

GREEN ADELAIDE

Annual Business Plan
2026-27



Recognition of Kurna Miyurna and Yarta

We acknowledge and respect the native title holders and traditional owners of the Green Adelaide region – the Kurna Miyurna (Kurna People) – and pay homage to their ancestors who maintained the natural processes of the land we are on and whose spirits still dwell on Yarta (Country). Mutual respect and trust enable us to walk and work side-by-side to restore Yarta.

Looking to the future

Green Adelaide commits to strengthening the relationship with the Kurna Miyurna through environmental partnerships such as Warpulai Kumangka (meaning ‘working together’).

We will work closely with Warpulai Kumangka and the Kurna Yarta Aboriginal Corporation (KYAC) to advance Kurna Miyurna aspirations for country through KYAC’s Healthy Country Plan. This partnership prioritises strong governance and collaboration between all stakeholders, ensuring decision-making is inclusive, culturally informed, and transparent.

We will support Warpulai Kumangka to implement an innovative, world-leading model for cultural engagement in the environmental sector. By fostering a mutually beneficial learning environment, the timeless knowledge of the Kurna Miyurna will guide sustainable growth of biodiversity in the Green Adelaide region. Together, we will raise awareness and build capacity around Aboriginal cultural knowledge, values, and lore, embedding traditional practices in Green Adelaide-led projects and programs.

Foreword



A message from Green Adelaide Presiding Member Professor Chris Daniels

As Green Adelaide continues to work toward our vision for Adelaide to be a ‘cooler, greener, wilder and climate resilient city that celebrates our unique culture’, I am pleased to present the first business plan under Green Adelaide’s second Regional Landscape Plan 2026-2031.

Throughout the past five years, we have worked with our partners across government, non-government, and private sector organisations to deliver a range of programs and projects consistent with our first Regional Landscape Plan.

Over the coming year, Green Adelaide will seek to inspire, support and connect our region, bringing people and place together to integrate nature into our urban spaces and create a thriving, biodiverse and climate-ready region.

This Annual Business Plan 2026-27 sets out our proposed work across our new three focus areas of: Coast and Marine, Inland Waters, and Urban Neighbourhoods.

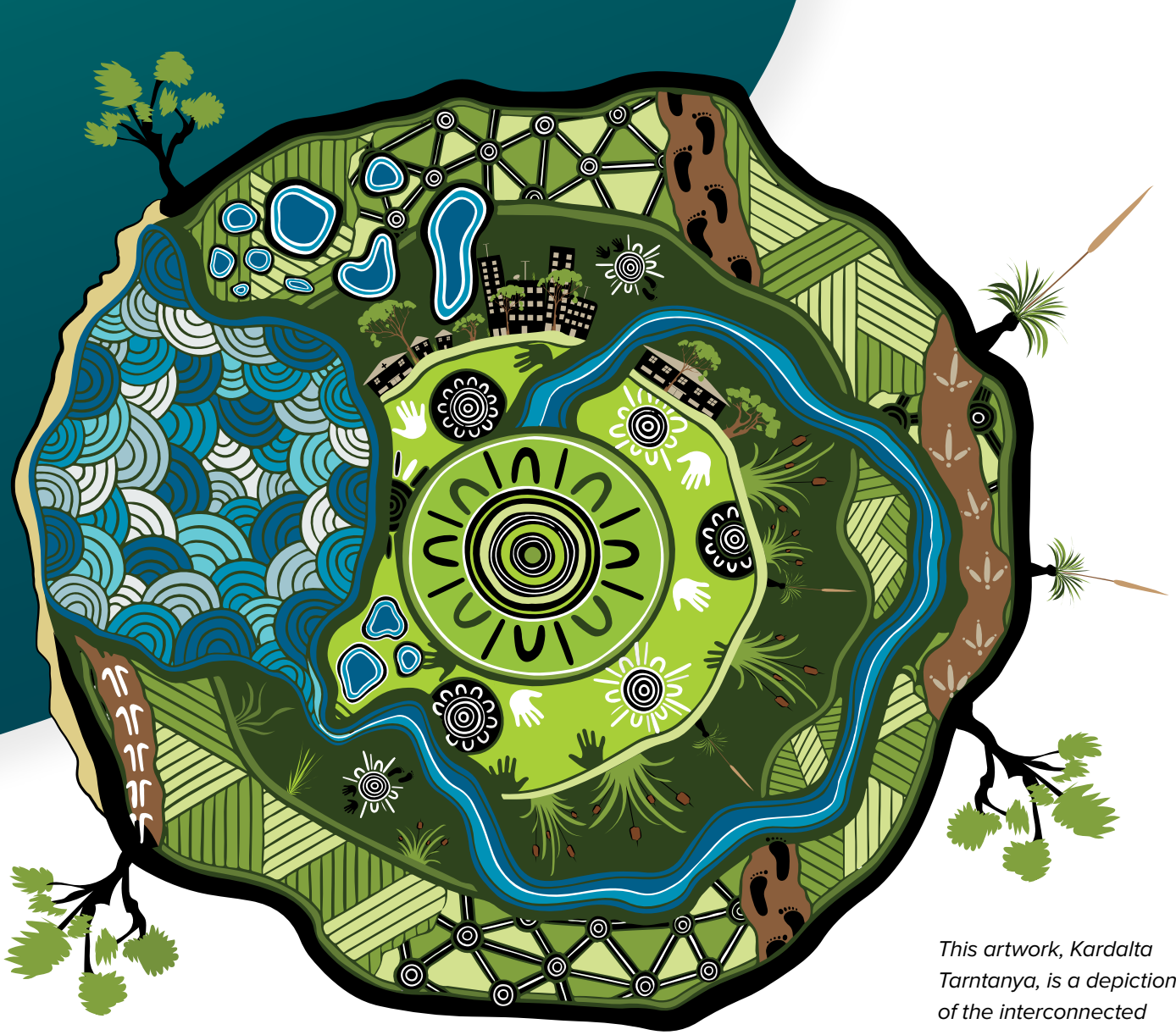
These are consistent with our values, and with our seven legislated priorities, and will see us working with our partners to catalyse on-ground action, develop and maintain data and evidence, facilitate collaboration, inspire nature stewardship and influence policy.

We will continue to work towards the future liveability of our city, to sustain and protect Adelaide’s unique natural environment, while responding to a drying and warming climate, and contributing to community sustainability, health and wellbeing.

We know that our success relies on genuine and meaningful collaboration with many and varied partners across the region, and this is how we strive to deliver the best results for our communities.

We look forward to implementing our Annual Business Plan 2026-27 by continuing to work with our partners and communities toward protecting and enhancing our unique urban region including terrestrial, aquatic and marine environments.

Emeritus Professor Chris Daniels
BSc (Hons), PhD, DSc, FAICD
Presiding Member



This artwork, Kardalta Tarntanya, is a depiction of the interconnected nature of our work.

What guides us

Our Vision is for a cooler, greener, wilder and more climate-resilient Adelaide that celebrates our unique culture.

Our Purpose is to inspire, support and connect our region, bringing people and place together to integrate nature into our urban spaces and create a thriving, biodiverse, and climate-ready region.

Our values

Collaboration

We unlock greater potential by working together – embracing, enhancing and respecting diverse disciplines, unique strengths and expertise.

Leadership

We inspire and facilitate collective action to drive meaningful change for our unique ecosystems and people, working towards shared goals with purpose, integrity and accountability.

Impact

We focus on measurable outcomes that create lasting, positive change for the ecological systems of our region.

Courage

We act boldly with integrity, remaining resilient when faced with complexity, and are prepared to challenge the status quo with determination.

How we work

Our Regional Landscape Plan 2026-2031 identifies aspirational environmental outcomes for each of the 3 focus areas: **Coast and marine**, **Inland waters** and **Urban neighbourhoods**.

We will contribute to achieving the aspirational environmental outcomes for our region by undertaking work consistent with these 5 enabling functions:

Catalyse on-ground action

We catalyse on-ground works through direct investment and partnering with landholders, community groups and government and non-government organisations. Our investment enables partners to undertake these works, which include activities like planting, pest and weed control, species reintroductions, and seed collection.

Develop and maintain data and evidence

We undertake monitoring and investigations to inform investment and to support our work and the work of our partners. This includes mapping projects, quality and condition assessments, and the sharing of data for partners and community access. We also support research and investigations to develop better approaches to enable positive environmental outcomes.

Facilitate collaboration

We actively engage in collaborative partnerships to maximise the delivery of environmental outcomes across our region. We provide leadership in bringing stakeholders together to plan and develop solutions to challenging problems, and support partnership approaches to action these.

Inspire nature stewardship

We build the capacity and capability of the people in our region to deliver environmental programs and outcomes, through sharing information, education and engagement in targeted and accessible formats. When necessary, we also conduct compliance activities to encourage appropriate land and water management practices.

Influence policy

We provide advice on how to improve policies and planning for activities that impact our waterways, and coast, marine and terrestrial environments, including our urban landscape. We provide information and options to enable our partner agencies to achieve better environmental outcomes.

The board and staff

Green Adelaide Board

The Green Adelaide Board is 1 of South Australia's 9 regional landscape boards established under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* (the Act). The board was specifically created as a body tasked with transforming the landscapes of metropolitan Adelaide.

The board oversees and strategically guides the delivery of initiatives for our urban community to confront the challenges facing metropolitan Adelaide, including the impacts of climate change, increasing urban density, and loss of biodiversity and

connection with nature. It will pursue an innovative and collaborative approach to creating a cooler, greener, wilder and climate resilient city that celebrates our unique culture.

The board has also established a Risk and Performance Committee to provide independent advice and assurance on risks, controls and financial performance and to support the board to meet its statutory compliance requirements.

2026-27 board focus

The board's 2026-27 Annual Business Plan has been developed to guide the implementation of the first year of the board's Regional Landscape Plan 2026-31.

The board will also:

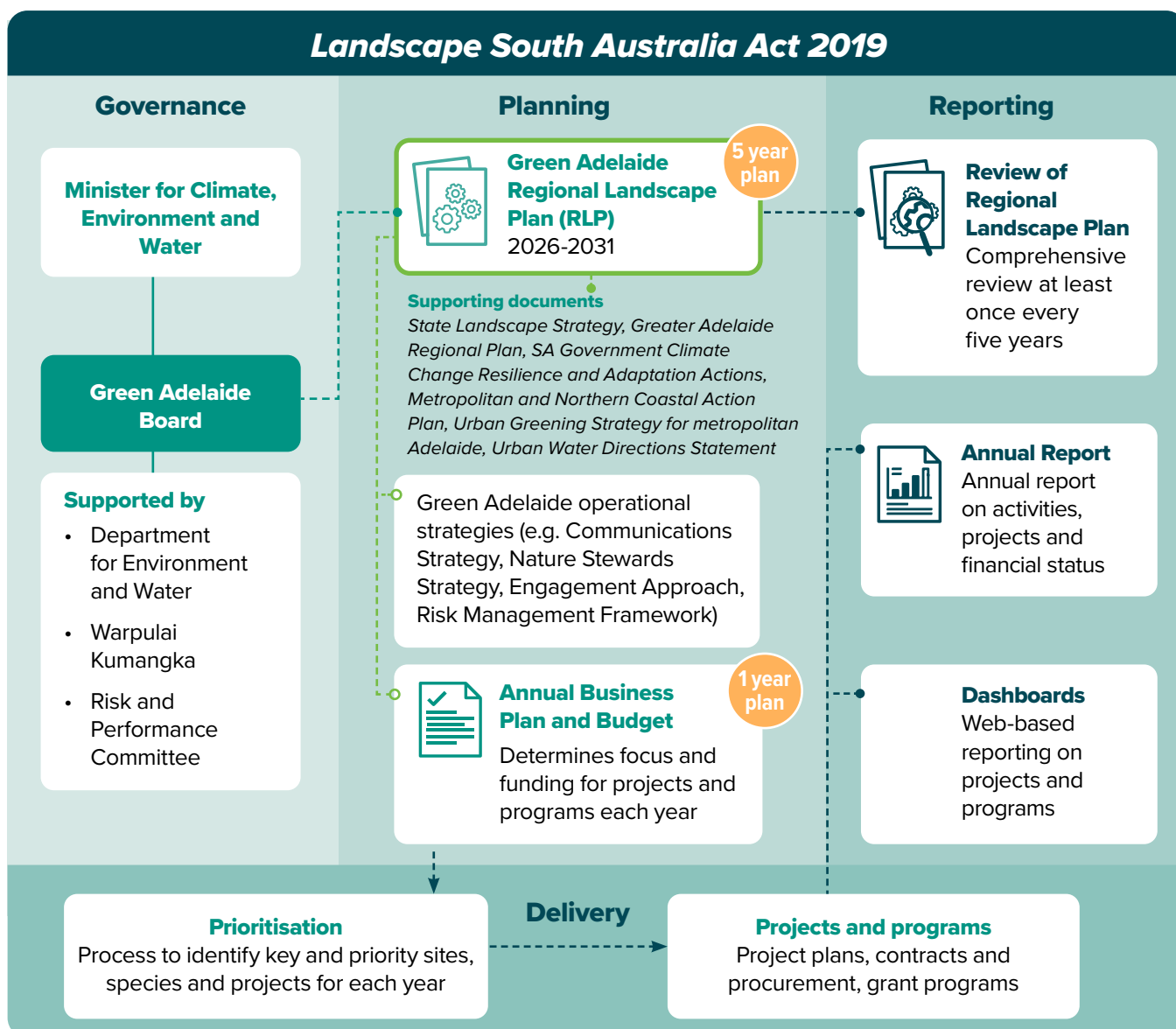
- Prepare a statutory annual report and a community-facing report showing how levy funds have been spent during the financial year.
- Conduct monitoring of its activities and the condition of landscapes and report these through its Dashboards.

Staffing arrangements

The board is supported by Department for Environment and Water (DEW) staff, who are provided through a service level agreement.

In 2026-27, it is anticipated that the board will be supported by 57.35 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions. The board will also continue to receive a range of corporate services (including finance, human resources and information technology) through DEW.

Partnerships, service agreements and grants with other organisations will also support staff to deliver on this plan.



Program investment (expenditure)

The following tables provide the Board's proposed expenditure for 2026-27.

Total proposed expenditure is \$37.985m."

Table 1: Summary of expenditure by Focus Area and Enabling Function

	Coast and Marine \$ ('000)	Inland Waters \$ ('000)	Urban Neighbourhoods \$ ('000)	Operational (Goods & Services) \$ ('000)
Catalyse on-ground action	1,335	2,764	2,452	6,551
Develop and maintain data and evidence	393	611	792	1,796
Facilitate collaboration	722	496	1,058	2,276
Inspire nature stewardship	941	739	1,298	2,978
Influence policy	22	103	155	280
Total Operational (Goods and Services)	3,413	4,713	5,755	13,881
Corporate¹	3,321	3,864	4,360	11,545

1. Corporate Expenditure includes salaries and wages as well as business and administration, communication and corporate services expenses that support the delivery of all of the board's priorities.

Table 2: Summary of other expenditure

Item	\$ ('000)
Landscape Priorities Fund¹	5,435
Adelaide Beach Management²	3,334
Patawalonga Lake System²	1,248
Water Planning Management³	1,237
Urban Rivers and Catchments Program⁴	1,305
Total	12,559

1. The board must contribute a percentage of its landscape and water levy income to the Landscape Priorities Fund under Section 93 of the Act. This percentage is currently 15%, as designated by the Minister for Environment and Water by notice in the Government Gazette on 14 January 2021. The Board has no legislated or administrative responsibility for the management of this Fund.
2. Ministerial directives made under Section 14(3) of the Act have been put in place for Adelaide's metropolitan beach management and the management of the Patawalonga Lake System. The Board is directed to contribute to DEW's costs for their management and has no responsibility for the implementation of these services.
3. State Water Planning and Management contributions include the following functions: water licensing and assessment, water resource monitoring, state and condition reporting for water resources, compliance activities and water planning advice to support the management of water resources. These services are provided by DEW, including regionally based departmental staff.
4. External funding from the Australian Government is provided for the Urban Rivers and Catchments Program.

Table 3: Summary of operational expenditure

	\$ ('000) Operational (Goods & Services)	Coast and Marine	Inland Waters	Urban Neighbourhoods
Facilitating Nature Stewardship Coordination of Green Adelaide's nature stewards program including in-place hosted learning facilitators (equivalent of 10 FTE's), the Adelaide National Park City program and volunteer and community group support, to provide educational initiatives, skills and capacity building in partnership with government, education, private enterprises, NGOs and communities to engage in the protection, enhancement or management of landscapes.	2,018	✓	✓	✓
Cooler, Greener, Wilder Grants Strategic grant-call focused on leveraging on-ground works with local government achieving integrated water sensitive and biodiversity sensitive urban design and increased urban green cover in the public realm.	1,500	✓	✓	✓
Coastal Action Coordinated coastal conservation works, technical support and action planning. The delivery model includes funding for 3 Coastal Conservation Officers hosted by local Councils as well as support for 2 positions within Birdlife Australia.	1,395	✓		
Community-led Environment Centres Funding for community-led environment centres to provide their communities with resources, a physical local hub, and an annual program of activities to connect people to nature and each other and build community capacity for environmental stewardship and action.	1,133	✓	✓	✓
Grassroots Grants¹ Supports individuals, and volunteer, community and other bodies, organisations and groups to undertake activities to improve the local environment.	1,089	✓	✓	✓
Conservation of Threatened Species and Communities Work to improve conservation outcomes for threatened species and communities, whilst also maximising the conservation prospects and partnership opportunities for broader biodiversity.	969	✓	✓	✓
Rewilding Work to scope and undertake rewilding of urban and peri-urban environments with a core focus on a platypus translocation assessment for the River Torrens. Includes other rewilding activities such as urban raptors and butterfly habitat enhancement and translocation.	922		✓	✓

	\$ ('000) Operational (Goods & Services)	Coast and Marine	Inland Waters	Urban Neighbourhoods
Water Management Assets Operations, maintenance and management of Green Adelaide-owned gross pollutant traps and fish ladders in the Torrens and Patawalonga catchments.	900	✓	✓	
Controlling Pest Plants and Animals Supports for stakeholders and the community to mitigate the impacts of established pests and manage the risks posed by emerging species, preventing the establishment where possible, undertaken in collaboration with DEW, local Councils, and other Landscape Boards.	591			✓
Working with Kurna Work to connect with Kurna representatives and fosters strong and respectful relationships. The key engagement focus is via the Warpulai Kumangka advisory committee to explore ways of working on Country; to learn about cultural and heritage issues and respond to environmental management issues.	375	✓	✓	✓
Southern Rivers on Country Programs Broadens the focus of the Field River Valley Restoration Project to include other rivers and catchments of southern metropolitan Adelaide. The project strengthens collaborations with Kurna and is delivered in collaboration with DEW.	350		✓	✓
Urban Watercourse Management Focuses on improving the water quality and biodiversity of the River Torrens and other urban waterways through partnership grants with local government to complete on-ground (pest plant and animal control) management works.	348		✓	
Facilitating Climate Resilience Collaborations Support for the delivery of climate resilience projects with local governments through funding for coordinators that work across regional groups of councils to drive collaboration, planning, and delivery of climate change adaptation and mitigation activities, including urban greening, WSUD and nature education.	320			✓
Implementing the Urban Greening Strategy Lead facilitation of the implementation of the Urban Greening Strategy for Metropolitan Adelaide. This involves driving a shared urban greening agenda with relevant government agencies and organisations across the six priority areas for action.	250			✓
Longitudinal Aquatic Ecosystem Monitoring Region-wide watercourse ecosystem monitoring and reporting program. This work provides systematic assessments of aquatic ecosystems to determine condition and track long term changes across the region. It considers water quality, riparian vegetation, the health of native fish and macroinvertebrate biodiversity.	216		✓	

	\$ ('000) Operational (Goods & Services)	Coast and Marine	Inland Waters	Urban Neighbourhoods
Our Blue Backyard Actions to support marine habitat conservation and restoration through engagement and collaboration of key eNGOs and other stakeholders including community.	204	✓		
Longitudinal Marine Ecosystem Monitoring Region-wide marine ecosystem monitoring and reporting program. This work provides systematic assessments of marine ecosystems to determine condition and track long term changes across the region. It considers marine debris and marine pests and incorporates opportunities for citizen science.	178	✓		
Longitudinal Surface Water Monitoring Region-wide surface water monitoring and reporting program. This work provides systematic assessments of surface water quality at strategic locations across the region with the capacity to track long term changes across the region. It considers volume of discharge to the Gulf, suspended sediment load, Phosphorus and Nitrogen levels.	165		✓	
Coastal Ambassadors Community capacity building and stewardship for coastal conservation, delivered through the Coastal Ambassadors Adult and Youth training programs, Coastal Officers Network forums, Coastal Garden design workshops, other coast and marine outreach events and Community Nursery support.	164	✓		
Water Sensitive SA Funding for Water Sensitive SA, South Australia's water-sensitive urban design capacity-building program, that comprises practitioner and local government capacity-building activities, policy and strategy development and advocacy, and research and development.	159		✓	
Breakout Creek Stage 3 The Breakout Creek Stage 3 project is the final stage of Breakout Creek redevelopment at coastal end of River Torrens. This redevelopment aims to improve river health, public open space general amenity and community access to the river.	110		✓	
Kadlitpari – Gawler River Restoration Implementation of the Gawler River Restoration Guide which presents a shared community vision and highlights the conservation and cultural values, and restoration opportunities determined from stakeholder workshops, desktop research and field surveys.	100		✓	✓

	\$ ('000) Operational (Goods & Services)	Coast and Marine	Inland Waters	Urban Neighbourhoods
Urban Heat and Tree Canopy Cover Monitoring and Analysis Data capture and analysis to understand tree canopy cover and urban heat islands change over time. Incorporate reporting elements in dashboard and partner reporting requirements.	100			✓
Impact-causing Species Identification, investigation and mitigation of key impacts associated with some iconic urban species and the built environment by facilitating research partnerships and information sharing with stakeholders.	85	✓		✓
Cooler, Greener and Wilder Policy Work to contemporise policies to create a more sustainable and liveable Adelaide. Investigation of opportunities for adjustments to planning policy, codes, processes and strategic and operational policies, and development of advisory material to support implementation and create a more sustainable and liveable Adelaide.	75	✓	✓	✓
Environmental Water Provision Work with state government agencies, Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board and local government to provide environmental flows to four reaches of Western Mount Lofty Ranges prescribed watercourses.	56	✓	✓	
Northern Linkages Scoping for a program of work to develop a series of linked corridors through the urban envelope covering the northern regions of Adelaide, generating opportunities for co-investment and co-delivery with private investment, as well as funding contributions from local, state and federal government.	50	✓	✓	✓
Fish Passage Improvement Work to address barriers to the movement of aquatic fauna along the South Para, Torrens and Onkaparinga Rivers where environmental flows are provided.	35		✓	
Cooler, Greener and Wilder Development Work to proactively influence the design of major urban development projects throughout Adelaide to improve environmental outcomes, including targeted engagement and advice from the outset and throughout planning processes.	24	✓	✓	✓
Total Operational (Goods and Services)	13,881			

1. The board must contribute an amount, determined by the Minister, of its landscape and water levy income to the Grassroots Grants Program under Section 28 of the Act. The percentage is currently 2.9%.

Feature Projects



Implementing the Urban Greening Strategy

We will facilitate the implementation of the Urban Greening Strategy for metropolitan Adelaide, bringing

together councils, communities, and industry to create a cooler, greener, and more liveable city.

Through driving collaboration and supporting targeted on-ground action, including biodiversity and water-sensitive urban design, facilitating research and education, and supporting innovative thinking and approaches to green our region, we will help transform streets, parks, public spaces and backyards into thriving urban landscapes that support people and nature.



Restoring the River Torrens / Karrawirra Pari

We will drive an ambitious effort to restore the River Torrens / Karrawirra Pari. By improving water quality and

flow, restoring native vegetation, and rebuilding habitat along the riverbanks, we aim to continue to enhance one of Adelaide's most iconic natural places, restoring it so that platypus can one day call the river home again.

To drive this, Green Adelaide will work alongside Traditional Owners, local councils and other landholders, researchers, conservation groups and volunteers to deliver coordinated restoration projects across the River Torrens / Karrawirra Pari catchment.



Funding a greener future

We support local government and communities to deliver meaningful environmental action through targeted funding programs, including the Cooler,

Greener, Wilder Grants and Grassroots Grants.

These programs enable local government action to implement greening, water-sensitive and biodiversity-sensitive urban design, and empower communities to create greener streets, restore habitat, improve biodiversity, and build resilience to climate change across metropolitan Adelaide. By supporting both large-scale collaborations and community-led ideas, Green Adelaide is helping create a cooler, greener, and wilder metropolitan Adelaide that benefits people, wildlife, and future generations.



Enhancing Adelaide's coastline

We lead and collaborate on bold coastal action across metropolitan Adelaide to conserve and restore the region's dunes, estuaries, coastal wetlands and saltmarsh and mangrove habitats.

Working in partnership with local councils, Traditional Owners, State Government agencies, scientists, community groups, and volunteers, we collaborate on practical on-ground projects that care for the coast through works such as dune rehabilitation and revegetation, pest management, and monitoring. These works help strengthen the coastline against climate change while enhancing biodiversity and public access to nature.



Facilitating Nature Stewardship

We foster nature stewardship across metropolitan Adelaide by empowering people to connect with and care for the environment. Through hands-on

programs, environmental education, and community initiatives, we inspire residents of all ages to become active participants in protecting the region's natural landscapes, waterways, and biodiversity.

We deliver this through collaboration with schools, universities, local councils, Traditional Owners, environmental organisations, and community groups, continuing to build knowledge, skills, and a deeper appreciation for the unique flora and fauna of our region and the need to conserve and protect them.

Sources of funding (income)

Table 4: Sources of funding

Funding source	2026-27 Income \$('000)
Landscape and water levies¹	
Regional landscape levy	35,960
Water levy	271
Total levy income¹	36,230
Urban Rivers and Catchments Program (Australian Government)	1,305
Interest ²	419
Water management assets (local government)	30
Total income³	37,985

1 Landscape and water levy income to be raised in 2026-27 is based on a 2.4% actual CPI rate (September 2025 quarter in Adelaide) increase on the 2025-26 income.

2 Interest income to be confirmed.

3 Income may also be derived through the year from external partners, including local government, for a range of priorities.

Landscape and water levies

To enable the board to undertake its functions, the Act provides for 2 types of levies to be raised:

- **Regional landscape levy:** A levy collected by local councils from ratepayers within the Green Adelaide region.
- **Water levy:** A levy collected from water licence holders in our region.

Why have levies?

The landscape and water levies are a primary source of funding for the management of the region's landscapes and are collected to manage the natural resources and landscapes that benefit everyone. The levies enable the board to deliver programs and projects to achieve its outcomes, and also enable it to leverage significant additional effort, greatly increasing the amount of work achieved across the region.

Landscape levy

The landscape levy is raised and collected by local councils. Councils will continue to pay quarterly contributions to the board and gazette a levy rate to reimburse themselves for this amount.

In the Green Adelaide region, the share of the total landscape levy that each local council collects is based on the proportion of the total capital value of the region in that council area (see Table 3).

The total amount of income collected from the landscape levy in 2026-27 is based on a 2.4% actual CPI rate (September 2025 quarter in Adelaide) increase on the 2025-26 income.



Table 5: Council contributions to landscape levy, collection fees, and average levy contributions for 2026-27

Council	Council contribution to regional landscape levy 2026-27 (\$)	Council collection fees ¹ based on standard rates (\$ GST exclusive)
Adelaide City Council	1,785,616	10,939
City of Burnside	2,011,857	10,170
Campbelltown City Council	1,523,015	11,567
City of Charles Sturt	3,832,049	23,646
Town of Gawler	3,528	3,209
City of Holdfast Bay	1,550,625	10,066
City of Marion	2,477,803	18,071
City of Mitcham	2,077,627	12,779
City of Norwood, Payneham and St Peters	1,608,569	10,158
City of Onkaparinga	3,562,336	28,371
City of Playford	1,962,910	19,814
City of Port Adelaide Enfield	3,786,154	25,218
City of Prospect	725,080	6,643
City of Salisbury	2,856,522	23,663
City of Tea Tree Gully	2,242,512	17,800
City of Unley	1,705,753	9,480
Town of Walkerville	387,839	4,542
City of West Torrens	1,860,188	13,576
Total	35,959,983	259,712

1. Councils receive collection fees for collecting the landscape levy. Figures above are indicative of 2026-27 fees.



Water levy

Water levies are collected by DEW on behalf of the Minister and paid to the board. In 2026-27, the board will raise water levies in accordance with the existing levy basis, on a rate per megalitre of water allocated.

The levy rates for 2026-27 (Table 4) are located based on a 2.4% actual CPI rate (September 2025 quarter in Adelaide) increase on the 2025-26 rates.

Water sharing arrangements

For the prescribed water resources that are shared by Green Adelaide and neighbouring landscape management regions, the water levy is shared between the boards in proportion to the amount of water allocated in each region.

The board will work with the Northern and Yorke, and Hills and Fleurieu landscape boards to ensure that water planning and programs are implemented collaboratively.

Table 6: Water levy rates, and proportion of water allocated in Green Adelaide for each prescribed water resource

Prescribed water resource	2026-27 levy rate	Proportion of water allocated within Green Adelaide
Central Adelaide PWA	\$7.90/ML of water allocated	87%
Dry Creek PWA	\$7.71/ML of water allocated	100%
McLaren Vale PWA	\$7.71/ML of water allocated	4%
Northern Adelaide Plains PWA	\$7.71/ML of water allocated	67%
Western Mount Lofty Ranges PWRA	\$7.71/ML of water allocated	4%

Note that the water levy rate that is to be applied in the McLaren Vale PWA and Western Mount Lofty Ranges PWRA is set by the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board through the scheme to apportion water levies in circumstances where a prescribed water resource spans multiple landscape management regions. The Green Adelaide Board has set the water levy rate that is to be applied to the Central Adelaide PWA, Dry Creek PWA, and the Northern Adelaide Plains PWA.



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