



# Living Landscapes Investment Prospectus

2019 – 2030

*Photo by Matt Turner*





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## The case for investment

The project area covers over 850,000 hectares, that is twice the size of Kangaroo Island, and yet there are only about six landholders managing this huge expanse of land.

National Parks and Wildlife Services along with the other land managers and community have worked through a Conservation Action Planning process and are committed to working together for conservation outcomes to achieve real landscape scale restoration.

## Living Landscapes Vision Statement

*A unique cultural, wild and connected living landscape that is resilient and valued, supporting our strong community.*

*A place where presently threatened species like quolls, bilbies, black-eared miners and malleefowl can play their part in a healthy ecosystem.*

In good condition, this landscape should be able to support its full indigenous biodiversity with minimal human intervention. Unfortunately key plants which are vital for habitat don't appear to be recruiting and this habitat is likely to continue to decline without major interventions. With some coordinated ambitious action, we could create a resilient vibrant and diverse landscape that supports a multitude of species.

Although the South Olary Plains landscape is still recovering from years of grazing by livestock and pests, it is on a trajectory of recovery. However there are some legacies, such as dams and the subsequent soil degradation, increased evaporation and decreased infiltration of water, that are preventing the system from recovering fully. Broad scale intervention is required to ensure this landscape can recover and be resilient within a changing world.

These legacy issues not only include changes caused to the system by the prevalence of permanent water, but also from the extinction of species which may have been ecosystem engineers. These species may prove to be fundamental to the recovery of this landscape.

The South Olary Plains is home to a number of important threatened Mallee birds, including the red-lored whistler, the black-eared miner, the regent parrot, the striated grasswren and the Malleefowl.

The Living Landscapes team includes National Parks and Wildlife Services, Natural Resources SAMDB, Traditional Owners, Australian Landscape Trust, Birdlife Australia, Australian Wildlife Conservancy, local community members, Landcare SA, Federation University (owners of Nanya Station, NSW), and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (Tarawi Nature Reserve).

Together this team brings a wide range of local expertise, connection to country, knowledge and passion for this landscape which will ensure that generations to come can enjoy a Living Landscape.



Photo by Tim Pascoe (Gluepot)



The Living Landscapes Project area covers over 850,000 hectares of continuous native vegetation spanning from the Murray River floodplain to the foot of the Olary Range.







## Areas for investment

### Total grazing pressure

Dam decommission and integrated herbivore control to achieve a sustainable level of grazing across the landscape.

### Appropriate fire regime

Develop an integrated fire and restoration program across tenure and ensure we continue to learn about the pattern of fire history that is required and how to reinstate ecosystem function to support the full suite of fauna and flora.

### Indigenous engagement

Engage Traditional Owner groups to determine how and to what extent traditional knowledge can be incorporated into our management. We recognize that culturally significant flora, fauna, and sites would be present and that indigenous management practices would be important in this landscape.

Ensure that all management is sensitive to cultural heritage.

Determine what continued involvement in this project looks like for Traditional Owners.

### Threatened Mallee birds

Improve our understanding of predator-prey interactions and their effects on threatened Mallee birds. This will be achieved through involvement in projects such as the Adaptive Management Predator Experiment which is designed to determine whether Malleefowl breeding increases when predators are suppressed.

### Restoration

Take a scientific approach to the restoration of important habitat refugia such as black oak woodlands, semi-arid woodlands on the terraces, and gypsum ecological communities.

### Community engagement

Support community to be involved in long term monitoring which leads to a better understanding of how this ecosystem works.

Support community involvement in other restoration activities such as feral animal control.

A biological survey undertaken in this landscape in the 1990's found:

- 876 plant species
- 32 mammal species
- 257 bird species
- 5 reptile communities with 78 reptile and 10 amphibian species.



Photo by North Calperum Vertebrate survey group

White-browed Treecreeper by Thomas J Hunt