

Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board

Landscape Plan 2026-2031



Acknowledgement

The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board acknowledges the Traditional Owners and custodians of Country in the Alinytjara Wilurara region. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and recognise the deep and continuing cultural relationship with land, waters and sky.

We acknowledge that their sovereignty and responsibilities to Country continue. We will continue to listen, learn, and work shoulder-to-shoulder with communities to care for the landscapes of the Alinytjara Wilurara region.

Dedication

We dedicate this plan to past Elders, who passed on the knowledge of how to care for Country and keep culture strong.

To the present generation, who are working today to keep Country healthy.

And to future generations, who will carry culture forward for healthy Country.

Foreword

The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board is proud to present the Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Plan 2026-31.

This plan sets a clear path to care for desert and sea Country. It builds on our previous plans, informed by the aspirations of the communities of the region. It is practical and hopeful. It supports healthy landscapes through partnership and respect.

Communities and their boards and councils manage their land through Healthy Country Plans or their equivalent. This regional landscape plan works alongside those plans. It amplifies the voices of communities, aligns with their ambitions, and enables shared outcomes at landscape scale while helping local programs succeed.

We all share responsibility to care for Country. Success relies on strong relationships with communities, land management and ranger teams, schools, government agencies, and our cross-regional neighbours.

We aim to connect people and encourage collaboration, seek funding and resources to support regional priorities, and to be strong advocates for positive change.

Our plan is grounded in cultural and scientific knowledge, shaped by many people and organisations through consultation. We will track our progress, learn together, and strive to deliver the best possible results.

Thank you to everyone who contributes towards keeping Country healthy, today and for the next generations. Palya.

The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board

Minister's Endorsement



I, Honourable Emily Bourke MLC, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, after taking into account and in accordance with the requirements of Section

50 of the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, hereby approve the regional landscape plan for the Alinytjara Wilurara Region for 2026-2031.

Emily Bourke MLC

Minister for Climate, Environment and Water

Who we are

The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board is a statutory landscape board established under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*. We are the only all-Aboriginal natural resource management board in Australia. Our board members are all respected Aboriginal leaders, with strong community ties, endorsed by community boards or councils to be their representatives.

We work with communities to look after land, water, plants and animals across our region, so people and nature thrive.

For us, natural resource management involves bringing cultural knowledge and science together. Country is living and interconnected, and people are part of Country.

How the Act supports what we do

The *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* supports healthy Country outcomes by enabling regional decision-making, partnerships, and investment in natural resource management. Our work is entirely on Aboriginal freehold and co-managed lands, undertaken with consent and the leadership of the community. The Act operates alongside and respects Aboriginal land rights. It does not diminish them.

Our role and responsibilities

Our work is guided by this five-year regional landscape plan. We set priorities by listening to communities and balancing their aspirations against our statutory responsibilities under the Act. We build on existing strengths in the region and act as an enabler where additional support is needed.

Our key roles and responsibilities are to:

- support and strengthen existing capacity in the region so communities can continue to lead practical care for Country
- assess and provide advice to government and decision makers on activities referred to us under landscape and related laws, supporting decisions that contribute to healthy landscapes
- work to protect native plants and animals and support the long-term health of the region's ecosystems
- monitor landscape condition and brief the Minister on trends, risks and how landscape management is progressing
- provide clear, practical information to land managers about pest plants and animals, water and land affecting activities, and where necessary, take compliance action under the Act.





Our region

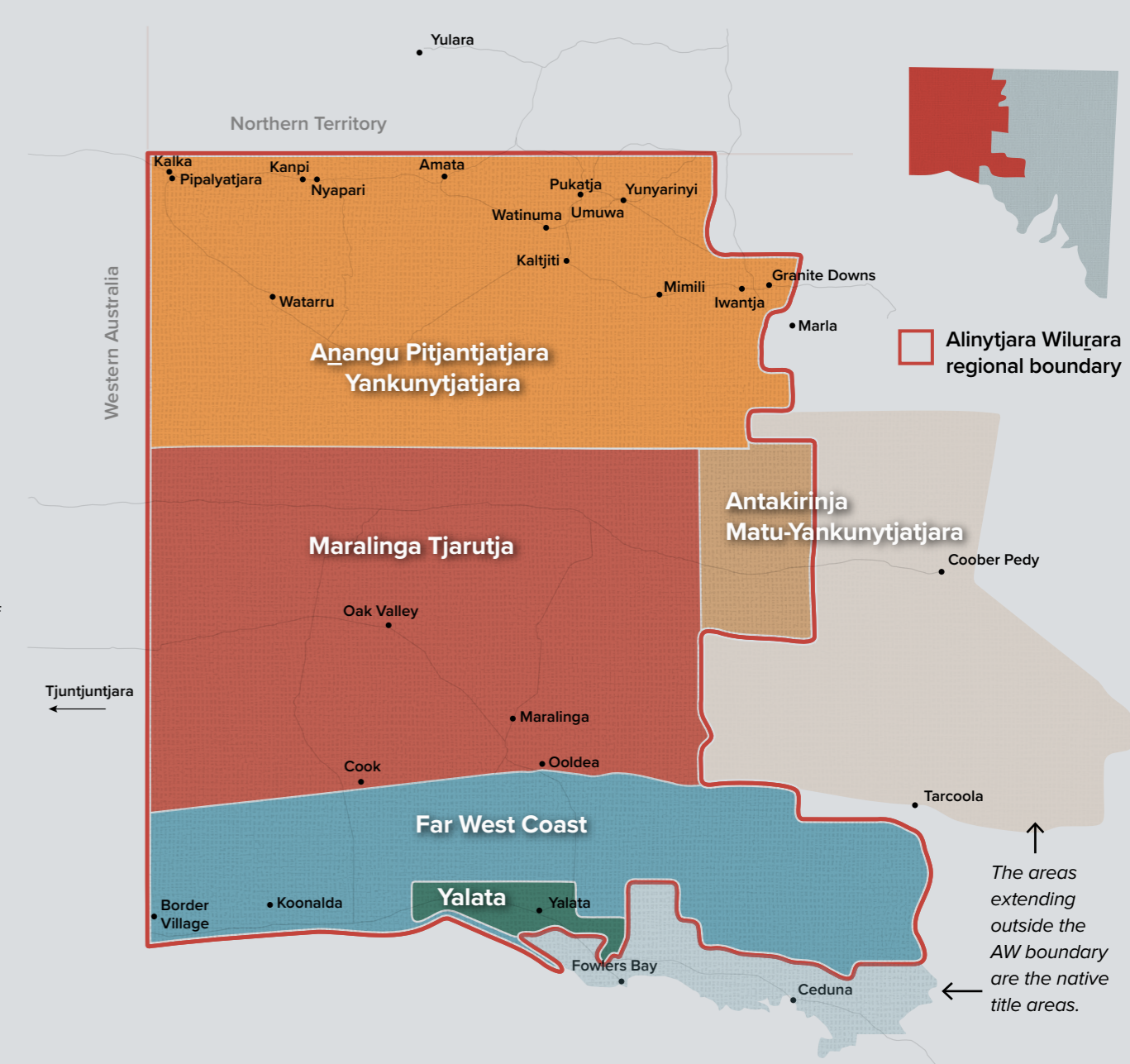
The Alinytjara Wilurara landscape region covers more than 250,000 km² – around a quarter of the state – stretching from the Northern Territory and Western Australian borders south to the Great Australian Bight. The regional boundary extends to the edge of state waters, three nautical miles offshore.

There is no privately owned land in the region. More than half is owned or in the trust of three key landholding authorities.

- Yalata (vested in the Aboriginal Lands Trust under the *Aboriginal Lands Trust Act 2013*)
- Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands (vested in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara under the *Pitjantjatjara Land Rights Act 1981*)
- Maralinga Tjarutja Lands (vested in the Maralinga Tjarutja under the *Maralinga Tjarutja Land Rights Act 1984*)

There is also determined native title for the areas governed by the Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation and the Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara Aboriginal Corporation, that extends beyond the Alinytjara Wilurara regional boundary.

The region also includes protected areas dedicated under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*, all co-managed with Traditional Owners and the Department for Environment and Water. As well as Indigenous Protected Areas where Traditional Owners have entered into an agreement with the Australian Government to protect biodiversity and cultural values. And a marine park that forms part of Australia's National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas.



Regional priorities



People and partnerships

We foster strong collaborative relationships that sustain healthy landscapes.



Land and sea conservation

We care for land and sea Country, so important plants and animals are healthy, abundant, and resilient.



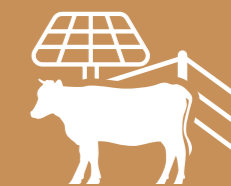
Climate change readiness

We support communities to build future readiness for climate change and plan for natural disasters.



Pest plant and animal control

We help keep Country strong by detecting and managing priority pest plants and animals.



Sustainable agriculture

We support adaptive land management that looks after water, soil and plants alongside pastoral operations that are sustainable in the long term.

Our vision

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

Foundations of this plan

This plan outlines how the Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board supports and implements nature-based practices that build long-term environmental resilience.

It is grounded in the leadership of community, who are caring for and managing Country across the Alinytjara Wilurara region, and acknowledges the significant effort, knowledge and responsibility that underpin this work.

Healthy Country Plans and Indigenous Protected Area Plans are the primary planning documents for each community and are fundamental to this plan. In the southern part of the region, Park Management Plans work alongside Healthy Country Plans to guide co-management.

The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Plan builds on these by bringing natural resource management priorities together at a regional scale, adding value where there are gaps, and helping advocate for resources, partnerships and support. The plan acknowledges cultural imperatives as well as legislative requirements.

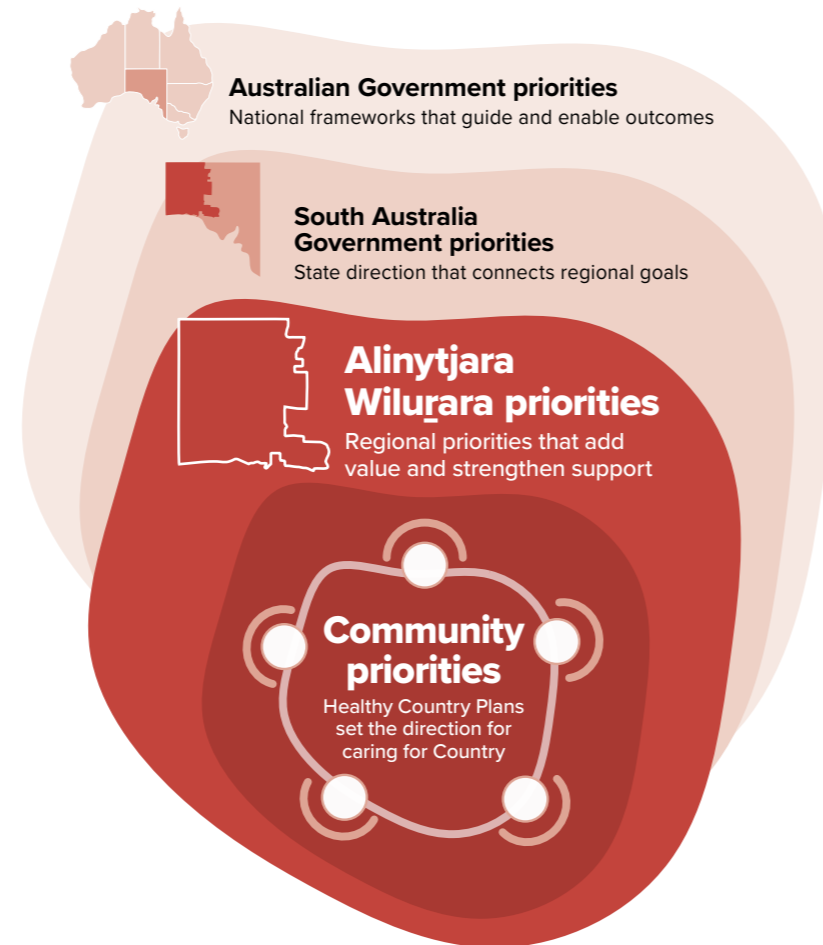
This plan also fulfils the requirements of the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*. It aligns our regional goals with the State Landscape Strategy, helping connect local knowledge and community priorities with state-wide directions and enablers of change.

At the national level, the Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board contributes to Closing the Gap, Australia's Strategy for Nature 2024-2030, listed Matters of National Environmental Significance, the Threatened Species Action Plan 2022-2032, the National Soil Action Plan, and Natural Heritage Trust programs, including the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program.

This plan also positions the region to benefit from emerging nature market opportunities by supporting consistent, credible natural resource management priorities that can underpin investment and strengthen community-led outcomes.

As part of the national peak body, NRM Regions Australia, the Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board contributes to a collective voice that promotes the value of regional natural resource management, strengthens knowledge sharing, and helps broker partnerships that benefit communities across the region.

By connecting local knowledge with these bigger frameworks, we ensure our work is practical, coordinated and focused on long-term outcomes. Caring for Country is strongest when everyone plays a part. By working together at local, regional and national levels, we support healthy water, lands, soils and biodiversity that sustain communities for generations to come.



Why our landscape matters



The Alinytjara Wilurara region is full of special places.

For those who live here, it is their sacred Country, with an unbroken connection stretching back thousands of generations. Country is far more than land: it is culture, identity and livelihood. It holds stories, language, and knowledge that guide how people live and care for one another. Caring for Country supports strong culture, health and wellbeing. Protecting cultural knowledge and natural resources go hand in hand. They cannot be separated.

The Alinytjara Wilurara landscape supports everyday life in ways that are often unseen but deeply felt. Healthy soils grow thriving native vegetation that reduces the threat of pest plants and helps protect the land by limiting dust and minimising erosion. Well managed land slows floodwaters, supports clean water and strengthens the region's resilience to drought and extreme weather. These natural assets underpin resilient communities, building on generations of dedicated stewardship.

The region is ecologically significant at a national and global scale. Much of the region remains in near pre-colonial condition, forming one of Australia's largest and best-connected natural areas. It includes the Great Victoria Desert, the largest intact desert in Australia and one of the most pristine desert ecosystems on Earth; the significant southern right whale breeding ground of the Great Australian Bight; the Nullarbor Plain, which is the world's largest limestone karst landscape; and the Musgrave Ranges, which include the highest point in South Australia.

These healthy, connected landscapes provide habitat for wildlife, including the nganamara (malleefowl), sandhill dunnart, hooded plover, white-bellied sea eagle, and warru (black-footed rock-wallaby).

Many of these benefits extend well beyond the region. When landscapes are healthy and functioning well, communities, industries and governments all benefit through stronger environmental and cultural outcomes.

The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board supports landholders and communities to care for these precious natural assets.



Challenges and strengths



Challenges

- Remoteness and vast scale increase the cost, complexity and time required to deliver programs.
- Short-term and fragmented funding models limit long-term planning and sustained investment in land and pastoral management.
- Climate change is increasing the frequency and severity of extreme heat, drought and fire, placing growing pressure on people, Country, infrastructure and management systems.
- Managing pest plants and animals, altered fire regimes and legacy impacts requires sustained, coordinated effort across very large and often remote landscapes.
- Limited infrastructure constrains the ability to manage sustainable, regenerative land practices.
- Elders have identified challenges in maintaining strong intergenerational transfer of cultural knowledge, with fewer opportunities for spending time learning and caring for Country.
- Declining water resources and increasing demand.
- Mining exploration activities place added pressure on groundwater, cultural heritage and sensitive ecosystems.



Strengths

- Freehold Aboriginal tenure enables self-determination, autonomy and long-term decision making.
- Cultural knowledge and connection to Country remain strong and actively inform land management.
- Established ranger teams across the region deliver on-ground environmental and cultural outcomes.
- Communities' ranger programs provide employment, skills, wellbeing and pathways for young people.
- Biodiversity and landscapes remain largely intact at a scale unmatched elsewhere in South Australia.
- The region supports species that are no longer found or have limited range in other areas of Australia.
- High ecological integrity and protected areas contribute significantly to Australia's conservation goal of protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030.
- High biodiversity value provides a strong foundation for future participation in emerging nature capital markets, supported by Board-enabled funding, expertise, advocacy and partnerships.



People and partnerships

We foster strong collaborative relationships that sustain healthy landscapes.



People and partnerships are central to how work happens across the Alinytjara Wilurara region. Effective caring for Country relies on collaboration and strong relationships built on trust and shared purpose.

Our primary community partners are the region's landholding authorities.

- Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara
- Antakirinja Matu Yankunytjatjara Aboriginal Corporation
- Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation
- Maralinga Tjarutja Inc and Oak Valley (Maralinga) Aboriginal Corporation
- Yalata Anangu Aboriginal Corporation

Healthy Country Plans guide much of the work carried out by communities. These plans reflect local aspirations and set out the priorities for caring for the land, culture and community wellbeing. Our role is to support and enable this work, not replace it.

Our closest partnerships are with communities, their boards and councils, and land management, ranger and pastoral teams. They drive much of the on-ground activity across the region. We work alongside them to help build capacity, strengthen systems, share knowledge, and support their goals.

We also work with organisations that provide specialist skills, technical expertise and additional resources to communities. These include:

- The South Australian and Australian Governments and statutory authorities
- Conservation organisations
- Education and research organisations
- Industry and peak bodies
- Mining and renewable energy operators
- Volunteer groups

By working in partnership with communities, organisations, governments and industry we help support resilient landscapes and thriving communities.

Focus areas

Planned 5-year outcomes

Support communities with their healthy Country priorities.	The Board's contributions to healthy Country priorities are community led, co-designed, resourced and delivered.
Connect the right partners so we can achieve more together.	We are working in the right places and with the right people to improve environmental resilience.
Secure and channel funding and support for community priorities.	Reliable and flexible funding is directed to high value, community-led actions with clear landscape benefits.
Support community-led development of skills and leadership in caring for Country.	Ranger teams and land managers have increased capacity and skills through Board-delivered support.
Champion the region's environmental and cultural values and raise awareness of what's needed to keep Country healthy.	The broader community, investors and policy makers understand the environmental and social value of the Alinytjara Wilurara landscape.





Climate change readiness

We support communities to build future readiness for climate change and plan for natural disasters.



Climate change is likely to affect all aspects of caring for Country in the Alinytjara Wilurara region. South Australian climate projection work undertaken by the Department for Environment and Water shows that the region is becoming hotter, drier and more variable.

These shifts affect ecosystems, cultural practice, public safety and land management activities. Changes in extreme heat, water availability and access can also influence when and where people live and travel, including seasonal movement away from hotter inland areas, with flow-on effects for communities, services and landcare projects.

Research shows warmer temperatures, shifting rainfall patterns and an increase in extreme events will increase pressure on native species, water sources, fire regimes and coastal places. Seasonal indicators are also changing, and people need time to observe and apply new knowledge. Extreme heat presents real risks in remote areas with limited infrastructure.

Our approach to climate change readiness centres on working with community and authorities to understand what is changing, and to identify and prepare for emerging risks.

The Board aims to embed climate-smart thinking, making sure every strategy, program and project uses up-to-date climate projections and information. We will support communities to co-design practical climate readiness plans for priority places, covering heat, drought, fire, flood and coastal hazards. Together we will trial and scale low-cost, nature-based and culturally led actions that help landscapes and communities stay resilient.

Using water wisely is central to climate readiness. We help partners strengthen drought planning, monitor key water places, and apply good practice when works occur in or near waterways, surface and groundwater.

By combining cultural knowledge, local observation and climate science, we help people, Country and communities stay safe and strong in a changing climate.

Focus areas

Embed climate-smart decisions across all Board business.

Support communities to be prepared for climate impacts.

Support wise water use.

Planned 5-year outcomes

Strategies and programs are informed by the best available climate science information. The Board is contributing to the South Australian Government's Climate Ready Initiative.

Practical, community-led climate readiness plans are in place for communities to guide responses to natural disasters. The Board works with communities to strengthen preventative action against natural disasters.

The Board contributes to water security decision making for communities. Land managers meet statutory duties aligned to water affecting activities.





Pest plant and animal control

Together, we keep Country strong by detecting, preventing, and managing priority pest plants and animals.



Pest plants and animals threaten the Alinytjara Wilurara region’s environmental and cultural assets, biodiversity, pastoral productivity and regenerative practices. Effective control requires working closely with communities, ranger teams, industry and neighbouring land managers across a vast, cross-jurisdictional landscape.

Buffel grass is the highest priority weed and a key threatening process due to its profound impacts on culture, connection to Country, and the health and wellbeing of communities. It reduces the availability of bush foods, medicines and plant materials, alters hunting practices, and threatens culturally significant plant and animal species and tjukurpa (songlines). Buffel grass also transforms ecosystems, changes fire regimes and degrades biodiversity.

Our focus is to:

- protect culturally important places and other priority conservation sites
- prevent further spread in the southern two thirds of the region, where buffel grass occurs mainly in isolated patches
- support the development of effective biocontrol and stronger state and national policy settings, recognising these are essential for landscape-scale control.

We apply a risk-based approach to direct limited resources where they will have the greatest benefit, with coordinated vigilance supporting early detection and rapid response along road and rail transport corridors. Effective control depends on everyone playing their part and on coordinated, cross-boundary action.

Feral animals including camels, horses, donkeys, rabbits, foxes and cats cause significant impacts. Managing them is complex. Animals move across the landscape, views differ between communities, and the region’s size makes control difficult. Programs require social licence, clear objectives and integrated methods, and must be backed by ongoing effort to maintain low densities in priority areas.

The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board has a statutory role under the Act in the management of declared pest plants and animals. This includes supporting land managers to meet their obligations and, where necessary, taking compliance action to prevent unacceptable impacts on culture, biodiversity, pastoral productivity, and community safety and wellbeing.

By preventing, containing and reducing invasive pest plants and animals through coordinated, culturally led and risk-based programs, we help protect environmental and cultural assets, biodiversity, and pastoral productivity.

Focus areas

Partner with communities to plan, resource and deliver targeted control of priority pest plants and animals.

Grow community-led skills and share information to support what works.

Influence strong state and national pest plant and animal policies and funding that enable region-wide action.

Support prevention of emerging pest plants and animals.

Planned 5-year outcomes

Priority pest plant and animal control programs are co-designed, jointly planned and resourced, with measurable reductions in impact at agreed places. Land managers meet statutory duties to destroy or control declared pests.

Land managers and on-ground operators have the skills and confidence to deliver effective pest control. Shared information helps build a clearer picture of what works and grows our collective impact. Control programs have community approval.

The Board influences policies and secures funding that support sustained prevention and control, aligned across tenures and boundaries.

Early detection and rapid response processes are in place. High-risk pathways are monitored, emerging pest plants and animals are acted on quickly, and new incursions are contained or eradicated wherever feasible.



Land and sea conservation

Keep Country healthy so culture, water, plants and animals stay strong and plentiful for everyone.



Country in the Alinytjara Wilurara region includes land, sea, water, plants, animals, culture, and the stories and responsibilities that connect people to place. This priority supports partners to care for priority landscapes, cultural places, species and water sources across freehold lands, co-managed protected areas, Indigenous Protected Areas, pastoral lands and the coastal and marine environment.

The region is home to threatened species and matters of national environmental significance, many of which also hold deep cultural importance as sources of identity, food and medicine. Strong partnerships with communities and governments help protect these species, their habitats and the cultural responsibilities connected to them.

Water places, such as rockholes, springs, soaks, creeks and nearshore areas are vital for culture, plants and animals.

Fire has long been a key tool for caring for Country. Supporting cultural fire knowledge and practice strengthens cultural connection, supports healthy ecosystems, and protects important places.

This priority brings together knowledge partnerships to care for culturally important places, species, water and coastal areas.

Focus areas

Planned 5-year outcomes

Partner with communities to care for priority land and sea Country.

Projects are co-designed, resourced and delivered at agreed priority places to improve the condition, extent and resilience of land and sea Country.

Protect and strengthen the region's unique, intact and functioning ecosystems.

Intact ecosystems are maintained in good condition and show resilience to pressures, supporting biodiversity and long-term landscape health.

Support the conservation of important plants and animals (i.e. culturally significant and threatened species).

Important plants and animals are cared for through agreed threat management and monitoring, supporting their persistence and recovery at priority places.

Knowledge, learning and innovation that support better landscape decisions.

Regional decisions are guided by trusted, accessible and locally relevant knowledge, supported by new tools and ways of understanding change.





Sustainable agriculture

We support adaptive land management that looks after water, soil and plants alongside pastoral operations that are sustainable in the long term.



Sustainable agriculture in the Alinytjara Wilurara region involves looking after soil, water and plants in primary production areas. Remoteness, climate variability, limited infrastructure and pressure from feral animals all make it challenging to maintain productive Country and viable agricultural enterprises.

This priority focuses on strengthening climate-smart, regenerative and culturally led land management. By working alongside communities and land managers, the Board supports learning, mentoring and best practice extension that help minimise land degradation, reduce soil erosion, reduce total grazing pressure and improve practices that lessen the impacts of pastoralism.

Managing feral animals, pest plants and biosecurity risks remains essential for protecting production and reducing long-term costs. The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board also helps partners identify and explore sustainable enterprise pathways that fit local capacity, culture and Country.

By building capability, trialling practical approaches and supporting locally led enterprise, we help keep land productive and resilient.

Focus areas

Planned 5-year outcomes

Build capacity of communities to adopt climate-smart, sustainable agriculture practices.	The Board supports communities to build climate-smart, sustainable agricultural knowledge and practices.
Coordinate effective pest plant and animal and biosecurity programs that protect production and land condition.	Pest plants and animals are managed through coordinated control and prevention, supporting productive landscapes.
Support sustainable agriculture business pathways.	Viable Anangu agriculture business pathways are supported.
Support carbon-smart land management and participation in emerging carbon and nature-based markets.	Communities are informed and with their consent are supported with the uptake of adopted nature-based markets related to carbon and nature repair.
Support wise land use.	Land managers meet statutory duties aligned to land affecting activities.



How we will implement this plan

The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board and its staff will implement this plan, guided by our commitment to meaningful partnerships across the region. Each year we prepare an annual business plan that sets out how available funding and resources will be used. This includes the yearly funding allocation for our programs and how we will work with landholding authorities, their land management, ranger and pastoral teams, community and regional partners to deliver agreed priorities. We track and report on what is achieved through this annual process.

We work side-by-side with communities, grounded in respect, deep listening and shared decision making. We recognise that information has value and respect cultural practices. We trust the communities we work with and seek to ensure activities deliver clear value.

For all regional priorities we co-design projects and governance with communities and their boards and councils. Projects are community-led or co-created to reflect local priorities, knowledge and ways of working. We respect data sovereignty and ensure information is collected, managed and shared only in ways agreed with communities.

We support co-delivery, coordination and resourcing to progress healthy Country priorities. This may include providing technical expertise and funding support or facilitating partnerships, always in ways that align with community expectations and capacity.

Our approach to implementing this plan is guided by the principles in the Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board's Statement of Commitment to the people of the region. These principles shape how we work and how we build long-term, respectful relationships with communities.



Guiding principles

These principles are drawn from the Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board's Statement of Commitment to the people of the region.

**Respect and
acknowledge
traditional
knowledge**

**Partnership and
collaboration**

**Cultural
sensitivity,
awareness and
ownership**

**Promote
capacity
building and
empowerment**

**Foster
long-term
relationships**

**Sustainable
management and
stewardship**

**Accountability
and
transparency**

Monitoring, evaluation and learning

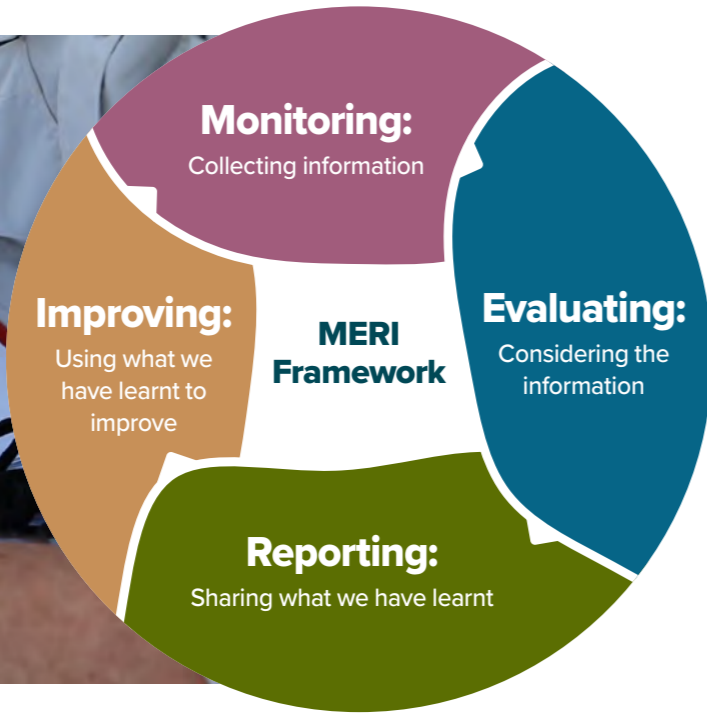
It is important that we regularly check our progress, understand what is working and make changes where needed, so we stay on track to achieve our vision.

The Board outlines its upcoming work each year in an annual business plan that sets out our commitments, and an annual report that shows what we delivered across our projects and programs, and what progress has been made toward our priorities.

This strategic plan will be reviewed at least every five years in accordance with the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*.

A Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) framework will guide this work. It will set out what we monitor, how we evaluate progress, and how we use this information to support learning and improvement. What we learn through monitoring and evaluation will be used to strengthen program delivery, inform decision making, and adapt our approach over time.

Communities undertake their own monitoring and evaluation to track progress against their priorities and plans. The Board focuses its monitoring on what is required to meet its responsibilities, including reporting to funding partners and supporting outcomes at a regional scale. We will collaborate in our MERI wherever it is appropriate to gain a region-wide measure of impact.



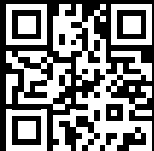


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