

GREEN A ELAIDE

cooler **greener** wilder

Achievements Report 2021–22



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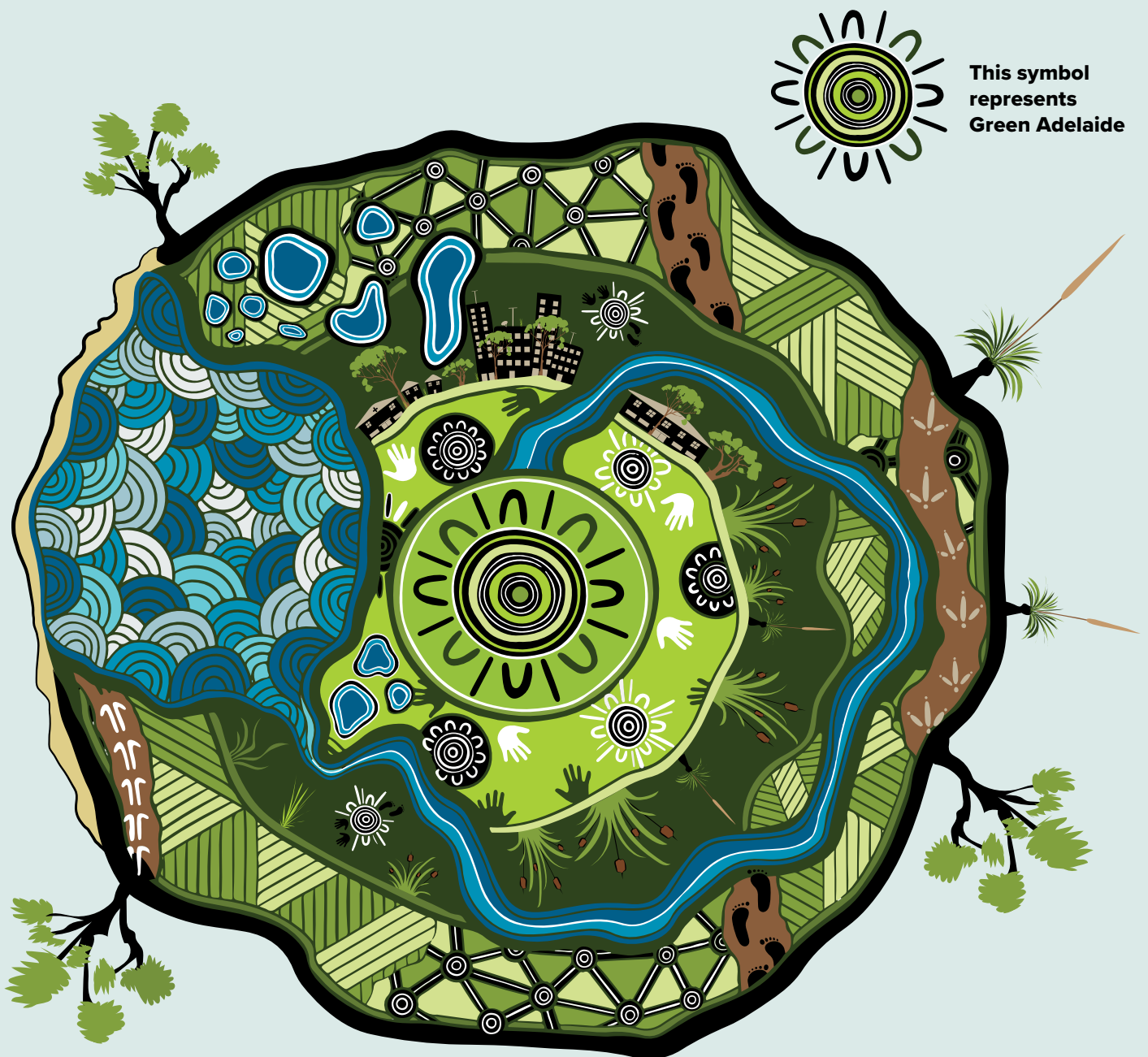
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Recognition of Kurna Miyurna and Yarta

We acknowledge and respect the native title holders and Traditional Owners of the Adelaide Plains – 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 enables us to walk and work side-by-side to restore Yarta.

Kardalta Tarntanya

Our artwork Kardalta Tarntanya was created by Kaurna artist Allan Sumner. It represents our vision of a cooler, greener and wilder city, as well as our commitment to embedding Kaurna traditional practices in our work.







Foreword

In 2021–22 we continued to work toward our vision of a cooler, greener, wilder and climate-resilient Adelaide that celebrates our unique culture.

Over the year, significant weather events again shone a spotlight on the impacts of climate change on our environment. Some areas across the country experienced more rain than they've had in 70 years. As a result we saw a firmer call for real action from our community.

The environment also continued to be front of mind following another challenging year of COVID-19 disruption. In Australia, the impacts of the pandemic evolved. Rising case numbers highlighted the importance of connection to the environment as a key factor in developing community health, resilience and wellbeing.

Adelaide's community knows the importance of our natural environment and at Green Adelaide we are here to improve our city's connection with it.

During 2021–22 some of our significant achievements included:

- the start of Breakout Creek Stage 3 Redevelopment – a key project in rewilding our River Torrens/Karrawirra Pari
- the preparation stages of our Urban Greening Strategy – the first of its kind in Adelaide to road-map efforts in greening our streets and suburbs
- the successful bid that saw Adelaide formally awarded the status of the world's 2nd National Park City
- the ongoing vital support of our partners across a range of projects, such as the re-establishment of 7 rare plant species across 20 metropolitan sites.

I am confident in the sustainable impact Green Adelaide is creating and inspiring for our city, and excited by the prospect of a cooler, greener, and wilder future.

Professor Chris Daniels

Presiding Member of the Green Adelaide Board

Our priorities and how we take action

We are a statutory board established in July 2020 by the Government of South Australia, with a vision to create a cooler, greener, wilder and climate-resilient Adelaide that celebrates our unique culture.

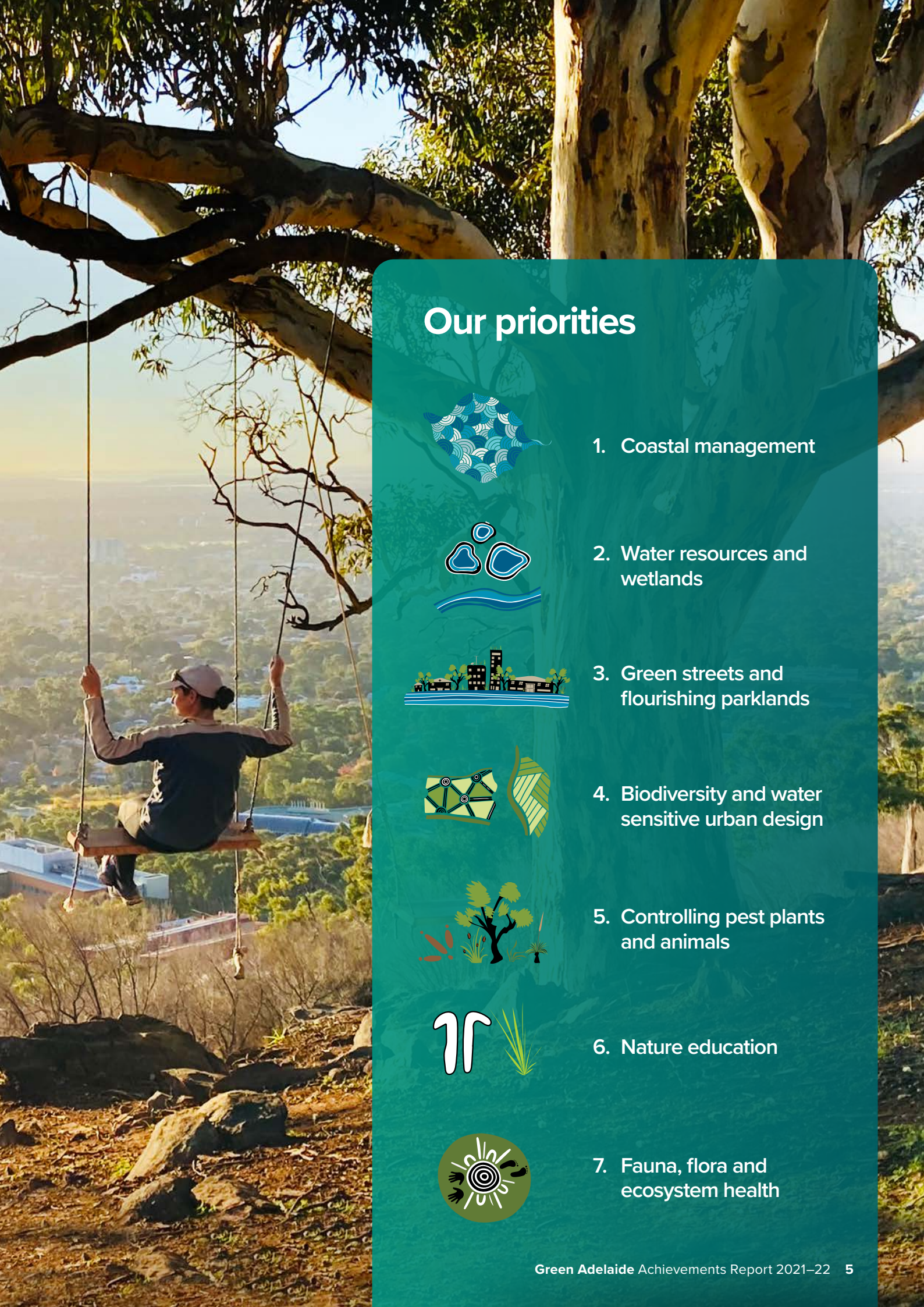
We are Adelaide's first dedicated government urban environmental specialist organisation.

Our region spans across Adelaide's 17 metropolitan councils, and includes about a third of Gulf St Vincent.

Our mission is to encourage activities and policies for Adelaide that enable pro-environmental behavioural change.

This will be achieved by facilitating partnerships, investing in aligned initiatives, educating about nature, and delivering iconic on-ground environmental projects.





Our priorities



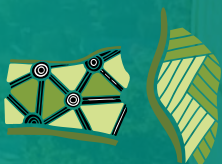
1. Coastal management



2. Water resources and wetlands



3. Green streets and flourishing parklands



4. Biodiversity and water sensitive urban design



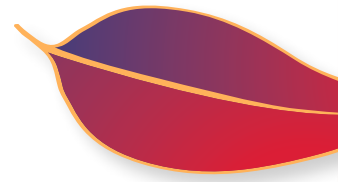
5. Controlling pest plants and animals



6. Nature education



7. Fauna, flora and ecosystem health



Our business

Our board

Our board members are appointed by the South Australian Minister for Climate, Environment and Water. Ten members formed part of the 2021–22 board. They have diverse expertise and skills, which has led Green Adelaide’s innovation and positive outcomes over the year.

Income

Landscape and water levies are our primary sources of funding. The landscape levy is collected from metropolitan ratepayers by local councils, and the water levy is collected from water licence holders in our region. These levies enable the board to fund programs and activities outlined in our business plan. In the 2021–22 financial year, our income from landscape and water levies was \$29.1 million.

We also received income from the Australian Government totalling \$1.6 million, and other grant funding totalling \$1.8 million, making a total of \$32.7 million.

Expenditure

Our total expenditure was \$32.9 million and included carryover budget from the previous financial year, which resulted in a marginal net overspend.

Project investments also attracted additional funding and in-kind support from government, business and the community. By investing with our partners, we leveraged an estimated \$11.6 million (revenue, cash contributions and in-kind), which was directed towards delivering our Regional Landscape Plan.

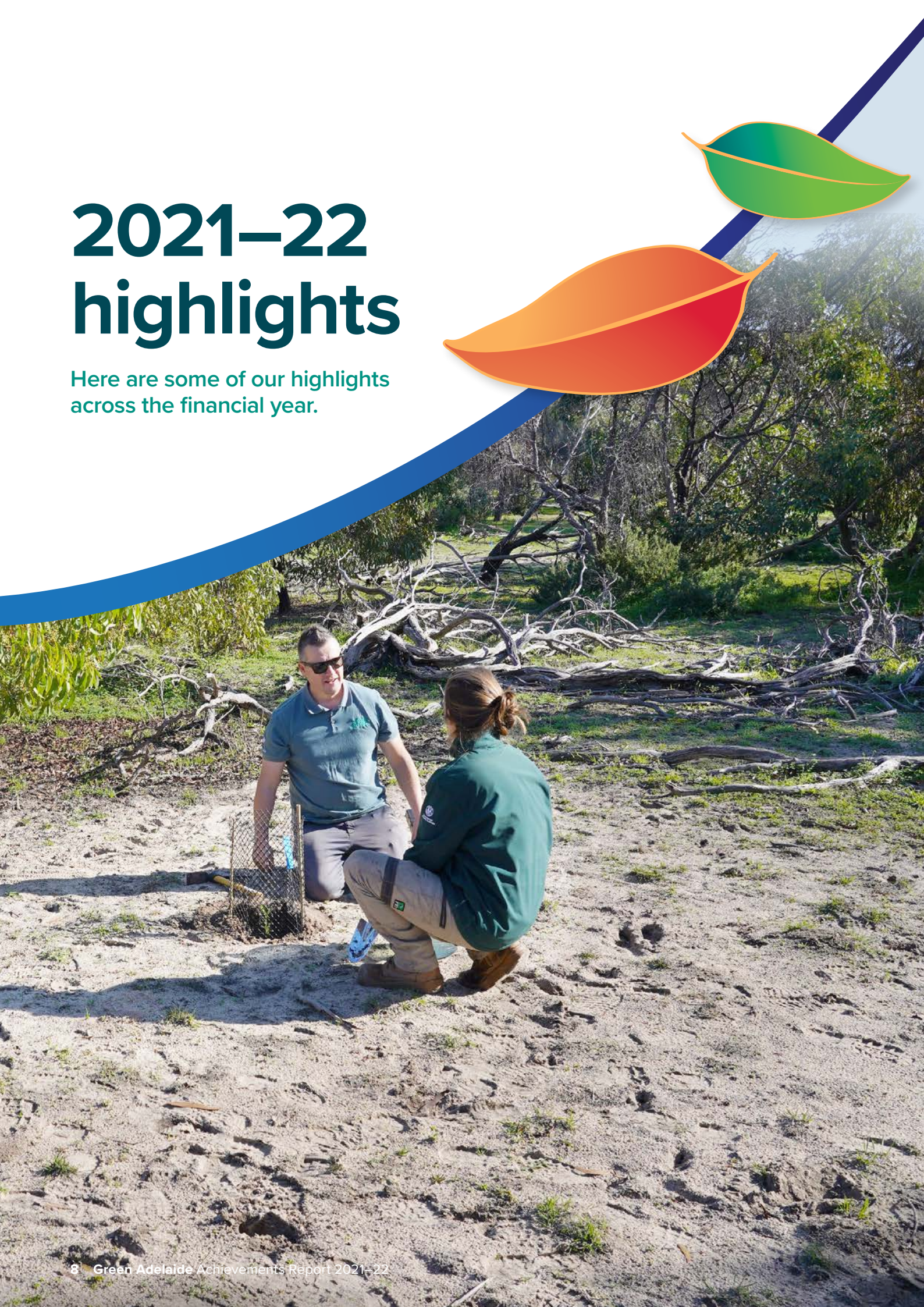


Green Adelaide Board members visit Breakout Creek: (left to right) Kelvin Trimper, Claire Boan, Adrian Skull, Chris Daniels, Greg Ingleton, Tobias Turner, Felicity-Ann Lewis, Trixie Smith



2021–22 highlights

Here are some of our highlights
across the financial year.

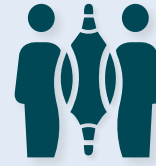




\$32.9 million
invested plus
\$11.6 million
additional funding
leveraged



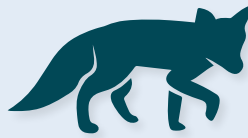
30 Grassroots
Grants provided



100+ partners
including **Warpulai
Kumangka**



Pest plant control
undertaken over
2,000 hectares



Pest animal control
contributed across
62 hectares



100+ events
supported



11 reseach
trials funded
valued at
\$225k



44,108 plants
used to revegetate
537.8 hectares



104 volunteer
groups supported



16,081
average monthly
website visits



8,116 followers
on social media



375+
stories published

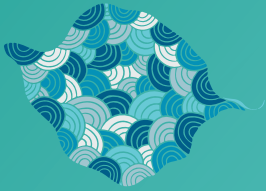
2021–22 success stories

The stories that follow showcase some of our significant achievements.

They reflect the importance of our projects, partnerships, education, investment and delivery of on-ground actions to create a cooler, greener and wilder city.







Coastal management

We contributed to conserving and restoring metropolitan Adelaide's unique coastline. Here are some of our achievements in this area.



More than **15,000 seagrass seeds** were **planted to improve coastal ecosystems.**



Enhancing seagrass meadows on Adelaide's coast

We contributed to funding of vital protection and restoration of marine habitats through OzFish and the Seeds for Snapper project.

Adelaide's coastline has lost more than 6,000 hectares of seagrass meadows – having a devastating impact on local fish populations. Seagrass meadows also protect our shorelines from erosion by stabilising sand, capturing carbon and improving water quality.

Through the Seeds for Snapper project, more than 15,000 seeds were planted across 5 locations on Adelaide's metropolitan coastline. More than 350 volunteers worked across a month on the restoration project, helping local populations of snapper, calamari, whiting and blue swimmer crabs.

This project was jointly funded with specialist marine electronics company Navico, marine surveyor Aquatic Biosecurity, and retailer BCF, with support from the South Australian Research and Development Institute, South Australian Environment Protection Authority, Cruising Yacht Club of South Australia, Estuary Care Foundation and Recreational Fishing SA.



Supporting coastal community nurseries

We supported 3 coastal community nurseries to boost availability of local native plant species. Plants from the nurseries in Yankalilla, Tennyson and Two Wells have been vital in the revegetation of Adelaide's metropolitan coasts, enabling native species to be re-introduced to key areas.

The plants are provided to community organisations, like 'Friends' volunteer groups, for conservation activities. These groups are integral in helping to re-introduce the plants to our landscapes and helping them thrive in our coastal environments.

We continue to provide on-ground support in the re-introduction of the native species to coastal environments, assisting these organisations in their planting initiatives.



Hosting coastal gardens workshops

We worked with local councils to deliver community workshops to reduce invasive gazanias along Adelaide's coasts. Some of the workshops incorporated a plant swap, which allowed members of the community to demonstrate they had removed gazanias from their garden in exchange for access to alternative, native plant species.

Some of our workshops were paired with the release of the *Coastal Gardens Design Guide*, a dedicated resource with design guides, planning tips and practical ideas for establishing and maintaining a coastal garden.



Water resources and wetlands

We undertook work to protect, enhance and restore Adelaide's rivers, wetlands, groundwater and lakes. See a snapshot of our successes in this area.



We partnered with **8 local councils** and **2 state agencies** to **improve biodiversity** along the **River Torrens/ Karrawirra Pari**.



Creating a new community space and a healthier creek

We continued to lead the Breakout Creek Redevelopment Stage 3 project. This final stage includes revitalising 1.5 km of river and banks from Tapleys Hill Road to the sea.

The project will open up 15 hectares of currently fenced-off land and create new wetlands and a healthier habitat for rare and endangered animals. It will also enhance visitor enjoyment of the area with river crossings, new paths and trails, picnic shelters, viewing decks and spaces to learn about Kurna culture and history.

Construction began in February 2022, and is expected to be complete by mid-2023. The project is a \$14 million partnership between Green Adelaide, the City of Charles Sturt, the City of West Torrens, and the South Australian Department for Trade and Investment through the Planning and Development Fund, the Australian Government through the Environment Restoration Fund, and SA Water. The project is committed to working with the Traditional Owners of the Adelaide plains, the Kurna people.



Restoring the river and improving habitat

We restored sections of the River Torrens/Karrawirra Pari with support from council and state government partners and were able to drastically reduce weeds along the length of the river, improving the health and habitat of the area for native species.

By removing and controlling weeds and exotic trees, and planting natives, we are also improving water quality and bank stability.

We continue to maintain gross pollutant traps in the Torrens and Patawalonga catchments to prevent rubbish, leaves, twigs and sediment from entering our waterways.



Preventing blue-green algae outbreaks

The River Torrens Water Quality Improvement Project has been successful in preventing blue-green algae outbreaks in Torrens Lake for the past 8 years.

We monitor blue-green algae levels and use flows of fresh water to control blue-green algae in the lake. This annual work is significant, preventing harmful toxins from some blue-green algae species from getting to concentrations where the water might be harmful to people and wildlife.

The project has been running for the past 11 years, in a collaboration between Green Adelaide, SA Water, Environment Protection Authority, City of Adelaide, Renewal SA and City of Charles Sturt.



Biodiversity and water sensitive urban design

We promoted and encouraged urban design that considers biodiversity and the water cycle, delivering greener, more liveable communities. Some of our highlights in this area are adjacent.



We helped to implement **water sensitive design principles** across a range of project areas with \$550,000 in grant funding.



Investing in community water sustainability projects

Our Water Sustainability Grants provided \$550,000 to individuals, community groups, businesses, schools and councils to make better use of stormwater, cool urban streetscapes and reserves, improve water resources and educate primary school students.

This included 9 grants provided to 7 councils to implement water sustainability projects across metropolitan Adelaide.

A key project was the extension of the City of Tea Tree Gully's recycled water network to 3 reserves along the Dry Creek Corridor. This work has helped to make these spaces more accessible to members of the community.

The grants also enabled key learning about water sustainability, with St Mary's College successful in applying for funding to educate primary school students through theatrical shows.



Returning an endangered fish to Oaklands Wetland

We worked with the City of Marion and Nature Glenelg Trust to release about 500 southern purple-spotted gudgeon into Oaklands Wetland.

This was the first return of the species to Adelaide in more than 100 years. The native fish were once commonly found in lower sections of the River Murray, River Torrens/Karrawirra Pari and Onkaparinga catchments, but had not been recorded in Adelaide since before 1920.

The significant milestone is part of a study being undertaken on the suitability of urban wetlands to play a part in threatened fish conservation.

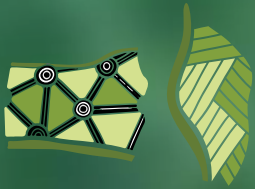


Keeping Water Sensitive Urban Design on the agenda

Through our co-funding arrangement, Water Sensitive SA reached major milestones for 3 of its priority projects. This included providing technical input for several state government initiatives to ensure Water Sensitive Urban Design policy was adopted, collating a suite of water sensitive urban design standard drawings and presenting them for technical review and developing draft inspection and maintenance guidelines on water sensitive urban design features.

Through the water sensitive cities leadership course, our partnership with Water Sensitive SA also continued to build the capacity of the next generation of urban water and greening leaders.





Green streets and flourishing parklands

We continued to work toward increasing the extent and quality of urban green cover. Some of our achievements in this area are adjacent.



We are leading the creation of **Adelaide's first Urban Greening Strategy.**



Launching the development of Adelaide's first Urban Greening Strategy

We are leading the creation of Adelaide's first Urban Greening Strategy. It will focus on increasing tree canopy cover, reducing hard surfaces and meeting the urban green cover target of the 30-year plan for Greater Adelaide.

Over the year, a literature review, practitioner survey and early stakeholder engagement were all undertaken to better understand current work in urban greening and any gaps to inform what kind of strategy would work best.

Bringing together industry sectors to share knowledge and resources, we will create a strategy that accelerates the greening of our streets, open spaces and backyards.

Funding projects to green our streets

Individuals, groups and schools were awarded between \$2,000 and \$150,000 in Grassroots Grants. Nearly \$1 million was awarded to 31 applicants for projects like plantings in schools, restoring natural spaces and boosting community gardens.

Through our Grassroots Grants program, residents of Kingston Park were able to transform their neighbourhood verges. This work was important not only for its re-introduction of native plant species to attract bees, butterflies and birds, but also in its community engagement through enabling locals to learn about the benefits of native gardens.

Coordinating the urban heat and tree canopy project

We successfully coordinated the capture of Urban Heat and Tree Canopy data across the entire metropolitan region, plus the Town of Gawler. This project represented a successful partnership across the 17 metropolitan councils, plus the Town of Gawler, and three SA government agencies.

It is the first time this data has been captured across the entire region in a single project, and provides evidence to monitor where the effects of urban heat are felt and how trees and vegetation help to mitigate these effects.

The data has become a dedicated source of information to support decisions and maximise impacts of future greening investments.



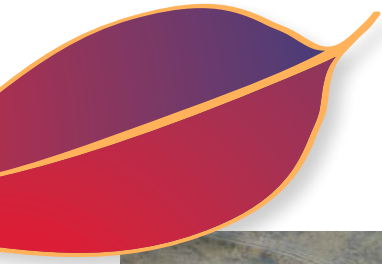


Flora, fauna and ecosystem health

We continue to work toward better understanding of our local native species to promote thriving animals and plants in Adelaide's urban environments. See a snapshot of our projects in this area.



Seven rare plant species were introduced across 20 metropolitan sites in a dedicated threatened species project.



Bringing platypus back to the River Torrens/ Karrawirra Pari

In a bold rewilding project, we launched a new push to bring platypus back to the River Torrens/ Karrawirra Pari.

Re-introducing platypus has a number of benefits – from supporting the survival of this iconic Australian species, to tourism opportunities, and importantly focusing efforts on supporting the long-term health of our 85 km River Torrens/Karrawirra Pari system. A healthy waterway would have benefits for other species, like long-neck turtles and native water rats, or rakali.

We have led the development of a scoping study to better understand the possibility of bringing platypus back to the river, and brought together key organisations, platypus researchers and councils to understand the best way forward.

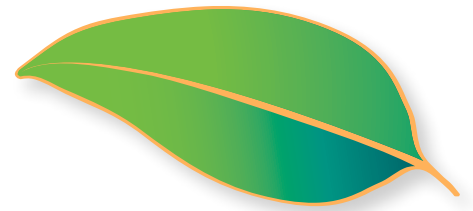


Re-introducing rare plant species

Through our partnership with Trees For Life and the South Australian Seed Centre (through Botanic Gardens of SA), several dedicated threatened species planting days enabled 7 rare native plant species to be re-introduced to metropolitan Adelaide.

This project has helped to accelerate the recovery of threatened species that had been lost from grassy habitats. It was inspiring for long-term volunteer bush-carers, showcasing the recovery opportunities that can happen as a direct result of their bush-care work.

Beyond this specific initiative, our partnership with Trees For Life has enabled more than 9,000 hours of on-ground restoration work over the past year, covering an area of approximately 500 hectares.



Engaging the community through a raptor campaign

We launched a birds of prey awareness campaign, in line with our project in rewilding birds of prey in metropolitan Adelaide. The campaign informed the community about these raptors that share our urban environment.

A dedicated campaign enabled members of the community to learn about different raptor species through posters, cut-outs, and sticker decals placed throughout popular city areas, alongside digital communication to provide facts about the birds.

The campaign resulted in more than 5,000 website views, and 2,224 of them directly from the locational signage, with solid engagement via social media. The campaign was successful in raising awareness about Adelaide’s urban raptors.



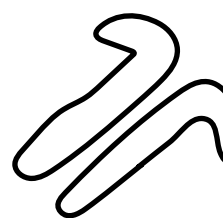


Controlling pest plants and animals

Our continued work in managing invasive pests is helping our native plants and animals to thrive in urban environments. Discover some of our achievements in pest management.



Significant work has gone into our goal of eradicating the **invasive weed:** *Bidens pilosa*.





Monitoring of an exotic bird

Key to our pest management efforts has been the close monitoring of escapee pet, Alexandrine parakeets. While the birds are popular in aviaries, when they escape their enclosures they can cause issues for native birds by taking over their tree hollows.

Reported community sightings of this species helped our team build knowledge in the location and behaviour of these pest birds.

This enabled us to closely monitor several Alexandrine parakeets across metropolitan Adelaide, and provide ongoing communication to members of the public about what to do if they spot them.



Eradicating cobblers peg

Cobblers peg (*Bidens pilosa*) is an invasive weed often found in Adelaide's gardens and parks, as well as along roadsides, or even in pastures of peri-urban environments. Our work in managing this weed includes researching techniques to eradicate it, which will then assist local government and private land holders with removing it.

We have assessed the weed in regional environments to better understand its potential impacts in metropolitan Adelaide. This has informed our strong actions to work toward control and eradication of this weed.

This research will inform actions to prevent this weed from spreading in metropolitan Adelaide, with our sights set on eventual eradication.

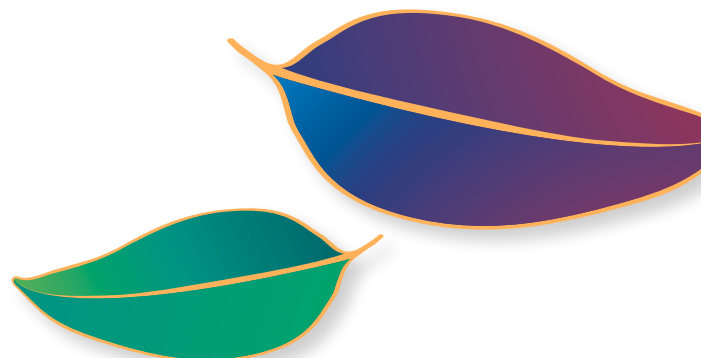
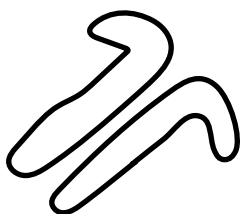
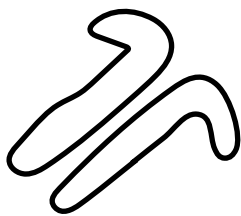


Delivered a fox education campaign

Given the significant impact that foxes have on our urban environments, from preying on our native animals to wreaking havoc in our backyards, we released a dedicated campaign to help the community avoid attracting foxes to their backyard.

Featuring practical tips and easy to understand steps, the campaign was shared across digital platforms to encourage engagement and widespread awareness across the broader community.

The campaign had a combined channel reach across Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram of more than 10,000 people.





Nature education

We remained focused on increasing community connection with nature and building on education opportunities in sustainability. Here is a snapshot of what we have achieved in this area.



Adelaide has become the **2nd National Park City** in the world, following London.



Achieving Adelaide's new global status

Adelaide achieved a global status as a National Park City – only the second city in the world to have secured this.

The Adelaide National Park City status is more than a title, it is significant recognition of our city's strong ability to connect people with nature and encourage their on-ground action to look after our environment.

To celebrate, we hosted Adelaide National Park City Month in June to bring together more than 100 events, with the support of many partners, to help the community connect with nature.



Fostering partnerships with environmental stewards

We supported 32 environmental volunteer groups, totalling 964 volunteers, with administrative support, plants, weed control, technical advice, training, and networking opportunities. These groups have contributed more than 13,000 hours of in-kind support toward a number of initiatives across our urban environments.

As well as working with these dedicated community groups, we engaged with 164 schools, successfully connecting 7,472 students with nature in creative and innovative ways.



Delivering a Gardening campaign

We delivered a marketing campaign to boost backyard gardening during autumn.

This included the release of 2 planting guides for general Adelaide and for those living on or near the coast.

The campaign focused on tangible steps to get people started with gardening.

The campaign achieved a high level of engagement across Green Adelaide's social media channels, newsletter and website, and engaged 19 new aligned businesses. It also developed 14 new pieces of evergreen, in-demand content to help the community learn about gardening.

This campaign was key in acknowledging the important role that the community plays in greening Adelaide, through actions they can take in their own backyards.





Get involved, let's green Adelaide

Green Adelaide is committed to working in partnership with our diverse communities and providing opportunities for everyone to be involved in learning about, and caring for, our environment.

We welcome you to get involved, share your ideas and partner with us to create a cooler, greener, wilder and climate-resilient Adelaide that celebrates our unique culture.

Get in touch

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f @GreenAdelaide
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