



# Caring for Country

Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board's Aboriginal Participation Plan





## Acknowledgment of Country

The Eyre Peninsula region encompasses the lands of numerous Traditional Owner groups.

The Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board acknowledges and respects the traditional custodians whose ancestral lands are part of our landscape board region, and we pay our respects to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge and respect the deep spiritual attachment and the relationship that Aboriginal people have to Country.

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

The Board seeks active partnerships across the landscape that enable Traditional Owners and Aboriginal people living in the region to maximise opportunities for maintaining connection with the land and to protect and maintain culture, cultural sites and natural resources of the lands and waters of the Eyre Peninsula region.

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*The artwork featured in this document was created for the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board by Aboriginal artist Presten Warren and is titled "Protection". See page 17 for more details.*



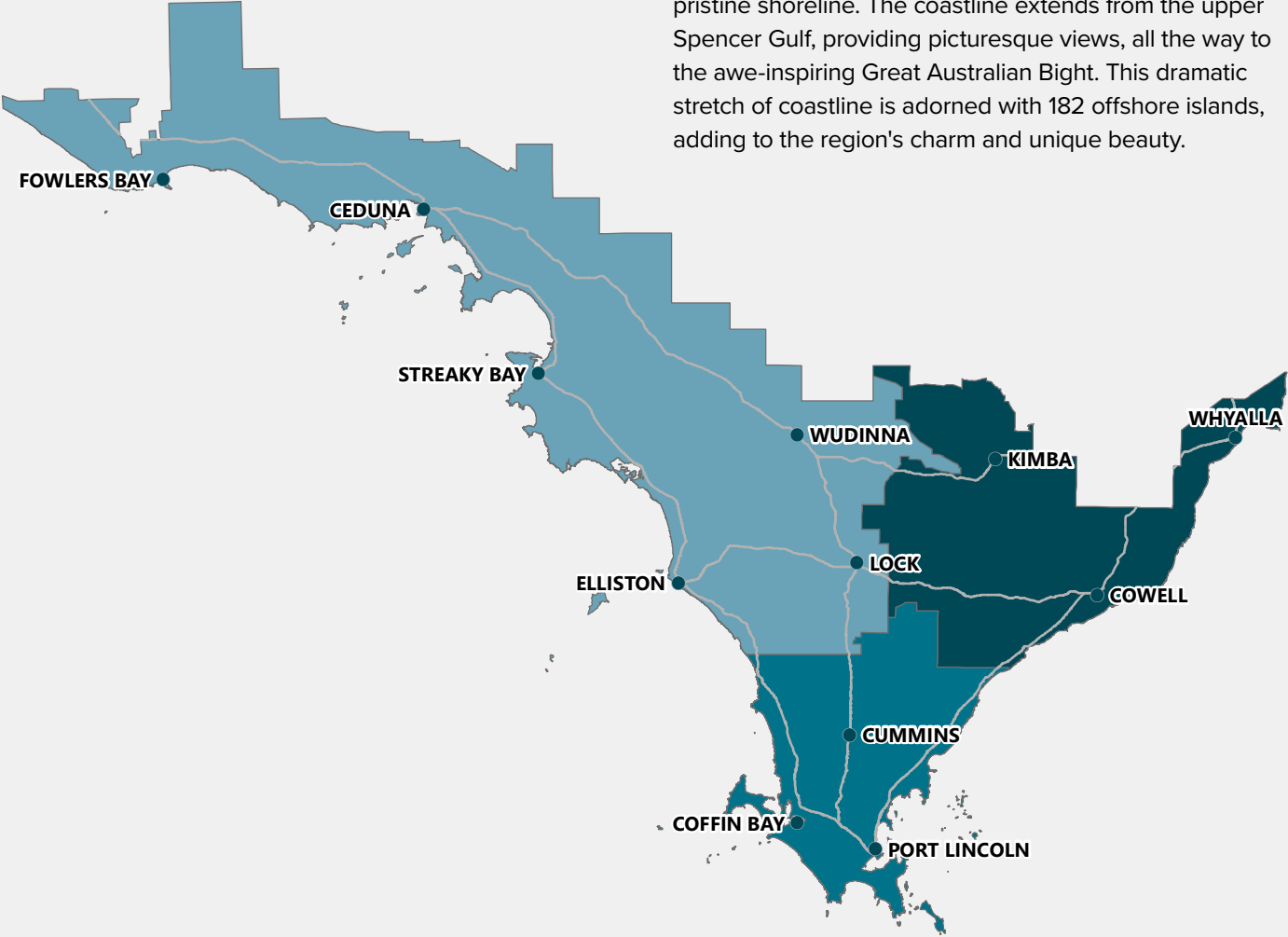


# Introduction

The Eyre Peninsula of South Australia is a stunning landscape region that covers approximately 8 percent of the state.

Spanning across 80,000 square kilometres, this area stretches from the township of Whyalla in the east, along the majestic Gawler Ranges in the north, all the way to the edge of the iconic Nullarbor Plain in the west.

One of the highlights of this remarkable region is its breathtaking coastline with more than 3,000 kilometres of pristine shoreline. The coastline extends from the upper Spencer Gulf, providing picturesque views, all the way to the awe-inspiring Great Australian Bight. This dramatic stretch of coastline is adorned with 182 offshore islands, adding to the region's charm and unique beauty.





# The Board

The Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board (the Board) was established under the Landscape South Australia Act 2019 (the Act), which also includes provisions for landscape boards to recognise Aboriginal culture, respect Aboriginal customs and knowledge, support Aboriginal interests and to collaborate with Aboriginal people, including (but not exclusive to):

- The objects (section 7 (1)(b))
- Principles of achieving sustainable development (section 7 (3)(a))
- Decision making by boards (section 7 (3)(e))
- Board membership (section 16 (1)(i))
- Functions of Boards (section 25 (4)(c)) Regional Plans (section 47 (1)(c)).

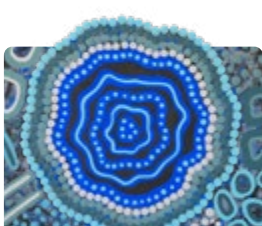
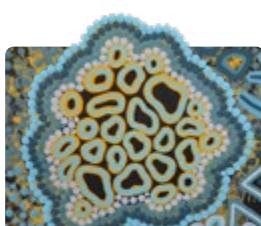

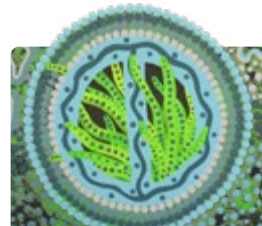

In February 2021, the Premier issued a mandate to all Ministers requesting that the Boards in their portfolios are covered by a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) in some way. This may be through Boards developing their own RAP or through active engagement in the Department for Environment and Water's RAP. The Premier also requested that Boards consider the benefits of Aboriginal engagement and representation and whether any of their functions or activities would benefit from an Aboriginal perspective.

Following this, the Chairs of the Landscape Boards agreed to adopt the Department for Environment and Water Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), rather than prepare their own collectively or individually.

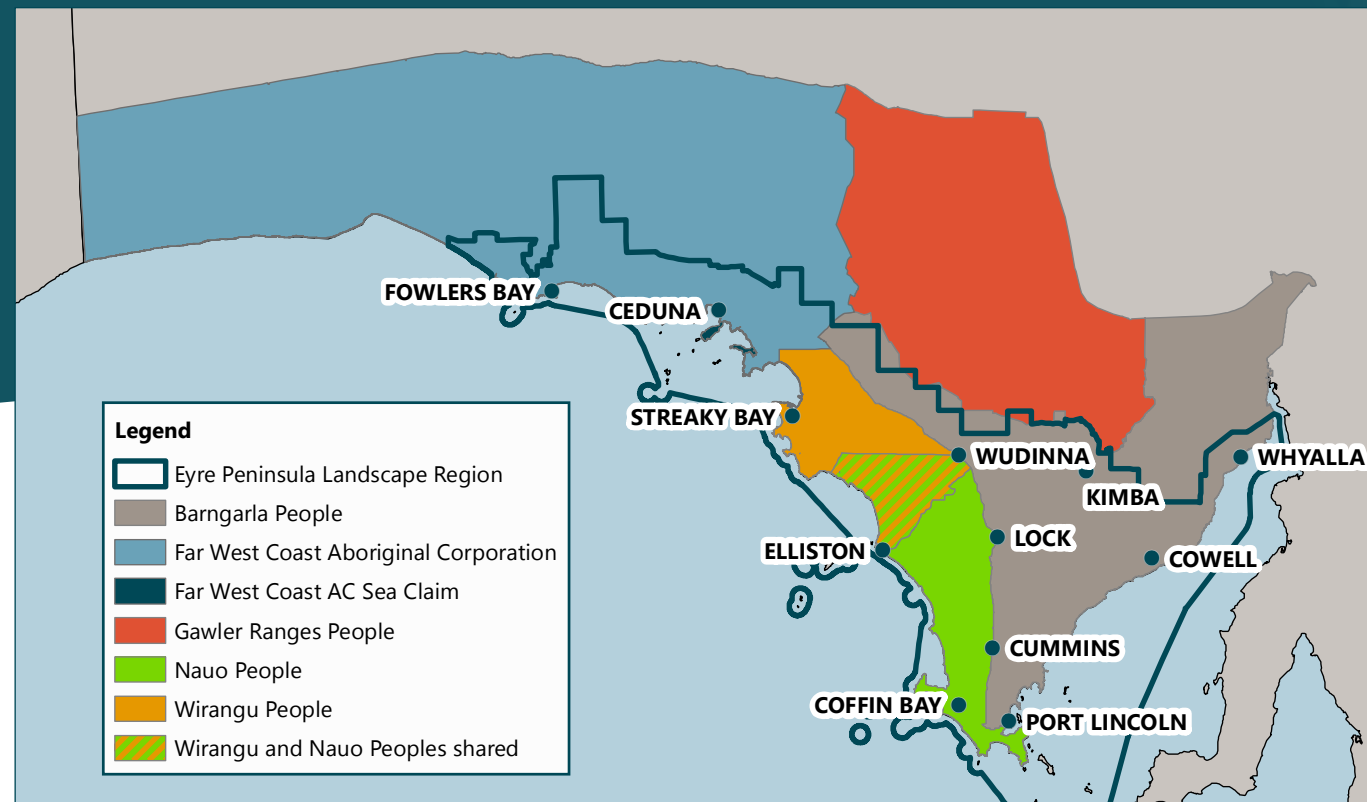
# Our Vision

Eyre Peninsula landscapes support biodiversity, community and business in a changing climate as we safeguard the local natural and productive environment. We are committed to realising this vision by aligning our efforts with our regional priorities.

## Regional priorities

				
<b>Water</b>	<b>Sustainable Agriculture</b>	<b>Pest Plants and Animals</b>	<b>Biodiversity</b>	<b>Community</b>
<b>Focus areas:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Effective water allocation planning in prescribed water areas</li><li>• Managing water affecting activities</li></ul>	<b>Focus areas:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reducing the risk of land degradation to protect the region's valuable soils</li><li>• Facilitating regenerative land management to improve soil health</li></ul>	<b>Focus areas:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Supporting landowners to control prioritised pest plants and animals</li><li>• Collaborating to reduce threats from impact-causing native species</li></ul>	<b>Focus areas:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Protecting and restoring prioritised coastal habitats</li><li>• Maintain and enhance biodiversity in prioritised ecosystems</li></ul>	<b>Focus areas:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community at the centre and actively engaged in landscape management</li><li>• Effective decision-making and local government engagement</li></ul>
<b>Adaptation and mitigation to climate change is the enduring context for all focus areas.</b>				
<b>This is underpinned through our effective:</b>				
Leadership and governance	Planning and compliance	Monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement	Partnerships and collaboration	





## Our Aboriginal partners

### The Traditional Owners of the Eyre Peninsula are making dedicated and tireless efforts to restore connection to Country and reclaim rights over the land.

This follows the arrival of Europeans in the nineteenth century which brought about significant challenges including violent clashes that resulted in the loss of many lives and a disruption to the longstanding Aboriginal way of life. Moreover, forced migration and assimilation policies imposed additional burdens on these communities, further eroding their connection to Country and endangering their cultural practices.

However despite these obstacles, the Traditional Owners of the Eyre Peninsula have not lost hope. By asserting their authority and knowledge as custodians of these territories, they are paving the way for future generations.

Through various initiatives and partnerships, Traditional Owners are revitalising cultural practices that have been suppressed for too long. Our Aboriginal partners are working towards resurging Aboriginal land management techniques that have sustained this landscape for thousands of years. This reconnection

with Country not only benefits Indigenous communities but also strengthens the ecological sustainability of the Eyre Peninsula.

In the process of reclaiming lands and reaffirming identities, Traditional Owners are pioneering a future that honours both cultural heritage and their rights as custodians of this sacred land. The resolution of all Native Title claims on the Eyre Peninsula marks a significant milestone in this endeavour, clearly delineating the interests of specific groups in designated sections of land.

The 2021 census data indicates that there are more than 2,421 Aboriginal people residing across the Eyre Peninsula, with a median age of 27 years.

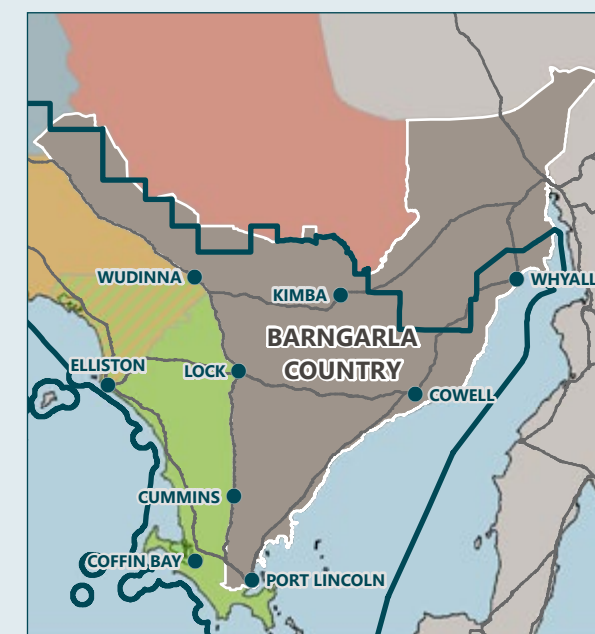
In addition to Native Title groups there are a number of homelands. Homelands are communities where Aboriginal people can maintain connection to their traditional lands. They serve as essential places for cultural practices, connection to Country, and community cohesion. It is important to recognise and support the significance of homelands in maintaining Aboriginal culture and heritage.

## Native Title groups

### The Barngarla People

The Barngarla Determination Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (BDAC) is the official registered Native Title body corporate, appointed by order of the Federal Court of Australia to manage the Barngarla Determination.

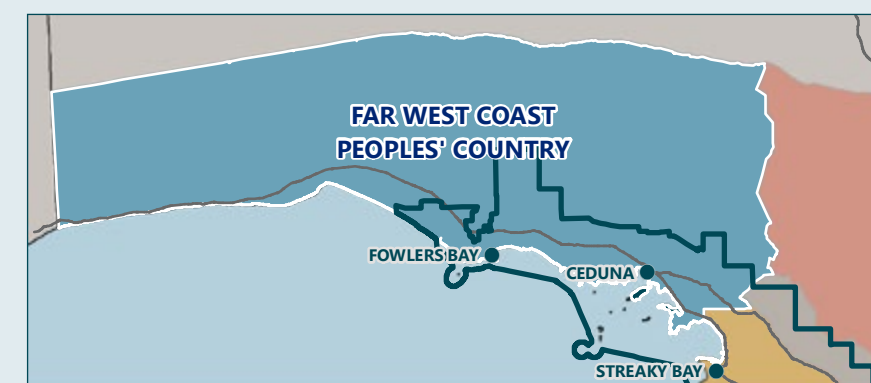
The traditional lands of the Barngarla people encompass much of the upper Eyre Peninsula, including Port Lincoln, Whyalla and into Port Augusta. The Barngarla Native Title claim comprises 44,481 square km, or about two-thirds of the Eyre Peninsula. In 2023 the Barngarla people won a federal court decision to prevent a nuclear waste disposal facility from being built on their land near Kimba.



### Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation

Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation (FWCAC) manages the Far West Coast land as recognised in law (Having been determined) as belonging to the Far West Coast Aboriginal Peoples in the Federal Court Determination for Native Title on the 5th December 2013.

The boundary recognises the claim area of the six cultural groups who are represented by the FWCAC, and their subsequent cultural authority as a whole and is considered the Far west Coast region.



#### The six distinct Cultural Groups are:

- The Mirning Peoples
- The Kokatha Peoples
- The Wirangu Peoples
- The descendants of Edward Roberts
- The Yalata Peoples
- The Maralinga Tjaratja (Oak Valley) Peoples.



# Gawler Ranges Aboriginal People

The Gawler Ranges Aboriginal Corporation was incorporated on 16 December 2011 and administers land on behalf of the Gawler Ranges People.

They were first recognised in the McNamara/Gawler Ranges People determination that was handed down on 19 December 2011. The Gawler Ranges Native Title consent determination recognises the non-exclusive Native Title rights to access, hunt, fish, camp, gather and use the natural resources, undertake cultural activities, conduct ceremonies and meetings, and protect places of cultural and religious significance.



# Wirangu People

*Wirangu Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC*

The recognition of the Wirangu people as the Traditional Owners of this diverse area is a significant milestone in acknowledging their connection to the land. The Native Title claim, which was finalised in 2022, encompasses not only the expansive region from Acraman Creek to Port Kenny but also includes Streaky Bay and the sacred rocks at Murphy's Haystacks.

The inclusion of Streaky Bay and the sacred rocks at Murphy's Haystacks in the Native Title claim, highlights the spiritual and cultural significance that these sites hold for the Wirangu people. Their preservation and protection are paramount to the Wirangu people.

The finalisation of this Native Title claim in 2022 was a momentous occasion for the Wirangu people.



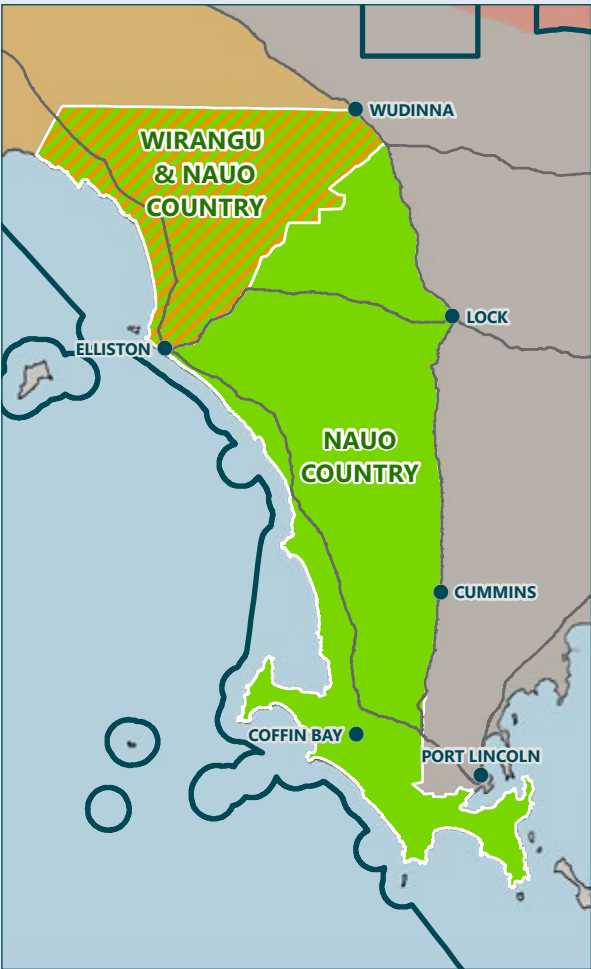
# The Nauo People

As the caretakers of the land, the Nauo people have maintained a profound and enduring connection to their Country. Their presence in this area predates any other, and are recognised as the first people of this region.

Tragically, the frontier settlement on the Eyre Peninsula in the mid-1800s inflicted devastating harm upon this incredible community. The decimation of their population during this period is a dark chapter in history that cannot be ignored.

In May 2023 the Federal Court granted the Nauo people Native Title over 7,951 square kilometres of the lower Eyre Peninsula.

The return to their Country and the acknowledgement received by the Nauo people is not only a testament to their resilience but also a step towards healing and reconciliation. The Nauo people may be small in numbers, but their spirit and resilience are immeasurable. They are determined to rebuild, revitalise, and reclaim their culture, ensuring that the legacy of the ancestors lives on for generations to come.





# Connections and songlines

The Board understands that although there are a number of Native Title claimant groups, Aboriginal people across Eyre Peninsula are connected through marriage and kinship, further strengthening ties between claimant groups, creating a network of relationships that extend beyond individual communities.

Further, songlines serve as vital pathways that connect each of the Aboriginal groups to their ancestral lands, passing down stories, knowledge and cultural practices from one generation to another. These ancient songlines weave together the stories of creation, migration and spiritual beliefs that form the foundation of Aboriginal culture crossing from one ancestral land to another.







# Guiding Principles: our commitment to meaningful participation

## Landscape Management: a role for Aboriginal people

The recognition of all Native Title claims across the Eyre Peninsula marks a significant milestone in acknowledging the profound connection that Aboriginal people have with their lands and waters. The intricate network of songlines that further interlink claimant groups and families underscores the depth of knowledge and relationship that Aboriginal communities maintain with the Country. This enduring bond is not merely historical but continues to be of importance for the care of community and environment.

The traditional ecological knowledge held by Aboriginal people is vital for sustainable land and water management, ensuring that natural resources are preserved and respected for future generations.

The Board recognises this and understands that by actively involving Native Title holders, our Aboriginal partners, and Aboriginal people in natural resource management, the Board will foster a collaborative approach that values traditional knowledge and respects landowners, while also leveraging cutting-edge technology in land care. This inclusive strategy ensures

a holistic and sustainable approach to managing natural resources for the benefit of all stakeholders involved.

The Board is committed to working hand-in-hand with Aboriginal communities to empower a decision-making process, promoting self-determination, and enhancing everyone's capacity to care for Country. The Board further aims to support Aboriginal communities in maintaining connection with Country while also achieving sustainable outcomes for the Eyre Peninsula region.

### Other Aboriginal organisations

The Board acknowledges that certain Aboriginal organisations and groups are currently in their formative stages, while others have already been established and operational for several years.

Our principal stakeholders consist of five Native Title groups, eleven homelands dispersed across the Eyre Peninsula, several Aboriginal organisations, community-controlled Aboriginal entities, and businesses owned and operated by Aboriginal people.

With a focus on working together, our collaborative platform will empower Aboriginal communities to actively contribute to the decision-making processes.

The following guiding principles, underpin commitment to effective partnership between Traditional Owners, community groups, Native Title bodies and the Board.

**Principle 1** – Aboriginal people have inherent rights and responsibilities for their traditional lands and waters which are deeply rooted in cultural, spiritual and historic connections to the land.

**Principle 2** – Meaningful Aboriginal participation will be incorporated into our natural resources management policies to foster inclusivity and promote a sustainable approach to environmental stewardship.

**Principle 3** – We recognise, honor and integrate Aboriginal cultural diversity, knowledge and responsibility into our decision-making processes.

**Principle 4** – Communicating information and natural resource management will occur in a culturally appropriate manner to enable effective engagement and understanding.

**Principle 5** – Ample time will be provided for the authentic and substantial engagement.

**Principle 6** – Sufficient support, resources and assistance for our Aboriginal partners to actively participate and to be fully engaged will be provided.

**Principle 7** – Each partnership is built on fairness, equity and mutual respect to create a strong foundation for collaboration, growth and sustainable relationships.

### Regional Delivery Partner arrangements

The Australian Government has appointed the Board as their Regional Delivery Partner, under a “*Deed of Standing Offer for a Panel of Regional Delivery Partners for Environmental Protection, Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Services*.”

This Deed includes the delivery of a range of regional capacity services, as well as the delivery of environmental, sustainable agriculture and natural resource management projects throughout the region for the next five years.

Regarding targets, the deed states that the Board must meet the higher of the following:

- (A) the targets as set out in this Indigenous Participation Plan.
- (B) the applicable mandatory minimum requirement targets set out in the Indigenous Procurement Policy; and
- (C) the following targets:
  - a. 4% indigenous employment of the full time equivalent Australian-based workforce deployed on the Services; and
  - b. 4% of the value of the goods and services provided under the Deed and any Contract awarded to Indigenous Enterprises; and use its best endeavors, in the delivery of the Services, to increase its:
    - i. purchasing from Indigenous Enterprises; and
    - ii. employment of First Nations people.






# Key Strategies and Objectives

Our objective is to achieve our principles through the implementation of the following strategies.



## 1. Building relationships

- Building meaningful relationships with Traditional Owners, Native Title bodies, community groups, and other key stakeholders is essential to attracting the active participation of Aboriginal people in natural resource management across the Eyre Peninsula.
- Our Board is committed to working in collaboration with Aboriginal communities; having culturally appropriate communication, and promoting employment or subcontracting opportunities for Aboriginal people and businesses across the Eyre Peninsula.
- This strategy will be accomplished through the sustained employment of our Aboriginal Engagement Officer, who plays a crucial role in fostering relationships that are respectful and culturally appropriate.



## 2. Partnerships

- Collaborating with our Aboriginal partners where Healthy Country plans already exist, or supporting groups to undertake a Healthy Country planning process, if that is the path they would like to take.
- Establishing an Aboriginal advisory committee to enhance inclusivity, diversity and meaningful dialogue with the Aboriginal community.
- Integrating and incorporating Aboriginal knowledge systems into landscape management for sustainable development and environmental stewardship.
- Identifying and actively participating throughout the year in celebrations and events dedicated to Aboriginal culture and their connection to Country which will enrich the Board's understanding and demonstrates a commitment to honoring and preserving these rich traditions.




## 3. Capacity building

- Effectively supporting Aboriginal communities in acquiring the skills necessary for active participation in natural resource management and supporting them to attract dedicated funding to address community-specific needs.
- Enhancing the cultural awareness and competency within the Board and strengthening regional partnerships to ensure initiatives are implemented with cultural integrity and sensitivity.



## 4. Delivery and resourcing

- Ensuring the involvement of Aboriginal groups in the development and prioritising of natural resource management policies, plans and actions; and providing appropriate levels of support for partner organisations to deliver natural resource management projects or initiatives.
- Enhancing dialogue and fostering effective communication on natural resource management topics among our Aboriginal partners.



## 5. Governance and accountability

- Establishing effective governance arrangements which clearly define the roles and responsibilities of each partner involved and a formal structured process to ensure regular reviews and necessary revisions to partnership arrangements.
- Empowering Aboriginal communities to actively participate in natural resource management.
- Establishing a tracking register for the procurement of goods and service from Aboriginal owned businesses to meet Aboriginal procurement targets and Mandatory Set Aside obligations.





# Mandatory Set Aside requirements

The Indigenous Procurement Policy also includes a Mandatory Set Aside (MSA) provisions to provide Indigenous enterprises the opportunity to demonstrate value for money before a general approach to market. The MSA applies to all procurements to be delivered in remote Australia and for all other procurements wholly delivered in Australia with an estimated value from \$80,000 to \$200,000 (GST inclusive).

Any procurement the Board undertakes aligned to this funding will be managed in accordance with MSA requirements. This entails a thorough review of the Indigenous business register(s) prior to initiating any contracted work, to ascertain the availability of an Indigenous enterprise capable of delivering the necessary goods or services on a value-for-money basis.

# What does success look like?

With our comprehensive understanding of the makeup of the Aboriginal community across the Eyre Peninsula, coupled with the interconnectedness of the songlines, we are steadfast in our commitment to achieving success. By adhering to our principles and implementing key strategies, we believe that success will be not only attainable but sustainable. Through collaborative efforts and strategic planning, we aim to foster an environment where both cultural preservation and community development thrive harmoniously.

Partnerships will promote biodiversity, enhance ecological sustainability, and foster shared responsibility for maintaining the land for future generations.

Success will also strengthen community bonds, empower Aboriginal communities economically and socially, and acknowledge their role as custodians of the land.

The Board is excited to further collaborate with our Aboriginal partners across the Eyre Peninsula. This partnership promises to be a meaningful and enriching journey, and we are eager to learn from each other's strengths and insights. Together, we look forward to creating opportunities that honor and celebrate our shared commitment to caring for Country.



Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board Manager Planning and Business Support, Susan Stovell with artist Presten Warren and his 'Protection' artwork.

## Artist collaboration

As part of the Board's increased engagement with Aboriginal groups, it engaged Port Lincoln Aboriginal artist Presten Warren in 2024 to create an artwork that represents its work and shows the deep relationship between people and the land.

Titled 'Protection' the artwork represents the Board's work with community, industry, and other government agencies to sustainably manage our region's natural resources.

The artwork intertwines symbols emphasising the protection and restoration of our soil, water management, biodiversity, and pest plant and animal control.

Scattered across the landscape are visions of kangaroo and emu tracks sharing the land with people whose journey's are depicted with footprints and U-shaped symbols of people sitting together, males and females, children and elders. Rock pools, waterholes, leaves and earth are featured throughout the piece in amongst symbols of connection representing our lush, pure and vibrant landscapes and the deep relationship between people and the land.

The Board proudly uses elements of this artwork throughout this document.



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