dates
Dr Marilyn Henderson	Presiding Member Nominated by Minister for Climate, Environment and Water	23 April 2023 to 22 April 2025 Reappointed 23 April 2025 to 22 April 2027
Ms Kylie Weymouth	Council Member Nominated in consultation with the Minister for Planning	23 April 2023 to 22 April 2025 Reappointed 23 April 2025 to 22 April 2027
Mr John Neal	Council Member Nominated by the Local Government Association of SA	23 April 2023 to 22 April 2025 Reappointed 23 April 2025 to 22 April 2027
Mr Michael Cornish	Council Member Nominated by the Conservation Council of SA	23 April 2023 to 22 April 2025 Reappointed 23 April 2025 to 22 April 2027
Prof Hugh Possingham	Council Member Nominated by the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water	23 April 2023 to 22 April 2025 Reappointed 23 April 2025 to 22 April 2027
Ms Anna Hooper	Council Member Nominated by Primary Producers SA	23 April 2023 to 22 April 2025 Reappointed 23 April 2025 to 22 April 2027
Ms Leanne Muffet	Council Member	23 April 2023 to 22 April 2025

	Nominated by Minister for Climate, Environment and Water for Landscape SA	
Ms Robbie Davis	Council Member Nominated by Minister for Climate, Environment and Water for Landscape SA	23 April 2025 to 22 April 2027

More information on Native Vegetation Council Members can be found at <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/about-us/boards-and-committees/native-vegetation-council>.

Changes to the agency

During 2024-25, there were no changes to the agency’s structure and objectives as a result of internal reviews or machinery of government changes.

Our Minister

In 2024-25, the Hon Dr Susan Close MP was the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water and had overall administrative responsibility of the *Native Vegetation Act 1991* and the *Native Vegetation Regulations 2017*.

Our Executive team

The Council has no staff of its own and utilises the services of DEW staff. Reporting on this matter is contained in the DEW 2024-25 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*
- The *Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act 2023*
- The *Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Regulations 2024*.

The agency’s performance

Performance at a glance

During 2024-25, the Council had six (6) ordinary sessional meetings and three (3) special sessional meetings:

- Meeting 252, 31 July 2024
- Meeting 253, 25 September 2024
- Special Meeting, 30 September 2024
- Special Meeting, 25 October 2024
- Meeting 254, 27 November 2024
- Meeting 255, 12 February 2025
- Meeting 256, 26 March 2025
- Special Meeting (Induction Day), 29 April 2025
- Meeting 257, 11 June 2025.

The table below outlines of the nine (9) meetings, the number attended by each member:

Name of Member	Number of meetings attended
Dr Marilyn Henderson	9
Ms Kylie Weymouth	8
Mr John Neal	8
Mr Michael Cornish	9
Prof Hugh Possingham	9
Ms Anna Hooper	8
Ms Robbie Davis	2*
Ms Leanne Muffet	6**

* Ms Davis was eligible to attend 2 meetings during 2024-25 (due to appointment term commencing on 23 April 2025).

** Ms Muffet was eligible to attend 7 meetings during 2024-25 (due to appointment term ending on 22 April 2025).

The sessional meetings do not include meetings of the Council’s sub-committee, the Native Vegetation Assessment Panel (Panel). The Council has delegated some functions and powers to the Panel. The Panel is made up of three Council members and held 12 meetings during 2024-25.

Agency specific objectives and performance

The Council reviewed its *Strategic Plan 2024-26*. It consists of three (3) goals reflecting:

- Protecting and conserving native vegetation;
- Working with stakeholders; and
- Actively contributing to policy.

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Agency objectives	Indicators	Performance
<p>Goal 1: Protect and conserve native vegetation</p> <p><i>Reverse the decline of native vegetation, and increase the area of native vegetation that is protected and well managed in South Australia.</i></p>	<p>A program of investing the Native Vegetation Fund is designed, and investments are leveraged through partnerships</p>	<p>Council's Investment Strategy Implementation Plan for 2024-25 was approved, along with the Restoration Grant Guide, Incentive Payment Guide and associated application forms.</p>

		<p>The Native Vegetation Heritage Agreement Grant Program (Election Commitment launched on 30 March 2023) continued to support Heritage Agreement owners across the State.</p> <p>During 2024-25:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 89 expressions of interest were received, bringing the program total to 401;• 119 site visits were conducted, bringing the program total to 357;• 6 regional face-to-face training sessions on native vegetation property planning and/or networking sessions were held;• 11 online training sessions were held;• 2 videos produced (one promotional video; and one educational video in establishing photo point and remote monitoring stations); and• 30 grants were awarded, totalling \$245,715 and bringing the total program grant expenditure to \$3.8 million.
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		<p>Council co-invested in the NVHA Grant Program, providing Incentive Grants to encourage the establishment of new Heritage Agreements. This resulted in 10 successful applications, sharing \$300,054 to protect and enhance 104.2 hectares of native vegetation.</p> <p>Council delivered two Restoration Grant rounds across the following Landscapes SA regions: Hills and Fleurieu, Murraylands and Riverland, Limestone Coast, Eyre Peninsula, SA Arid Lands and Northern and Yorke. Restoration Grants seek to invest in large scale projects with high conservation value. They achieve an on-ground SEB with the use of SEB payments made into the Fund.</p> <p>In 2024-25, there were 19 successful applications sharing over \$10 million of committed funding, protecting and improving 19,558 hectares.</p> <p>The success of all three grant programs was bolstered by the support provided to landowners by Outreach Officers within the Native Vegetation Branch and regional Landscapes SA offices.</p>
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		<p>Council’s SEB monitoring and compliance program continued throughout 2024-25, with a total of 38 on-ground SEB sites visited. 55 progress reports were submitted.</p> <p>The investment in SEB monitoring is showing positive results, with 65% of SEB providers engaged and actively reporting, increasing from 21% in the financial year 2021-22.</p> <p>In 2025-26, further site visits, progress reporting, and exploration of other options for engagement with SEB providers will ensure progress towards greater compliance with approval conditions.</p>
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		<p>The HA Program included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applications for 70 new HAs;• Three (3) applications to vary boundaries of a HA (mostly to increase the area covered);• 14 requests received for subdivision of land containing a HA, with two (2) refused by Panel; and• 34 new HAs were registered, protecting 7669.62 hectares of native vegetation. <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 22 voluntary HAs, protecting 5,670.6 hectares;• 4 compliance-related HAs, protecting 656.8 hectares; and• 8 HAs resulting from a condition of clearance approval during 2024-25, protecting 1,317.3 hectares. <p>A total of 1,859,196.62 hectares of native vegetation is held under private conservation through HAs across the state.</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under delegation from the Council, the Panel and DEW officers approved clearance under section 28 of the Act and Regulation 12, for a total of 1599.23 hectares and 459 individual trees (not including 249.01 hectares of brushcutting). <p>(Note: this figure includes approvals granted for applications that were modified to reduce the impact of the clearance.)</p> <p>A total of 1.69 hectares and 65 trees were refused clearance under Panel and DEW delegation (including partially approved applications).</p> <p>(Note: this figure does not include hectares and trees where clearance was avoided or minimised during the assessment of the application.)</p> <p>As a result of clearance consent or approval, Council approved the establishment of 7 new on-ground SEBs, to be delivered as part of condition of clearance approval. The new SEBs will protect and enhance 1,042.67 hectares of native vegetation.</p>
	<p>Promotion of the Mitigation Hierarchy is actively undertaken, impacts are monitored, and improvements are implemented.</p>	<p>As part of the clearance application process, the mitigation hierarchy is actively promoted in pre-lodgement discussions with applicants.</p>

		Information is being collected on applications that have been modified to better assess and ensure application of the mitigation hierarchy has been addressed.
		<p>The Council’s accredited consultants advise, educate and actively implement the mitigation hierarchy whilst undertaking their assessments for clearance applicants.</p> <p>The Council, through its delegated Panel, approved an additional 12 consultants for accreditation.</p>
		The Council, through its Panel, engaged in opportunities to meet with local councils, other State Government agencies and clearance applicants to inform them of their requirements to address the mitigation hierarchy.
		Engagement occurred with the development sector and individual developers to promote mitigation hierarchy at the Master planning stage.
		<p>The native vegetation website contains clear instructions and advice on how to apply the mitigation hierarchy.</p> <p>The mitigation hierarchy is communicated, and the intent is shared at public forums, including at meetings with local councils, planners and during accredited consultant training.</p>

<p>Goal 2: Work with stakeholders</p> <p><i>Engage with and inform stakeholders and the broader community to build knowledge and capacity to manage and protect native vegetation across the landscape.</i></p>	<p>Education and information material produced by the Council is contemporary and raises awareness of obligations to comply with legislation.</p>	<p>Education and information produced is aligned with DEW standards. The suite of fact sheets and other information that supports the implementation of native vegetation policy and legislation is currently under review, with work being undertaken into 2025-26.</p> <p>Native vegetation requirements are communicated and presented at public forums, field days and other community events.</p>
		<p>The updated Native Vegetation Website went live on 30 June 2025. It contains a new simplified framework to find information and content pages have been streamlined.</p>
	<p>Regional visits are undertaken, and a program of stakeholder engagement is developed.</p>	<p>Biannual regional visits are undertaken by Council.</p> <p>The Murraylands and Riverland Regional visit was undertaken in September 2024.</p> <p>The Kangaroo Island Regional visit was undertaken in March 2025.</p> <p>Local Government and regional landscape board stakeholders were engaged through opportunities for site visits, and to meet and discuss issues of mutual interest during the visits.</p>

		<p>The Council has directly engaged with other Government agencies and Non-Government Organisations on matters including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Early engagement on clearance activities and SEB matters, including pre-lodgement advice on major projects;• Active engagement with the mining sector, including delegates from the Department for Energy and Mining;• Participation in the State Bushfire Coordination Committee (SA CFS);• Receiving presentations on matters, including the Draft Biodiversity Bill, Mining and Energy Assessments, Tasmanian Blue Gum Wildlings, Nature Repair Market, Weeds of National Significance Buffel Grass Nomination, State Bushfire Risk Assessment Project, Renewable Energy Developments and New Information for Biodiversity Impact Assessments; and• Site visits with the proponent and accredited consultants to clearance sites under application.
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<p>Goal 3: Actively contribute to policy.</p> <p><i>Contribute to the legislative and policy environment so it complements the provisions of the Native Vegetation Act 1991</i></p>	<p>The Significant Environmental Benefit (SEB) Policy achieves a significant environmental benefit from clearance of native vegetation.</p>	<p>Minor changes to the policy (the SEB points of gain/hectare) were implemented to ensure the policy satisfies the requirements of the <i>Native Vegetation Act 1991</i> - that a SEB will be over and above the impact of native vegetation clearance.</p> <p>The SEB Policy review continued in 2024-25 with an expert review of the SEB payment formula.</p> <p>Council will consider the findings of the review in 2025-26.</p>
	<p>Input into intra- and inter-agency legislative and policy development across the State to ensure native vegetation is properly considered.</p>	<p>The Council provided input into the development of the State Government's draft Biodiversity legislation through consultation processes.</p>

		<p>The Council submitted a response to approximately nine key national, state-wide, regional and local policy submissions:</p> <p>National policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nomination of Buffel Grass as a weed of National Significance. <p>State-wide policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastoral Board Guideline – Permanent Increase to Stocking Maximum; • <i>Mining Act 1971</i> Issues Paper; and • Engineering Requirements for Land Divisions. <p>Regional and local policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eyre and Western Regional Plan; • Far North Regional Plan; • Yorke Peninsula and Mid North Regional Plan; • Murray Mallee Regional Plan; and • Limestone Coast Regional Plan.
		A Council policy audit will be undertaken in 2025-26.

Corporate performance summary

The Council’s corporate services are supported by DEW.

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 May 2025 and will be assessed again in May 2027.
Government employees supporting Council undertake a performance review and development program with their manager.	Two 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 2024-25.

Workplace injury claims	Current year 2024-25	Past year 2023-24	% 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 meeting the relevant threshold under the Return to Work Act 2014 (Part 2 Division 5)*

Work health and safety regulations	Current year 2024-25	Past year 2023-24	% 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

Return to work costs**	Current year 2024-25	Past year 2023-24	% 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 2024-2025 are attached to this report.

Statement of Comprehensive Income	2024-25 Budget \$000s	2024-25 Actual \$000s	Variation \$000s	Past year 2023-24 Actual \$000s
Total Income	1 505	5 368	3 386	4 873
Total Expenses	2 094	2 017	77	1 015
Net Result	589	3 351	3 309	3 858
Total Comprehensive Result	589	3 351	3 309	3 858

Statement of Financial Position	2024-25 Budget \$000s	2024-25 Actual \$000s	Variation \$000s	Past year 2023-24 Actual \$000s
Current assets	0	0	0	0
Non-current assets	0	0	0	0
Total assets	0	32 910	0	29 559
Current liabilities	0	0	0	0
Non-current liabilities	0	0	0	0
Total liabilities	0	0	0	29 559
Net assets	0	32 910	0	0
Equity	0	32 910	0	29 559

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

Consultancies	Purpose	\$ Actual payment
Nil.		

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

Consultancies	Purpose	\$ Actual payment
Nil.		

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
Nil.		

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

Contractors	Purpose	\$ Actual payment
Nil.		

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 2024-25.

Note, decisions are made under delegation of the Native Vegetation Council to the Native Vegetation Assessment Panel or Native Vegetation Branch Officers.

	Native Vegetation Act (section 28)	Native Vegetation Regulations (Regulation 12)	Total
No. of approved clearance applications	10	139	149*
Native vegetation cleared (ha)	13.6**	1585.63	1599.23
No. of trees cleared	50	451	459
SEB (ha)	0	1042.67	1042.67
SEB (\$)	\$164,876.98	\$14,852,524.44	\$15,017,401.42

*The total number of approved clearances is less than previous years due a change in procedure. Approval via a decision notification is not provided until the applicant has received Development Approval. A further 100 clearance applications have been assessed but not finalised as development approval for the projects has not been provided.

**Note, area (ha) cleared excludes 7 section 28 brushcutting approvals of 249.01 hectares (in Eyre Peninsula and Northern and Yorke Landscapes regions). Brushcutting is a form of clearance under section 28 of the Act. It does not require a SEB obligation as total removal of native vegetation does not occur and is therefore not included in the hectares cleared.

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

Table 2. Clearance statistics for comparison of financial year 2023-24 and 2024-25.

Clearance	Financial year 2023-24	Financial year 2024-25
Clearance Application under Section 28	17	11
Clearance Application under Section 28 refused	0	1
Hectares under Section 28	44	13.6
Brush-cutting under Section 28	3617	249.01
Total approval under Section 28	3660	262.61
Trees under Section 28	67	50
Applications under Regulation 12	239	150
Applications under Regulation 12 withdrawn/refused/invalid	10	11
Hectares approved under Regulation 12	208.1	1585.63
Hectares approved under Management Plan (ecological management)	38	2181.37
Trees approved under Regulation 12	944	451

Trees approved under Management Plan (ecological management)	60	0
\$ SEB under Section 28	337,395.76	164,876.98
\$ SEB under Regulation 12	2,630,779.90	14,852,524.44
Hectares SEB offset under Section 28	1.4	0
Hectares SEB offset under Regulation 12	145	1042.67

* Explanation of increases associated with Regulation 12 can be found in Table 4.

A breakdown of the clearance that has occurred under delegation or via a Standard Operating Procedure can be seen in Table 3.

Table 3. Clearance decisions under Regulations by delegation or via a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) 2024-25.

Organisation with delegated officers	No. of clearance decisions	Native vegetation approved (ha)	Trees approved	Committed SEB \$	Committed on-ground SEB (ha)
DEM Energy	11	281.31	0	\$248,514.61	0
DEM Mining	7	480.96	0	\$459,739.75	0
SA Water	32	76.207	39	\$121,348.59	0
DIT	33	175	65	\$929,481.23	0
Forestry SA	1	40	0	N/A	0
ElectraNet	2	0.1164	0	\$2,553.18	0
SA CFS	17	218	9	N/A	N/A
SA Power Networks	16	0.5924	3	\$20,594.86	0
DEW Fire (Ecological)	60	4280.3	0	N/A	N/A

A breakdown of the clearance that has occurred by Landscapes Region under the Regulation 12 and section 28 of the Act can be seen below in Table 4 and 5 below.

Table 4. Clearance decisions under Regulation 12 by Landscapes Region 2024-25.

Landscape Region	No. submitted	No. completed Applications	Withdrawn / refused / invalid	Ha native Vegetation approved for removal	Trees approved for removal	Committed payment into NV Fund (\$)	Committed SEB (ha)
Hills and Fleurieu	49	41	3	1.28	222	263,408.80	0
Alinytjara Wilurara	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eyre Peninsula*	14	14	2	112.74	6	900,058.96	10.7
Kangaroo Island	11	8	0	1.02	0	17,259.19	0
Northern and Yorke**	35	26	1	1,285.44	108	12,343,674.35	1,029.38
Green Adelaide	25	19	1	8.32	31	238,068.91	0

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Murrayland and Riverland	28	19	3	4.1	42	105,191.97	0
SA Australian Arid Lands***	22	15	0	168.61	0	748,098.16	2.59
Limestone Coast	8	8	1	4.12	42	236,764.10	0
Total	192	150	11	1585.63	451	14,852,524.44	1042.67

* Eyre Peninsula includes clearance for infrastructure related to a large-scale renewable project (Whyalla Barson).

** Northern and Yorke includes two infrastructure clearances related to renewables projects (Georgetown and Carmody Hill); and a helipad (Balaklava).

*** South Australian Arid Lands include clearance for the Stuart Highway Upgrades.

Table 5. Clearance decisions under section 28 by Landscapes Region 2024-25

Landscapes 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	1	1	0	0.03	0	500.00	0
Alinytjara Wilurara	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eyre Peninsula*	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kangaroo Island*	2	2	0	5.71	3	27,850.26	0
Northern and Yorke**	4	3	0	3.47	2	90,257.54	0
Green Adelaide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Murraylands and Riverland	1	1	0	2.8	0	18,676.88	0
SA Australian Arid Lands	1	1	0	1.59	0	7,155.68	0
Limestone Coast	4	3	1	0	45	20,436.62	0
Total	15	11	1	13.6	50	164,876.98	0

Note, excludes 7 section 28 brushcutting consents of 249.01 hectares (across the Eyre Peninsula and Northern and Yorke Landscapes regions).

* Kangaroo Island clearance includes a gypsum stockpile.

** Northern and Yorke clearances include a laydown/storage area and stormwater evaporation pond.

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 Council 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 2024-25: Alleged Illegal Clearance

During the 2024-25 financial year, the Native Vegetation Branch received or detected a total of 196 incidents of potential clearance of native vegetation contrary to the Act. The reports are presented according to each landscape region in Table 6 alongside data for the nine preceding financial years.

Table 6: Reports received by Landscape Region 2015-16 to 2024-25.

Landscape Region	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25
Green Adelaide	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	6	10	18
Hills and Fleurieu	29	30	38	51	53	51	43	37	36	56
Alinytjara Wilurara	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eyre Peninsula	11	32	26	5	21	16	8	15	9	17
Kangaroo Island	8	13	19	8	21	11	4	9	4	12
Northern & Yorke	14	21	12	15	20	37	20	26	31	38
SA Arid Lands	0	1	3	2	1	0	1	2	2	7
Murraylands & Riverland	25	21	29	38	35	46	13	10	12	33
Limestone Coast	22	20	16	15	34	22	13	14	14	15
Sub-total	109	138	143	134	185	183	102	119	118	196
Change Detection Program	31	40	54	61	0	0	0	0	0	0*
TOTAL	140	178	197	195	185	183	102	119	118	196

** Note, the Change Detection Program has been reinstated in 2024-25. Four suppliers have trialled four test areas across the State. A supplier will be selected following the trials and a formal program will be reinstated in 2025-26.*

Actions taken from Reports received 2024-25: Alleged Illegal Clearance

There was a total of 196 illegal clearance reports received this financial year and Table 7 summarises the actions taken from reports of alleged illegal clearance for the 2024-25 financial year.

Table 7. Compliance Actions within the 2024-25 financial year.

Actions	Number
Exempt – Non native	2
Exempt – Regulation	6
No further action (NFA)	15
Education letter (trivial or minor clearance breaches)	29
Written caution (breach of the Act)	10
Enforcement Notice (stop work and/or make good the clearance)	15
Expiation	1
Referred to Investigation (serious offences referred to gather further evidence to pursue legal proceedings)	1
Request for Information (RFI) - response pending	16
Investigating	101
TOTAL	196

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.

During the 2024-25 financial year—

- Council initiated civil proceedings for:
 - Clearance of approximately 4.24 ha occurred prior to July 2022 on a range of land parcels for the construction of an off-road race track.
- Civil proceedings continue for:
 - Clearance of approximately 2,100 hectares of native vegetation in the South-East region, detected between February 2018 and August 2020;
 - Clearance of approximately 60 hectares of native vegetation for canola cultivation on the Eyre Peninsula, alongside a concurrent criminal process.
- Civil proceedings were finalised for:
 - Clearance of approximately 8 hectares of native vegetation adjacent a centre pivot irrigator identified via aerial imagery to establish clay pits in the South-East region;
 - Clearance of scattered trees to improve grazing in the Fleurieu region;
 - Clearance of scattered trees to establish a centre pivot identified at one site in the Limestone Coast region.

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 2024-25.

Data for previous years is available at: <https://data.sa.gov.au/data/dataset/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/dataset/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

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 2024-25
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

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Complaint categories	Sub-categories	Example	Number of Complaints 2024-25
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
		Total	0

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 2024-25, the Council received no public complaints. The Council, with the support of DEW, is closely monitoring any complaints related to the administration of the *Native Vegetation Act 1991* that are not the responsibility of the Council. These complaints are reported by DEW.

Compliance Statement

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

Appendix: Audited financial statements 2024-25

Native Vegetation Fund

Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2025

**Native Vegetation Fund
Certification of Financial Statements**
for the year ended 30 June 2025

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.



Dr Marilyn Henderson
Presiding Member
Native Vegetation Council
18 December 2025



Ben Bruce
Chief Executive
Department for Environment and Water
18 December 2025



Shaun O'Brien
Chief Financial Officer
Department for Environment and Water
18 December 2025

Native Vegetation Fund
Statement of Comprehensive Income
for the year ended 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Income			
Fees and charges	2.1	4 135	3 751
Interest	5.1	1 233	1 093
Other income	2.2	-	29
Total income		5 368	4 873
Expenses			
Supplies and services	4.1	89	38
Grants and subsidies	4.2	1 925	965
Other expenses	4.3	3	12
Total expenses		2 017	1 015
Net result		3 351	3 858
Total comprehensive result		3 351	3 858

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 2025

	Note	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5.1	31 652	29 132
Receivables	5.2	1 632	469
Total current assets		33 284	29 601
Total assets		33 284	29 601
Current liabilities			
Payables	6.1	374	42
Total current liabilities		374	42
Total liabilities		374	42
Net assets		32 910	29 559
Equity			
Retained earnings		32 910	29 559
Total equity		32 910	29 559

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 2025

	Retained earnings \$'000	Total equity \$'000
Balance at 1 July 2023	<u>25 701</u>	<u>25 701</u>
Net result for 2023-24	3 858	3 858
Total comprehensive result for 2023-24	<u>3 858</u>	<u>3 858</u>
Balance at 30 June 2024	<u>29 559</u>	<u>29 559</u>
Net result for 2024-25	3 351	3 351
Total comprehensive result for 2024-25	<u>3 351</u>	<u>3 351</u>
Balance at 30 June 2025	<u><u>32 910</u></u>	<u><u>32 910</u></u>

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 2025

	Note	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
<i>Cash inflows</i>			
Fees and charges		3 007	4 416
Interest received		1 235	1 074
GST recovered from the DEW		141	2
Other receipts		-	29
<i>Cash outflows</i>			
Payments for supplies and services		(98)	(43)
Payments of grants and subsidies		(1 752)	(1 016)
Other payments		(13)	(12)
Net cash from operating activities		2 520	4 450
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		2 520	4 450
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		29 132	24 682
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	5.1	31 652	29 132

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 2025

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).

1.1. Basis of preparation

These financial statements are general purpose financial statements prepared in accordance 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 2025

1.3. Changes to the Board

On Wednesday 18 June 2025, Parliament passed South Australia's first ever Biodiversity Act 2025. The full commencement of this Act is expected to take a number of years and will result in the repeal of the Native Vegetation Act 1991. Native Vegetation Funds will transition to the Biodiversity Administration Fund and the Biodiversity Restoration Fund. The amounts transitioned into the Biodiversity Administration Fund will be determined by Regulation.

2. Income

2.1. Fees and charges

	2025	2024
	\$'000	\$'000
Significant Environmental Benefits *	4 042	3 654
Fees, fines and penalties	93	97
Total fees and charges	4 135	3 751

* 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 (if any) approved by the Minister for that region.

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

2.2. Other income

	2025	2024
	\$'000	\$'000
Impairment gain on receivables	-	29
Total other income	-	29

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 \$62 000 (2024: \$38 000).

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

Apart from the remuneration for key management personnel, the Fund does not have material transactions with key management personnel, their close family members and/or their controlled or jointly controlled entities.

Native Vegetation Fund
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
For the year ended 30 June 2025

3.2. Remuneration of council and committee members

Members during the 2024-25 financial year were:

Native Vegetation Council	Native Vegetation Assessment Panel
M Henderson (Presiding Member)	M Henderson (Chair)
K Weymouth	K Weymouth
J H Neal	M Cornish
M Cornish	
H Possingham	
R A Davis	
A Hooper	
L Muffet (retired 22/04/2025)	

* 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:

	2025	2024
\$1 - \$19 999	7	7
\$20 000 - \$39 999	1	-
Total number of members	8	7

The total remuneration received or receivable by members was \$75 000 (2024: \$38 000). 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.

4. Expenses

4.1. Supplies and services

	2025	2024
	\$'000	\$'000
Legal costs	11	7
Council rates	7	8
Minor works	4	4
General administration	1	2
Fee for service	-	14
Travel and accommodation	-	1
Other	66	2
Total supplies and services	89	38

Native Vegetation Fund
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
For the year ended 30 June 2025

4.2. Grants and subsidies

	2025	2024
	\$'000	\$'000
Significant Environmental Benefit (SEB) grants	1 916	965
Other grants	9	-
Total grants and subsidies	1 925	965

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.

4.3. Other expenses

	2025	2024
	\$'000	\$'000
Audit fees	12	12
Impairment loss on receivables	(9)	-
Total other expenses	3	12

Audit fees

Audit fees paid/payable to the Audit Office of South Australia relating to work performed under the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987* were \$11 700 (2024: \$11 700). No other services were provided by the Audit Office of South Australia.

5. Financial assets

5.1. Cash and cash equivalents

	2025	2024
	\$'000	\$'000
Deposits with the Treasurer	31 652	29 132
Total cash and cash equivalents	31 652	29 132

Deposits with the Treasurer

The Fund is established under section 21 of the Act. The Fund's 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. Interest earned during the year was \$1.233 million (2024: \$1.093 million). Interest is recorded on an accrual basis.

Native Vegetation Fund
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
For the year ended 30 June 2025

5.2. Receivables

	2025	2024
	\$'000	\$'000
<u>Current receivables</u>		
Fees and charges	1 560	432
GST input tax recoverable from DEW	30	3
Less impairment loss on receivables	(55)	(65)
	<u>1 535</u>	<u>370</u>
Accrued interest	97	99
Total current receivables	<u>1 632</u>	<u>469</u>

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.

The net amount of GST Recoverable from DEW is included as part of receivables.

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 contracts with customers that are external to SA Government. No impairment loss was recognised in relation to statutory receivables.

6. Liabilities

6.1. Payables

	2025	2024
	\$'000	\$'000
<u>Current</u>		
Trade payables	362	30
Accrued expenses	12	12
Total current payables	<u>374</u>	<u>42</u>
Total payables	<u>374</u>	<u>42</u>

Payables and accrued expenses are recognised for all amounts owing but unpaid. Contractual payables are normally settled within 15 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.

Native Vegetation Fund
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
For the year ended 30 June 2025

7. Outlook

7.1. Unrecognised commitments

Other contractual commitments

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

	2025	2024
	\$'000	\$'000
Within one year	2 444	962
Later than one year but not longer than five years	3 962	1 606
Later than five years	1 648	142
Total expenditure commitments	8 054	2 710

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.

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.

	2025	2024
	\$'000	\$'000
Murraylands and Riverland	5 681	5 756
SA Arid Lands	5 741	5 314
Northern and Yorke	5 389	5 083
Hills and Fleurieu	4 342	4 378
Eyre Peninsula	2 793	2 122
Limestone Coast	1 988	1 922
Kangaroo Island	1 134	1 117
Alinytjara Wilurara	1 039	1 037
Green Adelaide (metropolitan region)	564	566
Total restrictions on contributions received	28 671	27 295

7.4. Events after the reporting period

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