

Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board

Annual Business Plan 2023-24



*A healthy and valued region, managed responsibly now,
for the future benefit of people and country.*

WAWI LANDSCAPE
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
ALINYTJARA WILURARA

This is a regional landscape board business plan under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* in accordance with the requirements of section 51(1), (3).

This annual business plan is consistent with the Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Plan 2021-26 and has been adopted by the Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board to fulfil the board's requirements under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*.

I, Mick Haynes, Presiding Member, Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board, after taking into account and in accordance with the requirements of section 51 of the Landscape South Australia Act 2019, hereby adopt the 2023-2024 Business Plan on behalf of the Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board.

Mick Haynes
Presiding Member
13/06/2023

Minister's endorsement

I, Susan Close, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, after taking into account the requirements of section 51 of the Landscape South Australia Act 2019, hereby approve the Business Plan 2023-24 for the Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board.

< Minister's signature >

Hon. Susan Close MP
Minister for Climate, Environment and Water
00/00/2023

Acknowledgement of Country

The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the Alinytjara Wilurara region, the elders – past, present and future – and respects the relationship Aboriginal people have to Country.

The Board is committed to supporting Traditional Owners' involvement of Aboriginal people and stakeholders in the management of the region's landscapes and in recognising Aboriginal culture and knowledge of natural resources in the landscape.



Annual Business Plan

2023-24

Contents

Alinytjara Wilurara Region	2
Regional Priorities	3
Investment	4
Sources of Funding	5
The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board	6
Staff Resources	7
Delivery	8
Monitoring and Evaluation	9
Water Affecting Activities Control Policy	10



Alinytjara Wilurara Region



The Alinytjara Wilurara (AW) region covers over a quarter of a million square kilometres, stretching from the Northern Territory and West Australian borders south to the Great Australian Bight Marine Park. It is home to approximately 4000 people.

The primary land tenure is formally recognised Aboriginal Lands, Indigenous Protected Areas, Wildlife Reserves, Wilderness Protection Areas and National Parks.

The Alinytjara Wilurara region is rich and diverse in its flora, fauna and cultural heritage. It contains some of South Australia's hottest and most remote areas with no permanent rivers or creeks. Water is a limiting factor throughout the region with the recharge of groundwater, rockholes, springs and soaks dependent on infrequent heavy rainfalls. Consistent groundwater extraction is therefore unlikely to be sustainable over the medium to long term.

Throughout the region, Aboriginal people have a high degree of cultural connection to Country and have recognised traditional ownership of Country.

Regional Priorities



Board and Community Leadership

Be strong leaders to make effective decisions by exploring options to deliver better outcomes.

Focus Areas

- Building effective partnerships to maintain regional relevance and support emerging Aboriginal leaders.
- Supporting Land Holding Authorities and Traditional Owners to access resources that facilitate traditional and ecological knowledge transfer.



Healthy Soils

Work with all traditional landholders and key stakeholders to keep Country strong, productive and healthy.

Focus Areas

- Supporting Land Holding Authorities and Traditional Owners to:
 - adopt sustainable pastoral practices to reduce soil erosion
 - participate in opportunities that support sustainable soil health.



Pest Plant and Animal Control

Keep Country strong by managing towards eradication of weeds and feral animals.

Focus Areas

- Working with key stakeholders to support Land Holding Authorities and Traditional Owners to control priority pest plant and animals.



Land and Sea Biodiversity

Keeping Country healthy for native plants and animals to be strong and plenty for everyone now and in the future.

Focus Areas

- Supporting Land Holding Authorities and Traditional Owners to protect and restore important coast and marine ecosystems.
- Supporting Land Holding Authorities and Traditional Owners to maintain and enhance biodiversity, including threatened species, in prioritised ecosystems.



Water Management

Taking care of water for our people and Country.

Focus Areas

- Working with Land Holding Authorities and industries to manage groundwater affecting activities.
- Supporting Land Holding Authorities and Traditional Owners to actively manage ecologically and culturally significant surface and groundwater sites.






Regional Priorities:

AW Landscape Board's five regional priorities are aligned with the priorities identified in the State Landscape Strategy that promote healthy soil, water management, land and sea biodiversity, board and community leadership, pest plant and animal control.

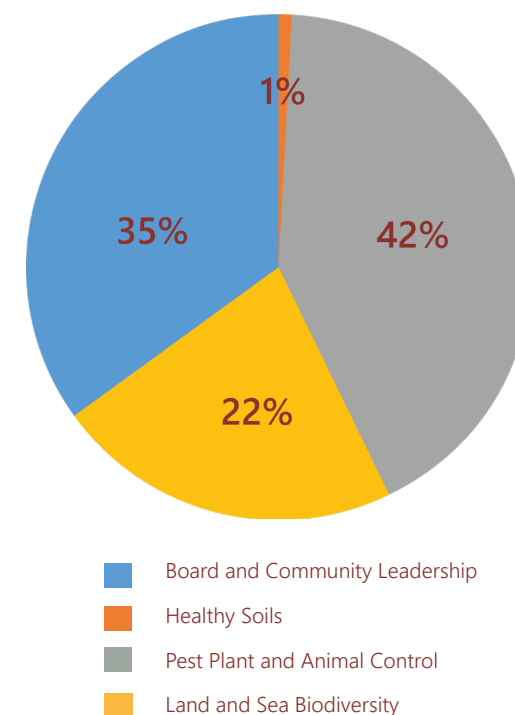
Investment

This table sets out the expenditure and sources of funding for the two-year period from 1 July 2023.

The board's investment will be delivered through a range of projects and approaches including direct investment, contracts for works or services, and grants to community organisations

Regional Priorities		Focus Area	\$ 2023-24
	Board and Community Leadership	Building effective partnerships to maintain regional relevance and support emerging Aboriginal leaders Supporting Land Holding Authorities and Traditional Owners to access resources that facilitate traditional and ecological knowledge transfer	1 353 000
	Healthy Soils	Supporting Land Holding Authorities and Traditional Owners to adopt sustainable pastoral practices to reduce soil erosion and participate in opportunities that support sustainable soil health.	52 000
	Pest Plant and Animal Control	Working with key stakeholders to support Land Holding Authorities and Traditional Owners to control priority pest plant and animals	1 634 000
	Land and Sea Biodiversity	Supporting Land Holding Authorities and Traditional Owners to protect and restore important coast and marine ecosystems Supporting Land Holding Authorities and Traditional Owners to maintain and enhance biodiversity, including threatened species, in prioritised ecosystems	825 000
	Water Management	Working with Land Holding Authorities industries and Traditional Owners to manage ground water affecting activities Supporting Land Holding Authorities and Traditional Owners to actively manage ecologically and culturally significant surface and ground water sites	
TOTAL			3 864 000

Proposed Expenditure 2023-24



**Government of
South Australia**



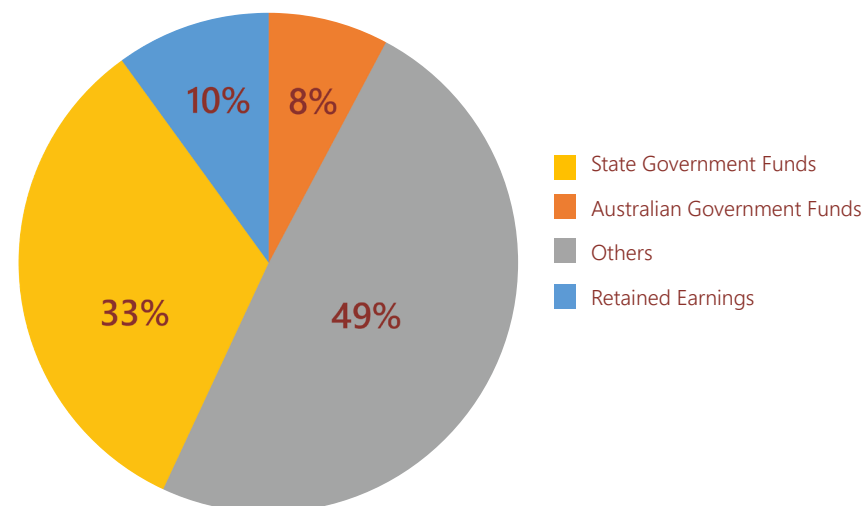
Australian Government

Sources of Funding

The board receives funds from a range of sources to implement the programs described in the table below. These funds are also used throughout the year to leverage additional funds to the region, either directly to the board or through some of our partner organisations.

Program	\$ 2023-24
State Government Funding	
SA Government Landscape Allocation ¹	1 293 000
Australian Government Funds	
RLP Malleefowl ²	300 000
RLP Phase 3 ³	–
Sub-total	300 000
External Funding	
Landscape Priorities Fund ⁴	393 000
Others	
Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT)	10 000
The University of Adelaide	40 000
Interest	120 000
Approved carry-over ⁵	1 283 000
Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC)	75 000
Retained Earnings ⁶	350 000
Sub-total	1 878 000
TOTAL	3 864 000

Projected Income 2023-24 by percentage



Program notes:

¹ The SA Government Landscape Allocation is a statutory fund established by the Landscape South Australia Act 2019.

² The Australian Government is a key funding partner in the delivery of environment and sustainable agriculture outcomes in the Alinytjara Wilurara region. Regional Land Partnerships (RLP) funding concludes in June 2023. However, in June 2023, the Board received additional funds from the Australian Government for additional strategic feral animal and weed control related to NLP2 Malleefowl project in the Great Victoria Desert. This project will conclude in June 2024.

³ The Board is currently awaiting advice from the Australian Government on the outcomes of the Regional Land Partnerships program phase 3 tender process.

⁴ State Landscape Priorities Fund is funded from landscape levies collected by Green Adelaide in the Adelaide metropolitan area and redistributed to South Australia's regional landscape boards to local communities and landowners to be directly responsible for sustainably managing their region's landscapes with an emphasis on land and water management, pest animal and plant control, and biodiversity. The Board received a total of \$1,180,000 for the 2023-26 project of a multi-agency strategic response to managing buffel grass at a state-wide level.

⁵ Approved carry-over funds are committed to existing contracts that have been carried forward for expenditure in 2023-24

⁶ The AW Landscape Board is investing in a three-year program through its retained earnings fund, to start on 1 July 2022, which aims to limit any further advancement and lead to full eradication of buffel grass in the Great Victoria Desert.

About the Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board

The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board is a statutory regional board formed under the Landscape South Australia Act 2019.

The functions of the landscape board are:

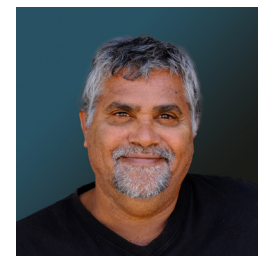
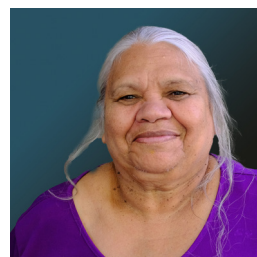
to undertake, promote and integrate the management of natural resources within its region, with particular reference to land management, water resource management and pest animal and plant control, to build resilience in the face of change and to facilitate integrated landscape management and biodiversity conservation; and

- a)
 - i. to prepare a regional landscape plan and (where relevant) water allocation plans, landscapes affecting activities control policies and water affecting activities control policies, in accordance with this Act; and
 - ii. to facilitate the implementation of those plans and policies; and
 - iii. to monitor, evaluate and report on the extent of success of those plans and policies in achieving their objectives; and
- b) to promote public awareness and understanding of the importance of integrated and sustainable natural resources management within its region, to undertake or support educational initiatives with respect to natural resources management, and to provide mechanisms to increase the capacity of people to implement programs or to take other steps to improve the management of natural resources; and
- c) to provide advice with respect to the assessment of various activities or proposals referred to the board under this or any other Act; and
- d) to undertake an active role in ensuring, insofar as is reasonably practicable, that the board's regional landscape plan, water allocation plans and water affecting activities control policies, and the Planning and Design Code under the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016, form a coherent set of policies and, in so doing, when an amendment to that Code that is relevant to the activities of the board is under consideration under that Act, to

work with the entity or entities engaged in undertaking the amendment under that Act; and

- e) to undertake an active role in ensuring, insofar as is reasonably practical, that the board's regional landscape plan, landscape affecting activities control policies, water allocation plans and water affecting activities control policies, advance the objects of the Native Vegetation Act 1991 and promote the conservation of wildlife as envisaged under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972; and
- f) at the request of the Minister, or on its own initiative, to provide advice on any matter relevant to the condition of landscapes within its region or on the management of those landscapes, or to provide any other advice or report that may be appropriate in the circumstances; and
- g) to facilitate an understanding of, and to provide information to landowners on, land management, water management and pest animal and plant control, and other issues, relevant to landscape activities and, where necessary, to take action under this Act to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Act; and

- h) to assist in the management of any native animals that adversely affect the natural or built environments, people or primary production or other industries, or to facilitate action to mitigate or manage the impact of those native animals, by:
 - i. supporting educational initiatives; or
 - ii. identifying or promoting mechanisms to increase the capacity of people to implement programs to manage the native animals; or
 - iii. supporting other steps or action to improve the management of native animals; or
 - iv. providing information about the management of native animals in these circumstances; or
 - v. taking any other action prescribed by the regulations.
 - vi. such other functions assigned to the board by the Minister or by or under this or any other Act.
 - vii. the board consists of 10 community members with a range of skills and knowledge, appointed by the Minister for Environment and Water. Board Members are listed on the Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board website.

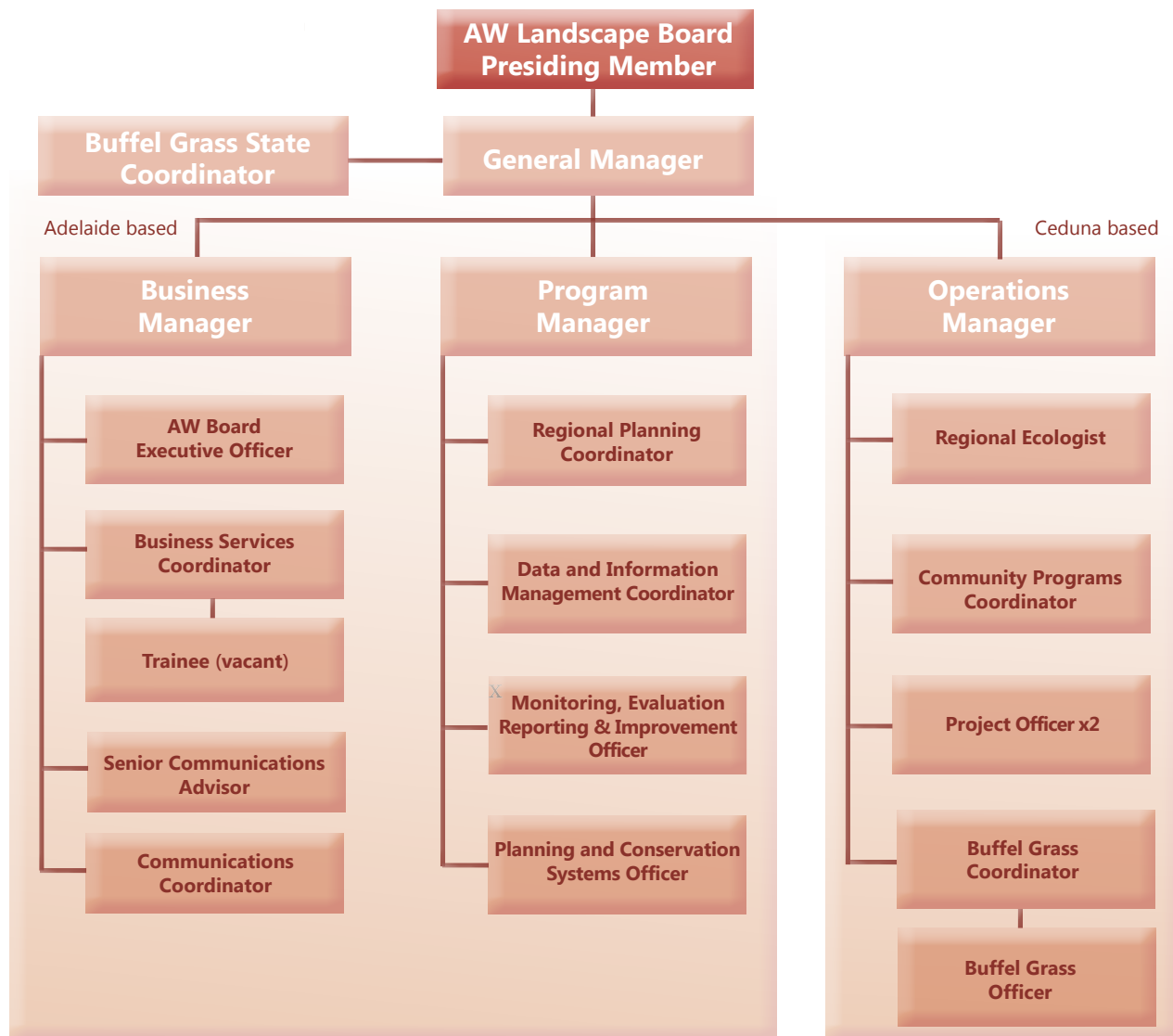


Top row L-R: Mick Haynes (Presiding Member), Julie O'Toole, Peter Miller, Debbie Hansen, Peter Burgoyne.

Bottom row L-R: Tapaya Edwards, Wanda Miller, Duane Edwards, Julieanne Campbell, Jeremy Lebois.

About the Alinytjara Wilurara Team

Under the Landscape South Australia Act 2019, the General Manager and staff work to deliver the programs and services of the Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board.



In 2023/24, and taking into consideration flexible working arrangements, it is anticipated that there will be 18 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions employed by the General Manager on behalf of the board. Our current FTE is 15 with vacancies and new positions expected to be filled during 2023/24. All staff are public sector employees and not part of a specific government department.

The board is obligated to purchase Corporate Services support (including Business Services, Governance Services, Financial Services, Human Resource Services and ICT Services) through the Department for Environment and Water. In 2023-24 the board is required to enter into a three-year SLA with DEW for these services.

Under the Landscape South Australia Act 2019, there will be no changes to the implementation program incorporated in the Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board Business Plan 2023/24. Staffing resources, physical resources and infrastructure resources to support the implementation of the board's Business Plan remain unchanged.

2023-24 is the start of a new five-year funding arrangement with the Australian Government. As this funding ensures AW can deliver its on-ground work, we cannot say with any certainty what that work will be in 2023-24. At the time of publication, the Australian Government had not announced its NHT 2023-28 preferred suppliers. An amendment to this business plan will occur if there is a material change in AW's revenue.

With the NLP2 round of funding ending in June 2023, the board endorsed the extension of all staff contracts to the end of December 2023 to ensure continuity between the NLP2 and NLP3 investments from the Australian Government.

The General Manager will be responsible for the development and delivery of an annual business plan between the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water and the AW Landscape Board. The General Manager will be accountable for delivering an endorsed annual business plan through the integrated workforce and available resources.

Programs within this plan are implemented directly via public sector employee staff and a range of partnerships, service agreements and grants tied to specific project outcomes. Project Officers are generally funded on a project specific basis through service agreements with state and federal governments.



Delivery

The key role of the board is to improve the health and trend of natural resources within the region and to support communities in achieving their natural resource management aspirations.

AW staff work closely with Aboriginal ranger teams to achieve their Healthy Country Plans, which are at the core of AW's Regional Landscape Plan.

South Australia's landscape boards are supported in the delivery of their landscape plans through Australian and State Government funding as well as non-government sources.

With all of the AW region's land being either Aboriginal community freehold or government reserves, the AW Landscape Board is the only South Australian landscape board that does not receive revenue through water or land levies.

To adequately resource delivery of federal, state and regional priorities, the board will continue to seek additional funding opportunities through external parties.

The board is dedicated to achieving the best possible results for our region and to do so will continue to build strong relationships and partnerships that enable priority projects to be undertaken.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The AW Landscape Plan 2021-26 has been developed using the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation, utilised by local governments and NGOs around the world to corroboratively and systematically conserve the environment and allow for adaptive management. It relies on a community-driven Healthy Country Plan.

Yearly action and outputs are monitored and strategies and activities adapted as required.

In 2023-24, intermediate outcomes will be reviewed (at three years) by assessing the indicators for each objective and adapting strategies and activities.

At the end of five years, target goals are evaluated. Key Evaluation Questions and learnings are used to determine how successfully regional priorities have been met.

A 10-year impact assessment will also be undertaken to evaluate the success of implementing the AW Landscape Plan in the longer term.

Overview of planning and reporting framework

	Planning	Reporting
STATE ↑	10 years State Landscape Strategy Sets the state-wide direction for the management of landscapes and natural resources for the next 10 years. It will include a guiding framework for managing the state's natural resource and high level principles for the Landscape Priority Fund.	Regional Landscape Plan will align with the State Landscape Strategy and may provide data and information about contributions to progress
	5 years Regional Landscape Plan Sets the strategic direction for the next five years and identifies regional priorities and focus areas.	Report from the review of the Regional Landscape Plan: an evaluation of the progress made towards the plan over the last 4 years to inform the drafting of the subsequent 5 year plan
	Annually Business Plan (includes the Water Affecting Activities Control Policy) Allocates funding for the next financial year to implement programs and projects	Annual Report: an assessment of how the board has succeeded in implementing the preceding year's business plan including the board's audited accounts and financial statements Achievements Report: a non-statutory report against the Business Plan that demonstrates to the community what the board's funding has been invested in and what has been achieved
REGIONAL	Implementation: Leadership and governance, district work plans guide project and program delivery throughout the region. Effective community engagement, collaboration and partnerships. Continual improvement through effective monitoring and evaluative processes.	



Water Affecting Activities

The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board is responsible for overseeing water affecting activities in the region, to protect the water resources and related natural assets of the region in order to sustain natural ecosystems, protect domestic and stock water supplies, protect cultural values and to ensure the orderly development of water resources for economic activities. The following table summarises the water affect activities requiring a permit, board permission or landholding authority consent. Our Water Affecting Activities Control Policy is available on our website.

Landscape SA Act (2019)	Water Affecting Activities	Water Affecting Activities examples	Permit, consent or permission	Activities not requiring a permit consent or permission	Relevant Authority
104(2)	Take of water from a watercourse, lake or well that is not prescribed or take surface water from land that is not in a surface water prescribed area	taking surface water taking underground water	Board permission and/or Landholding Authority consent	Taking water for: a) Domestic purposes or for watering stock (other than stock subject to intensive farming) b) Native title purposes c) Road making, only where water salinity is greater than 5,000 total dissolved salts measured in mg/l d) Fire-fighting e) Control of declared pest plants and animals Taking underground water for mining and petroleum exploration	Board
104(3) (a) and (b)	Drilling, plugging, backfilling or sealing of a well Repairing, replacing or altering casing, lining or screen of a well	drilling a well repairing, altering or replacing the screen well closure	Permit		Minister
104(3)(c)	Draining or discharging water directly or indirectly into a well	Mine dewatering MAR schemes	Permit		Minister
104(4)(b)	The erection, construction or placement of any building or structure in a watercourse or lake or on the floodplain of a watercourse	Buildings or structures Culvert Crossing point	Not applicable	Activity that is proposed to be undertaken at a distance of 40 meters or more from the banks of the nearest watercourse and that does not involve any structure associated with the extraction of water Activity where the Landscape Board has provided financial or other assistance pursuant to Section 42 of the Act Mining and petroleum exploration activities where approvals have been obtained from DME	Board
104(4)(c)	Draining or discharging water directly or indirectly into a watercourse or lake	Mining or petroleum production wastewater Desalination wastewater	Not applicable	Activity where the Landscape Board has provided financial or other assistance pursuant to Section 42 of the Act	Board
104(4)(h)	Excavating or removing rock, sand or soil from a watercourse or the floodplain of a watercourse	Realignment or alteration of a watercourse	Not applicable	Activity that is proposed to be undertaken a distance of 40 metres or more from the banks of the nearest watercourse Activity that involves removal of less than 2 m3 of material in any 5 year period Activity where the NRM Board has provided financial or other assistance pursuant to section 42 of the Act. Mining and petroleum exploration activities where approvals obtained from DME	Board

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LANDSCAPE
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
ALINYTJARA WILURARA



Government of South Australia

Department for Environment
and Water

