Eyre Peninsula

Regional Landscape Plan 2026-2031

LANDSCAPE SOUTH AUSTRALIA EYRE PENINSULA

Regional quick stats

Population (approximate)	2021	2024 estimated population*	Change
Eyre Peninsula Landscape region	58,000	60,200	+4%
Whyalla	20,880	21,500	+3%
Port Lincoln	14,400	15,035	+4%
Ceduna	2,290	2,450	+7%

Traditional Owners:
Barngarla, Far West Coast, Gawler Ranges, Nauo and Wirangu People

Total area: Approximately 80,000 square kilometres

Land area: Approximately 50,680 square kilometres

Local Governments:
City Council of Whyalla, Port Lincoln City Council, Lower Eyre Council, Tumby Bay District Council, District Council of Ceduna, District Council of Streaky Bay, District Council of Elliston, Wudinna District Council, District Council of Cleve, District Council of Kimba and District Council of Franklin Harbour.

Out of Council Area:
Approximately 6,750 square kilometres (13% of land area)

Coastline length:
1,640 kilometres of mainland coast plus 182 islands

Highest elevation:
Caralue Bluff at 486 metres above sea level

Annual rainfall: 250 – 560 mm

Changing average rainfall	1969 - 1994	1995 - 2024	Change
Whyalla	289 mm	274 mm	-15 mm
Port Lincoln	520 mm	481 mm	-39 mm
Kimba	349 mm	325 mm	-24 mm
Ceduna	292 mm	268 mm	-24mm

Native Vegetation Cover (2024):
22,430 square kilometres (44% of land area)

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act listed species:
31 plants, 52 animals and 4 ecological communities (and 1 TEC determination pending)

National Park and Wildlife Act listed species:
210 plants and 123 animals

Heritage Agreements:
713, covering a total of 2,761 square kilometres

Main land uses (% of land area):
Cropping and grazing (80%), conservation (17%)

Top 3 industries of employment (2024):
Health care and social assistance (16%), agriculture, forestry and fishing (11%), retail trade (9%)

Top 3 industries by output (2024):
Agriculture, forestry and fishing (24%), construction (17%), mining (16%)

Cover Image: Lake Newland with sheoak revegetation within the conservation park area.

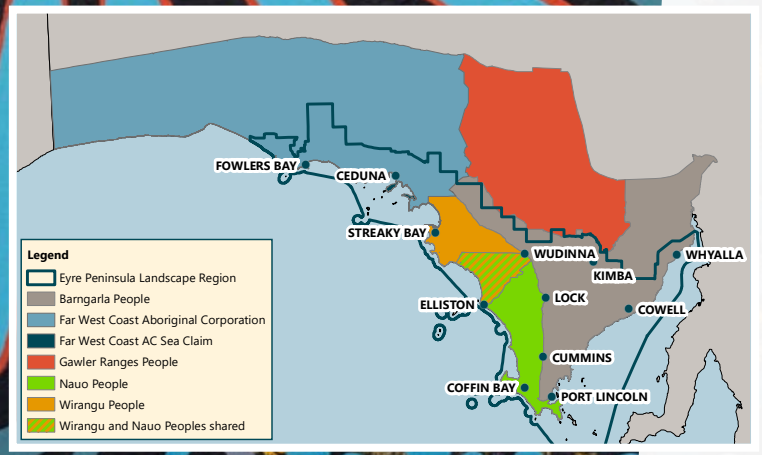


Image: Extract of an image from 'Protection' an artwork created by Presten Warren to represent the Board's work and show the deep relationship between people and the land

Acknowledgment of country

The Eyre Peninsula region encompasses the lands of the Barngarla people, Far West Coast Aboriginal people, Gawler Ranges Aboriginal people, Nauo people and Wirangu people.

The Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board acknowledges and respects the Traditional Owners 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, emotional, social and physical connections that Aboriginal people have to Country.

Aboriginal peoples' oral histories and creation stories traverse the length and breadth of Australia's 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 just historical but continues to be of importance for the care of community and environment.

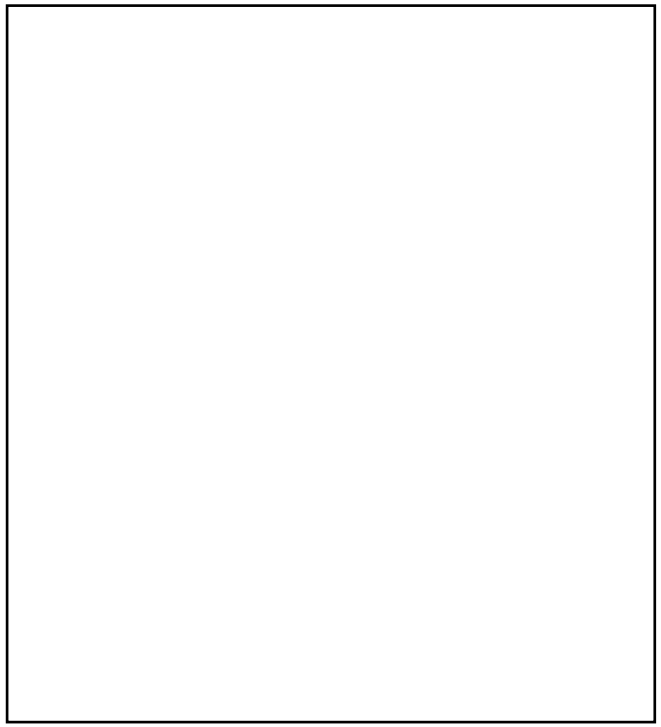
The traditional ecological knowledge held by Aboriginal people is vital for sustainable land and water management, ensuring that natural resources are preserved and respected for future generations.

The Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board is committed to implementing the *Caring for Country – Aboriginal Participation Plan* and working closely with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal people in the region to create active partnerships that support cultural connection, protect cultural sites, and safeguard the natural resources of Eyre Peninsula's lands and waters.

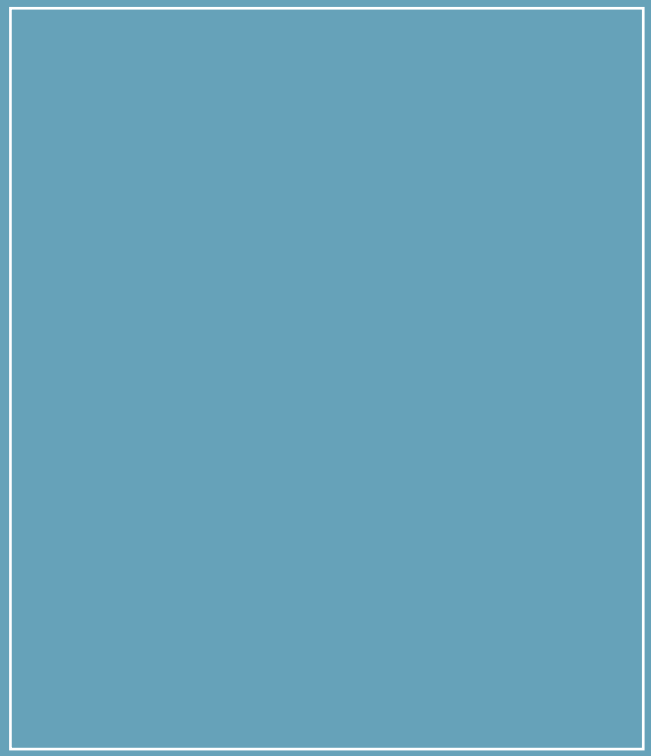
Foreword

Message from Presiding Member Peter Treloar

Peter Treloar
Presiding Member of the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board



Minister's endorsement



What is a landscape?

Landscapes are more than just scenery—they're the interconnected systems that make up our environment. Under the *Landscapes South Australia Act 2019*, a landscape comprises the natural and physical features, including coasts and seas, land, water, soil, native plants and animals, geological features, and the natural processes that keep them healthy. On Eyre Peninsula, this means everything from our sandy beaches, dunes and coastal saltmarshes, to farming land, wetlands, and bushland. These landscapes support biodiversity, local communities, and industries like agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and tourism, while also holding deep cultural significance for Aboriginal people.

A resilient landscape is one that can absorb shocks, adapt to change, and recover from disturbances—such as drought, fire, or invasive species—while continuing to support healthy ecosystems, communities, and industries.

A sustainable landscape is one that uses and manages its natural resources in a way that meets current needs while protecting and maintaining ecological health, biodiversity, and productivity for future generations.

Managing landscapes well is about keeping these systems resilient and sustainable for the future.

Our region

The Eyre Peninsula landscape region takes in approximately 8 percent of South Australia, covering an area of 80,000 square kilometres. It extends from Whyalla in the east, along the Gawler Ranges in the north, to the edge of the Nullarbor Plain in the west. The region includes over 1,640 kilometres of mainland coast spanning from the upper Spencer Gulf to the Great Australian Bight, as well as 182 offshore islands.

Eyre Peninsula's landscapes have been shaped by geological and climatic processes, from rugged coastal escarpments and sandy beaches to extensive limestone plains and semi-arid shrublands. The coastline features cliffs, sandy beaches and dune systems, while inland areas in the support significant agricultural productivity, particularly broadacre cropping of wheat, barley, and pulses and livestock grazing. Surrounding marine environments sustain high-value fisheries and aquaculture, including southern bluefin tuna, oysters, abalone, prawns and mussels, contributing substantially to regional economic output. The region's stunning seascapes and landscapes attract hundreds of thousands of tourists each year, looking to experience the unspoilt natural beauty.

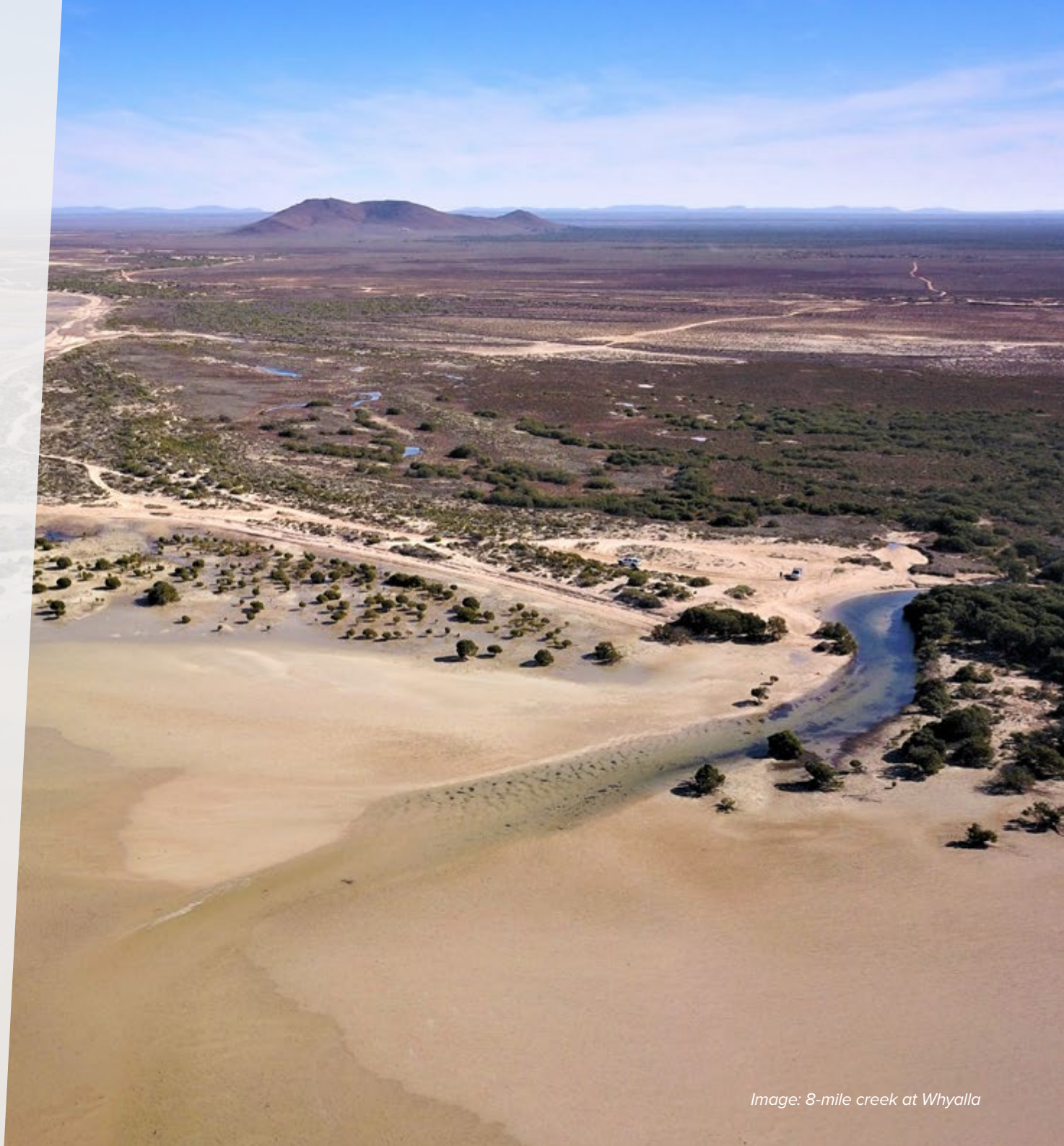
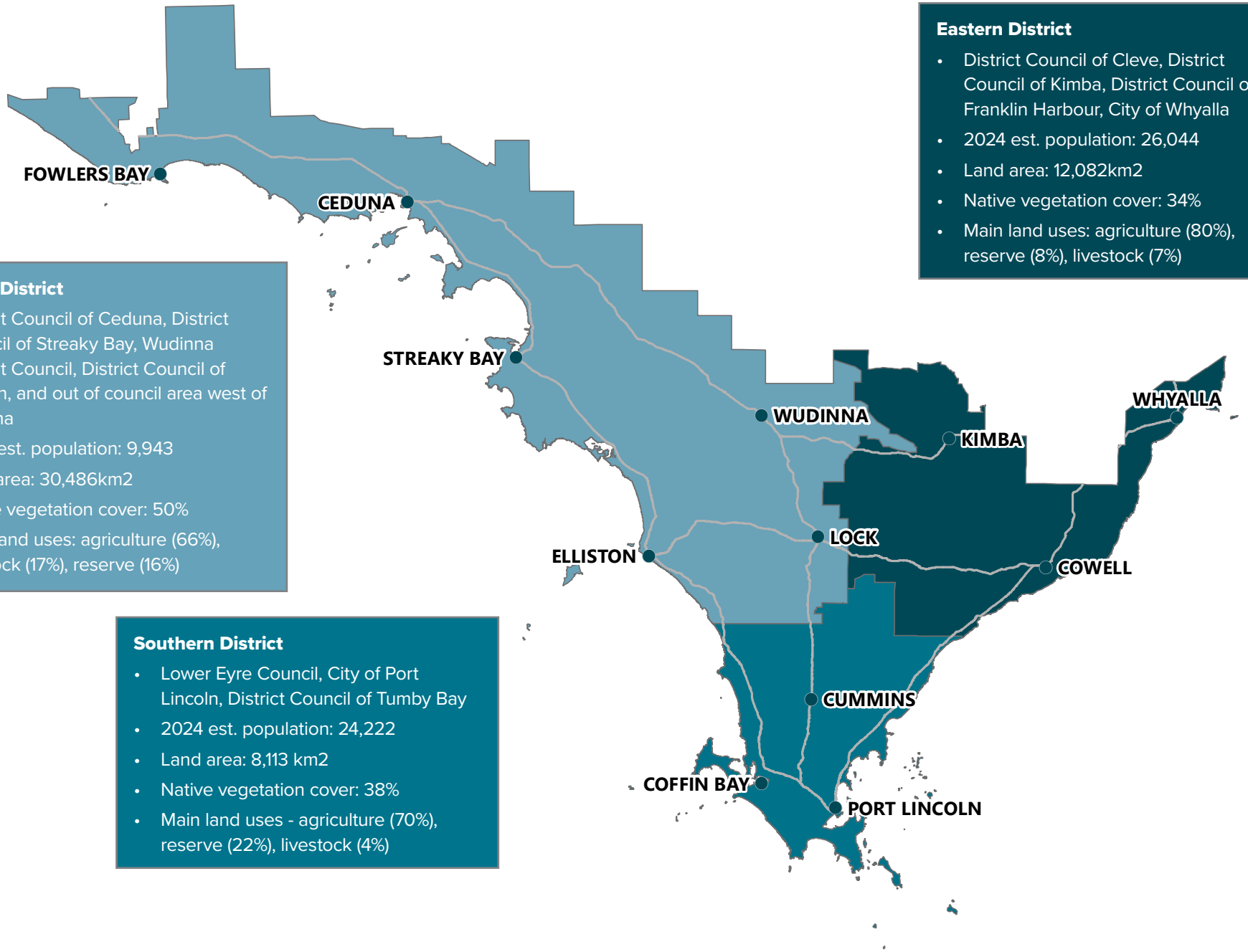


Image: 8-mile creek at Whyalla



Western District

- District Council of Ceduna, District Council of Streaky Bay, Wudinna District Council, District Council of Elliston, and out of council area west of Ceduna
- 2024 est. population: 9,943
- Land area: 30,486km2
- Native vegetation cover: 50%
- Main land uses: agriculture (66%), livestock (17%), reserve (16%)

Eastern District

- District Council of Cleve, District Council of Kimba, District Council of Franklin Harbour, City of Whyalla
- 2024 est. population: 26,044
- Land area: 12,082km2
- Native vegetation cover: 34%
- Main land uses: agriculture (80%), reserve (8%), livestock (7%)

Southern District

- Lower Eyre Council, City of Port Lincoln, District Council of Tumby Bay
- 2024 est. population: 24,222
- Land area: 8,113 km2
- Native vegetation cover: 38%
- Main land uses - agriculture (70%), reserve (22%), livestock (4%)

For further information on the landscapes of the region's three subregions please visit our website www.landscape.sa.gov.au/ep/about-us/landscape-plan

Our vision

Eyre Peninsula landscapes are resilient and biodiverse, and sustainably support the communities that live in, work and visit them.

Our purpose

Safeguarding Eyre Peninsula's natural and productive landscapes.

The Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board (the Board) leads the sustainable care of our region's diverse landscapes, strengthening ecological resilience and supporting the wellbeing of our communities. Committed to protecting our natural assets and productive land, the Board delivers lasting environmental and productivity outcomes through conservation and collaborative partnerships. Working with local communities and key stakeholders, we support sustainable land and water use and strengthen biodiversity for the benefit of current and future generations.

Regional priorities

Water

Sustainable, climate responsive management of watercourses, wetlands and groundwater to improve condition and support productive uses.

Focus areas:

- Effective water allocation planning in prescribed water areas
- Managing water affecting activities
- Catchment and integrated water management

Primary production

Protect and maintain soil health and land condition to enable productive, adaptive and sustainable primary production.

Focus areas:

- Reduce the risk of land degradation to protect the region's valuable soils
- Facilitate sustainable primary production through building capacity and encouraging practice change

Land and coastal biodiversity

Protect and enhance land and coastal ecosystems to recover threatened species and communities and build ecosystem resilience.

Focus areas:

- Maintain and enhance biodiversity in priority land and coastal ecosystems
- Protect and enhance habitats for important species

Pest plants and animals

Reduce the impacts of pest plants and animals on biodiversity and primary production, and prevent new invasive species from establishing.

Focus areas:

- Manage prioritised pest plants and animals
- Respond to new or developing threats from pest plants and animals and explore different monitoring and management approaches

Collaboration and partnerships

Work together to deliver programs and empower communities to sustainably manage natural resources.

Focus areas:

- Collaborate with local government and other organisations
- Work with Aboriginal people and organisations
- Build capacity and share knowledge about managing natural resources

Action to adapt to a changing climate and reduce emissions will be part of all priorities

Water

Sustainable, climate-responsive management of watercourses, wetlands and groundwater to maintain and improve ecosystem function, support community, agricultural and other productive uses.

Water resources on Eyre Peninsula are limited and highly variable. Surface water is scarce. Except for the Tod River, watercourses flow only after rain. Saline water resources are widespread, including salt lakes, brackish creeks, and large wetland complexes that provide important habitats for birds. Agricultural development has significantly altered most catchments, resulting in widespread clearing of native vegetation and changes to the natural flow and quality of runoff. Historically drinking water supply for about 75% of Eyre Peninsula has relied on fresh groundwater lenses in the Southern Basins. Groundwater is the primary source for stock water use across most of Eyre Peninsula. Many ecosystems depend on groundwater and seasonal surface water flows including wetlands, redgums and underground ecosystems in caves (groundwater dependent ecosystems), and wetlands, lakes and coastal habitats that support native vegetation and migratory birds.

Climate change is projected to reduce rainfall and groundwater recharge, increase evaporation, and intensify droughts on Eyre Peninsula, severely limiting water availability for agriculture, the environment and communities.

What is the role of the Board in managing water resources?

Under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, Landscape Boards are responsible for the development and implementation of Water Allocation Plans for prescribed resources, the regulation of water-affecting activities. In the Southern Basins and Musgrave Prescribed Wells Areas, the Water Allocation Plan guides the sharing of groundwater between the environment, livestock and domestic use on farms, and for licensed extraction. Outside the prescribed areas, groundwater take is unregulated, however well construction remains subject to water-affecting activity permits, for which the Minister—not the Board—is the relevant authority. Water affecting activity permits are also required for activities and works that could impact the condition of surface water resources, including constructing a dam, road crossings over watercourses, draining water into a watercourse or lake or constructing a drainage channel. The Board's *Water Affecting Activity Control Statement* describes the principles for managing water affecting activities that apply in the Eyre Peninsula region.

While prescribed water resources and the current scope of water-affecting activities are effectively managed across the state and region, the Board and its predecessors have consistently advocated for stronger oversight of large-scale water extraction outside prescribed areas as a more practical and proactive approach to managing water resources in a changing climate. The Board supports the recent Landscape Act review recommendations aimed at improving water resource management.

Under the *Local Government (Stormwater Management Agreement) Amendment Act 2016*, councils or groups of councils preparing a stormwater management plan must consult with the relevant regional Landscape Board(s). The Board is required to review the plan and advise the Authority on whether, in its opinion, the plan includes appropriate provisions.

(F) **Currently funded:** The Board currently has sufficient, on-going funding to achieve this outcome.

(P) **Partially funded:** Additional funding would help the Board deliver more.

(U) **Unfunded:** The Board currently has no funding to achieve this outcome but is actively seeking funding.

FOCUS AREA – Effective water allocation planning in prescribed water areas

The Water Allocation Plan (WAP) for the Southern Basins and Musgrave Prescribed Wells Areas has recently been reviewed. The proposed changes to the WAP have been driven by the current levels of extraction and reduced replenishment of groundwater basins following long-term reduced rainfall. Falling groundwater levels affect water availability and are increasing the risk of saline water being drawn into the fresher groundwater resources, which could cause irreparable damage to groundwater basins.

2031 Outcomes	Funding
The revised WAP is finalised and endorsed.	F
Implementation of the Water Allocation Plan supports sustainable groundwater management.	P

FOCUS AREA – Managing water affecting activities

The Board's Water Affecting Activities Control Policy sets out the principles for managing water infrastructure and the take of water, including the construction of wells outside the Prescribed Wells Area, although the Minister—not the Board—is the relevant authority for well construction and repair. The policy sets out the matters that the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board and the Minister will consider when granting or refusing a water affecting activity permit.

2031 Outcomes	Funding
The Water Affecting Activities Control Policy is reviewed and endorsed, and its implementation supported by ongoing compliance monitoring.	F
Water affecting activities do not have an adverse impact on surface and groundwater resources and water dependent ecosystems on Eyre Peninsula.	P
Landholders and communities are supported to develop and maintain reliable water supplies through the provision of advice and support, and the prompt processing of permit applications.	P

FOCUS AREA – Catchment and integrated water management

Catchment and integrated water management involve managing water resources across entire landscapes, from source to sea, to balance environmental, social, and economic needs, ensuring healthy ecosystems and sustainable land management. In cities and towns, catchment management activities including Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) can help control stormwater runoff, reduce flooding, improve water quality and protect downstream ecosystems and receiving environments. In recent years, the Board has provided input to many councils' stormwater management plans, assisted with funding for WSUD implementation and with the development of design flow reports.

Integrated water management means managing the whole water cycle in a coordinated way, ensuring the best water source is used for each purpose. It focuses on using and reusing rainwater, stormwater, groundwater, and wastewater for fit-for-purpose needs. While SA Water is responsible for delivering safe and reliable drinking water, the Board has responsibilities for managing groundwater and regulating the use of imported water and wastewater.

The *Far West Coast Healthy Country Plan* identifies protecting and maintaining good gabi (water) as a key priority.

2031 Outcomes	Funding
There is an increase in the area of riparian vegetation planted and protected to stabilise watercourses, improve water quality and enhance biodiversity.	U
There is an increase in the number of WSUD features installed in cities and towns on Eyre Peninsula.	U
The quality of water in watercourses, waterbodies and discharged to receiving environments is improved.	U
There is an increase in the number of landholders participating in catchment management activities.	U
There is an increase in our understanding of the threats to ecosystem health and water quality in priority catchments.	U

Primary production

Protect and maintain soil health and land condition to enable productive, adaptive and sustainable primary production.

Cropping and grazing account for 80% of land uses across the Board's region and around 40% of South Australia's wheat is grown on Eyre Peninsula. The region's land systems include calcareous and sandy soils, shallow soils over calcrete or bedrock, deep soils over clays, ironstone soils, parallel or jumbled sand dunes and coastal dunes. Land systems are defined by similar geology, topography, and soil types, and the main land management risks on Eyre Peninsula—such as wind erosion, dryland salinity, soil acidification, declining soil structure, water erosion, and water repellence—are closely linked to these systems.

As well as broadacre farming, other primary production on Eyre Peninsula includes small scale horticulture and viticulture, carbon farming and sea- and land-based aquaculture. Eyre Peninsula's aquaculture includes sea-based farming of tuna, kingfish, oysters, mussels, and emerging seaweed ventures, alongside land-based oyster hatcheries and abalone farms.

Climate change is expected to increase heat stress, reduce water availability, and heighten drought frequency on Eyre Peninsula, with impacts on crop yields and livestock productivity. Warmer ocean temperatures and increased ocean acidity could lead to changes in oxygen levels in water, and impact aquaculture and particularly shellfish productivity. Rising ocean temperatures create conditions that increase the likelihood of harmful algal blooms, like the *Karenia* outbreak impacting waters in Spencer Gulf and posing a threat to marine ecosystems and fisheries.

What is the role of the Board in managing primary production?

The Board is responsible for facilitating the appropriate management and protection of soil and land under the L*andscape South Australia Act 2019*. Part 7 of the Act focuses on, and sets outs a range of compliance 'tools' to assist the Board with ensuring appropriate management of land, with a focus on avoiding unreasonable degradation of land. Degradation is defined in the Act as any change in the quality of land, or any loss of soil, that has an adverse effect on water, native vegetation or other natural resources associated with, or reliant on, land, any other aspect of the environment, or biological diversity. The Board first provides education, advice and extension support to assist landholders to prevent land degradation; where this approach is unsuccessful, they may issue directions or take enforcement action in accordance with the *Land Management Control Policy.*

While aquaculture is regulated by PIRSA, landscape boards can play a role in facilitating integrated landscape management and biodiversity conservation to reduce impacts on ecosystem health and soil and water resources that may be impacted by aquaculture activities.

The Board also plays a key role in providing extension services and practical support to primary producers, helping them adopt sustainable practices and improve resilience in a changing climate. The Board has engaged Ag Innovation and Research Eyre Peninsula (AIR EP) to deliver the Sustainable Agriculture Program until mid-2028.

FOCUS AREA – Reduce the risk of land degradation to protect the region's valuable soils

Reducing land degradation is essential to maintain soil health and productivity on Eyre Peninsula, where sandy soils and acidity pose ongoing risks. Improved management practices including maintaining ground cover, no-till farming, applying lime to acidic soils, and using rotational grazing are critical to prevent erosion and sustain agriculture under increasingly variable climate conditions. Pest plant and animal management is also critical and is addressed in the pest plants and animals priority.

The Board enforces compliance with the *Land Management Control Policy* by issuing directions and penalties when landholders fail to prevent degradation.

2031 Outcomes	Funding
There is an increase in the area of agricultural land managed to improve soil acidity, fertility and land cover.	P
There is an increase in the awareness of land managers about the importance of erosion protection and improvement of land management practices and soil health.	P
Landholders are better supported to address soil health, erosion and fertility challenges.	U

FOCUS AREA – Facilitate sustainable primary production through building capacity and encouraging practice change

Through the Australian Government the Board has been appointed as a service provider to deliver agricultural projects across Eyre Peninsula. A Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator role has been funded to connect farmers, landholders, and industry with information, programs, and partnerships that promote climate-smart practices and support regional sustainable agriculture projects. The Commonwealth funded Sustainable Agriculture Program is being delivered by AIR EP.

The Climate-Ready Livestock project funded through the State Landscape Priorities Fund is working to build capacity of livestock producers to adapt, diversify, and build long-term resilience.

Although aquaculture producers have not previously participated in Board activities, there is opportunity for them to become involved in sustainability and emissions reduction programs for primary producers.

2031 Outcomes	Funding
There is an increase in the number of primary producers participating in capacity building events and activities.	P
There is an increase in the number of agriculture and aquaculture producers adopting practices to reduce emissions, harness carbon and biodiversity incentives and build resilience to climate change.	P

Land and coastal biodiversity

Protect and enhance land and coastal ecosystems to recover threatened species and communities and build ecosystem resilience.

Eyre Peninsula supports rich biodiversity with over 500 native animal species and 1,900 native plant species, including at least 40 plants and several animals found nowhere else in the world. Endemic species include unique wattles, eucalypts, and mintbushes, as well as animals like the Eyre Peninsula Southern Emu-wren, Pearson Island Black-footed Rock-wallaby, and rare invertebrates such as the tiny sea star *Parvulastra parvivipara* and the 'dinosaur ant' *Nothomyrmecia macrops*. Offshore islands provide critical refuge for threatened species like the Southern Brown Bandicoot and Greater Bilby by remaining free of introduced predators.

Biodiversity loss is a serious concern, with nine animal and three plant species already extinct and many more at risk on the Eyre Peninsula. Forty-three percent of plants and over a third of native animals have a conservation rating. Four vegetation communities are nationally threatened: Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh, Peppermint Box (*Eucalyptus odorata*) Grassy Woodland of SA, Drooping Sheoak (*Allocasuarina verticillata*) Grassy Woodland on Calcrete of the Eyre Yorke Block Bioregion and the Eyre Peninsula Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus petiolaris*) Woodland communities.

Approximately 20% of Eyre Peninsula landmass is comprised of native vegetation that is protected through formal conservation covenants including within 84 National Parks and Conservation Reserves, 4 Wilderness Protection Areas and 713 Heritage Agreements. An additional 23% of the landmass is covered by fragmented native vegetation, including areas on community reserves, coastal Crown land, roadside verges, and scattered woodlands or paddock trees interspersed within cropping, grazing, and pastoral landscapes. Regional native vegetation contains a wide range of biodiversity that underpins the healthy functioning of the ecosystems throughout the region.

The region's coastal habitats are diverse and impressive, with limestone cliffs up to 100 metres high, sandy beaches, undulating sand dunes, rocky headlands, sheltered bays, inverse estuaries, samphire and mangroves. These habitats support commercial species including Western King Prawn and many finfish species, along with a diversity of birdlife, such as the nationally threatened Hooded Plover and Eastern Curlew.

Without improved management practices to address existing threats such as clearance and habitat loss, disturbance from vehicle access and visitors, invasive species, and climate change, and emerging threats associated with bird flu and harmful algal blooms, Eyre Peninsula faces further extinctions and degradation of its unique ecosystems.

What is the role of the Board in managing land and coastal biodiversity?

Under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, Landscape Boards are responsible for facilitating integrated landscape management and biodiversity conservation. The Department for Environment and Water, through the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) manages biodiversity in South Australia's parks and conservation reserves. The Board supports the work of the NPWS as well as supporting local landholders and councils to sustainably manage the biodiversity on their land and promote stewardship programs. The Board has supported the preparation of a number of action plans and tools that guide prioritisation and action to protect and conserve biodiversity, including the Eyre Peninsula Coastal Action Plan, WildEyre Conservation Action Plan, Eyre Hills Landscape Assessment Framework and Eyes on Eyre Masterplan.

When development applications are referred to the Board, the Board may provide advice or conditions that recommend measures to avoid, minimise or offset impacts on priority natural resources and ecological systems.

Image: Sheoak revegetation in western Eyre Peninsula

FOCUS AREA – Maintain and enhance biodiversity in priority land and coastal ecosystems

Priority ecosystems include the communities and habitats that have conservation status, or are under-represented in the existing reserve system. Managing threats including fire, pest plants and animals, grazing pressure and vehicle access, and supporting rehabilitation and revegetation are critical to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity. Board supported projects such as the Sheoak Grassy Woodland recovery and Flinders Island Safe Haven projects are demonstrating how these actions can restore biodiversity.

Protecting and enhancing biodiversity outside of the reserve system can be progressed through the establishment of Heritage Agreements (soon to change to Biodiversity Agreements under the new Biodiversity Act). Heritage Agreements are long-term, legally binding arrangements that protect and restore ecosystems and once transitioned to Biodiversity Agreements will allow landholders to generate tradable environmental benefit credits to link conservation with natural capital markets. Although the Board is not responsible for establishing these agreements, it plays an important role in encouraging landholders to explore the benefits of these agreements.

The Australian Government has set a national target to protect and conserve 30% of Australia's landmass and 30% of Australia's marine areas by 2030 (the '30 by 30' target). Currently just over 18% of Eyre Peninsula is protected – 13% of this in National and Conservation Parks and Wilderness Areas, and 5% under Heritage Agreements. Supporting natural regeneration and undertaking revegetation to expand buffers around existing native vegetation and expanding habitat corridors will contribute to the 30 by 30 target.

2031 Outcomes	**Funding**
There is an increase in the extent and connectivity of native vegetation communities.	P
There is an improvement in the health of Eyre Peninsula's coast and marine ecosystems.	P
The condition and extent of the drooping sheoak grassy woodland have improved.	P
There is an increase in the number of community members participating in biodiversity-related capacity building events, citizen science and other activities.	P

FOCUS AREA – Protect and enhance habitats for important species

Protecting and enhancing habitats for threatened plants and animals requires extending efforts beyond land dedicated to conservation, as many species rely on agricultural areas, coastal zones, and fragmented landscapes for survival. Maintaining and improving these environments requires collaboration between landholders, community groups, councils and state government to reduce disturbance, manage predators, restore habitat and progress the implementation of threatened species action plans prepared for a number of threatened plants and animals.

For many years, the Board has supported national monitoring programs for the nationally threatened Malleefowl and Hooded Plover.

2031 Outcomes	**Funding**
Targeted threatened species are on track for improved trajectory.	P
There is an increase in the extent and connectivity of native vegetation communities that provide habitat for priority threatened species.	P
Landholders and community groups are supported to protect, monitor and improve the condition of habitats that support threatened species.	P

Image: Critically endangered Drooping Sheoak Grassy Woodland on calcrete

Pest plants and animals

Reduce the impacts of pest plants and animals on biodiversity and primary production, and prevent new invasive species from establishing.

Reducing the impacts of pest plants and animals and preventing new invasive species from establishing is critical for Eyre Peninsula's environmental and economic resilience. Existing pests such as rabbits, foxes, deer, goats, feral cats, and invasive weeds like African boxthorn and Gazania degrade native habitats, threaten species such as malleefowl, and reduce agricultural productivity. Vehicle, machinery, and freight movement across and within Eyre Peninsula is a major pathway for weed spread, making the management of transport corridors and equipment hygiene essential to preventing new infestations. Climate change is amplifying existing threats by enabling pests to expand their range and survive in greater numbers, while extreme weather events can accelerate the spread of invasive species. Ongoing monitoring, continued work with neighbouring regions and relevant agencies and tightening of regulation is required to ensure more adequate control and eradication of species such as goats and buffel grass so they do not become established in the region, impacting on biodiversity, productive and cultural values. There are also a number of native species that can cause adverse impacts on primary production or biodiversity when their populations increase.

Effective pest control requires coordination between landholders, councils and agencies to ensure consistent action across landscapes.

What is the role of the Board in managing pest plants and animals?

Under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, species declared as pest plants and animals must be controlled by landholders on their properties. The Board is responsible for coordinating pest management, enforcing compliance for declared species and controlling priority pest species on council managed roadsides.
A regional risk assessment undertaken in 2025 identified the Eyre Peninsula's priority pest plant and animal species, as detailed in the *Pest Plant and Animal Control Policy*. The Board has developed management plans for priority species, and these plans are regularly reviewed to ensure continuous improvement. The Board also coordinates pest animal control programs, and supports and encourages landholders with control activities.

The Board is also responsible for coordinating strategies and supporting landholders to manage impact-causing native species that damage ecosystems, infrastructure, or primary production on collaboration with the Department for Environment and Water (DEW). It is an offence to kill most native animals without a permit and permits for the destruction of native animals are issued by DEW.

FOCUS AREA – Manage prioritised pest plants and animals and impact causing native species

Through regional pest management plans, the Board supports landowners to identify and control priority weeds and animals, understand their legal responsibilities, and plan effective property-level weed management. The Board also delivers targeted pest animal baiting programs, weed control campaigns, monitoring, permitting, and compliance activities, and helps connect landholders with relevant authorities to manage impact causing native species.

As environmental and climate conditions change, pest populations change in distribution and abundance. The regional pest management plans are reviewed every five years to make sure they respond to these changes and are due for review in 2027.

2031 Outcomes	Funding
The Board has continued to implement management actions for priority pest plants and animals on Eyre Peninsula.	P
The distribution and abundance of priority pest plants and animals is stabilised or reduced.	P
Landholders are supported to understand what they can do to manage impact-causing native species.	U
Regional pest management plans are reviewed, revised and changes communicated with the community.	F

FOCUS AREA – Respond to new or developing threats from pest plants and animals and explore different monitoring and management approaches

Buffel grass, gorse, deer and pigs are identified as "Alert" species that the Board aims to prevent from establishing in the region. Gorse has been reduced to very low levels, while other high-risk pests, including goats, deer and Opuntia species such as Hudson pear, remain confined to isolated locations. Targeted and cooperative control programs are being effective in containing these incursions, supported by ongoing monitoring.

Ongoing monitoring and surveillance are critical to ensure new or developing threats are identified early and control action is prompt. Monitoring along key transport routes is a priority, especially during drought periods when there has been an increase in hay trucks from interstate which are potential weed vectors. Assessing and adopting new and emerging technologies such as drone-based surveillance, genetic biocontrol and AI-driven monitoring have potential to improve the Board's pest monitoring and management programs.

2031 Outcomes	Funding
Monitoring and surveillance for new and emerging species is encouraged and supported.	P
No new pest species become established on Eyre Peninsula.	P
New technologies and approaches to monitor and manage pest plants and animals are investigated and appropriate changes applied to existing programs.	U
The current impacts of native animals are investigated to inform the development and adoption of a strategy to support landholders to manage impact-causing native species.	U

Collaboration and partnerships

Work together to deliver programs and empower communities to sustainably manage natural resources.

Sustainable and resilient landscape management needs everyone – individuals, communities, industries and government – to work together to make sure we use our natural resources sustainably and protect the natural and cultural values that make up our landscapes. Successful landscape management relies on strong partnerships between individuals and stakeholder groups, built on trust, shared values, transparent decision-making, and effective communication.
These relationships create confidence and build commitment to long-term regional outcomes. By building knowledge and capacity and providing simple processes to participate, individuals and organisations can be empowered to take action. The community's contribution is broad and diverse, and it includes on-ground action, information sharing through community networks, working in partnership with the Board to develop and deliver projects, and participation in decision-making such as the preparation of this plan.

The Traditional Owners and Aboriginal people of the Eyre Peninsula region have deep connections to Country and traditional knowledge that can support sustainable landscape management. The Board is committed to implementing the *Caring for Country – Aboriginal Participation Plan* and working closely with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal people of the region to create active partnerships that support cultural connection, protect cultural sites, and safeguard the natural resources of Eyre Peninsula's lands and waters.

What is the role of the Board?

The *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* identifies the role of Landscape Boards in creating partnerships to support planning, funding and program delivery. The Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board has developed many strong, successful and valued partnerships with individuals, community groups, businesses, industry groups, research organisations, non-government organisations and government agencies. Maintaining and enhancing these partnerships requires ongoing effort and commitment and the Board is continually seeking new partnership opportunities to deliver shared outcomes.

Landscape Boards also play an advisory role during development assessment processes. Development applications are referred to the Board when they may impact natural resources or cause cumulative environmental effects. In assessing statutory or priority referrals that are not addressed by other relevant agencies, the Board considers potential impacts on watercourses, wetlands, soil health, native vegetation, biodiversity, and long-term sustainability of land use, as well as alignment with regional landscape priorities and policies.

Our partnerships

Our partnerships are described in the figure below. We can do more by working together.

FOCUS AREA – Collaborate with local government and other organisations

The Board works closely with local government, Regional Development Australia (RDA), and the Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association (EPLGA) to plan and deliver strategic regional priorities and on-ground projects. The Board also works with other agencies and organisations operating in the region including SA Water, Department for Environment and Water (DEW), National Parks and Wildlife Service SA, PIRSA, AIR EP, conservation organisations, local Coastcare groups and Progress Associations.

The Eyes on Eyre initiative between the Board, RDA, DEW, the EPLGA and the 11 councils is a great example of collaboration, having successfully delivered a number of visitor facility improvement projects to reduce environmental impacts and improve visitor amenity. Flinders Island Safe Haven project is another successful collaboration between the Boad, DEW, private landholders and the Australian Government. Working with conservation specialists, the restoration of Flinders Island will secure South Australia's fourth largest island (3,854 ha) into Australia's network of havens for vulnerable mammals.

Many community groups access the Board's Grassroots Grants program to deliver on-ground landscape management projects including pest plant and animal control, revegetation and supporting nature-based education projects.

Local governments also support the collection of the Landscape Levy (refer page 33) and refer relevant development applications to the Board for review.

2031 Outcomes	**Funding**
The Board is working with the RDA and EPLGA to implement the priorities of the Eyre Peninsula Strategic Regional Plan	P
The Board has maintained and strengthened collaborative relationships with local governments and other organisations.	P
There is an increase in the number of community groups and other organisations supported through the Grassroots Grants program, delivering impactful projects that further the outcomes of this plan.	P
The Board provides timely and practical advice on priority statutory and strategic referrals where required	P

FOCUS AREA – Work with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal people and organisations

The Board is committed to implementing the *Caring for Country – Aboriginal Participation Plan* and working closely with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal people in the region to create active partnerships that support cultural connection, protect cultural sites, and safeguard the natural resources of Eyre Peninsula's lands and waters.

The *Far West Coast Healthy Country Plan* and *Sea Country Plan* describe objectives and projects that are important to Aboriginal people, some of which overlap with the Boards landscape management priorities, that the Board will seek to support as funding becomes available. The Board will also promote and support the development and implementation of Healthy Country Plans with other Traditional Owners.

2031 Outcomes	**Funding**
Caring for Country Plans have been prepared by all Traditional Owners on Eyre Peninsula	U
There is an increase in the Board's support for the implementation of projects identified in Caring for Country and Sea Country Plans.	U
There is an increase in the participation of Traditional Owners and Aboriginal people in landscape planning and decision making.	P

FOCUS AREA – Build and share knowledge about managing natural resources

Building and sharing knowledge is essential for effective natural resource management. The Board supports citizen science monitoring, provides information through its website, communications and community events, and supports capacity building events relating to soil and land management and pest plant and animal control. Ongoing efforts are required to raise awareness of the Board's programs and strengthen its profile.

Opportunities for future activities include increasing Board staff, community and other stakeholders' knowledge about the economic value and opportunities associated with biodiversity, nature and carbon farming and building resilience to a changing climate.

Ongoing monitoring and research are critical for measuring progress and building the knowledge needed to inform decisions, refine strategies, and continuously improve management practices. The Board's Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement Plan (MERI) Plan describes what will be done to measure the success of the implementation of this Landscape Plan.

2031 Outcomes	**Funding**
There has been an increase in the proportion of the community receiving support from the Board to understand and manage the region's landscapes.	P
Volunteers are better supported to support citizen science and build capacity to manage natural resources.	P
There is an increase in the number of school students that receive natural resource management education.	P
Evaluation and reporting on the progress of the Regional Landscape Plan is undertaken and shared with the community and stakeholders.	P

Decision-making principles

The Board directs its investment toward the highest priority outcomes identified in the Regional Landscape Plan, regardless of the source of funds. Investment decision-making is informed by a set of primary considerations, supported by secondary factors that may provide additional context.

Primary considerations

- **Core function –** is the opportunity a statutory requirement under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* or other legislative or regulatory requirements?
- **Strategic alignment –** does the opportunity align with the priorities and focus areas of the Regional Landscape Plan or priorities described in other State or regional plans?
- **Beneficial outcomes –** will the opportunity improve or enhance the sustainable use, protection and conservation of the region's natural resources?
- **Value –** will the opportunity deliver outcomes for ecological health, biodiversity or productivity that outweigh investment costs?
- **Aboriginal knowledge and partnerships –** is there opportunity to integrate traditional knowledge, practices, and perspectives into planning, decision-making, and stewardship?
- **Collaboration –** will the opportunity build or enhance partnerships with other stakeholders or the community?

Secondary factors

- **Capacity and capability –**are the resources, knowledge and skills required to undertake the work available?
- **Innovation –** is there opportunity to test new or innovative approaches?
- **Visibility –** will there be opportunity to promote the value and importance of regional landscapes and the work being undertaken by the Board, the community and partner organisations?

Planning framework

Regional plans

- Eyre Peninsula Strategic Regional Plan
- Eyre and Western Regional Plan
- Eyre Peninsula Regional Drought Resilience Plan
- Coastal Action Plan
- Water Allocation Plans

State Government

- *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*
- Biodiversity Act 2025 and other Acts
- State Landscape Strategy (in prep)
- Climate Change Resilient and Adaptation Action
- Net Zero Strategy 2024–2030

Australian Government

- Australia's Strategy for Nature 2024-2030
- Threatened Species Strategy 2021-2031
- Australian Government Drought Plan
- Regional Land Partnership arrangements for environmental, NRM and agriculture services

5 years

Regional Landscape Plan

Sets the high-level vision, strategic priorities and focus areas for the region to achieve sustainable landscape management.

Subregional Descriptions

Provides an understanding of the natural resources, systems and drivers across each of the region's three subregions.

Control Policies

Includes details of the Board's water affecting activities, land management and pest plant and animal policies and procedures.

1 year

Business Plan

Outlines the programs that the Board will invest in for the next 12 months, to achieve its strategic areas. Includes details of income and expenditure and landscape levy information.

Operational Delivery

Leadership and governance, regional or district work plans and project plans guide delivery throughout the region.
Effective community engagement, collaboration and partnerships.

Measuring our success

Our Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) Plan, measures our success in delivering our Regional Landscape Plan.

Reporting our achievements

Annual achievement reports.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, Landscape Boards are responsible for monitoring, evaluating, and reporting on how effectively their plans and policies, including landscape plans, water allocation plans and control policies, achieve their intended objectives.

The Board has established programs to monitor the state and condition of Eyre Peninsula's natural resources so changes and trends can be identified. Evaluating the data collected by these programs supports evaluation of the effectiveness of the strategies and actions implemented by the Board.

Limited resources means that monitoring, evaluation and reporting efforts need to be focussed, pragmatic and prioritised. This is done by identifying indicators to measure key aspects or features and establishing a monitoring program that collects sufficient, representative data to assess performance effectively, without requiring measurement of every parameter at every location.

The Board's work in this area is guided by the Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) Plan. The MERI Plan describes what will be measured to enable assessment of the progress and impact of the Board's programs, and how learnings will be used to improve and adapt delivery, following the process shown in the figure below.

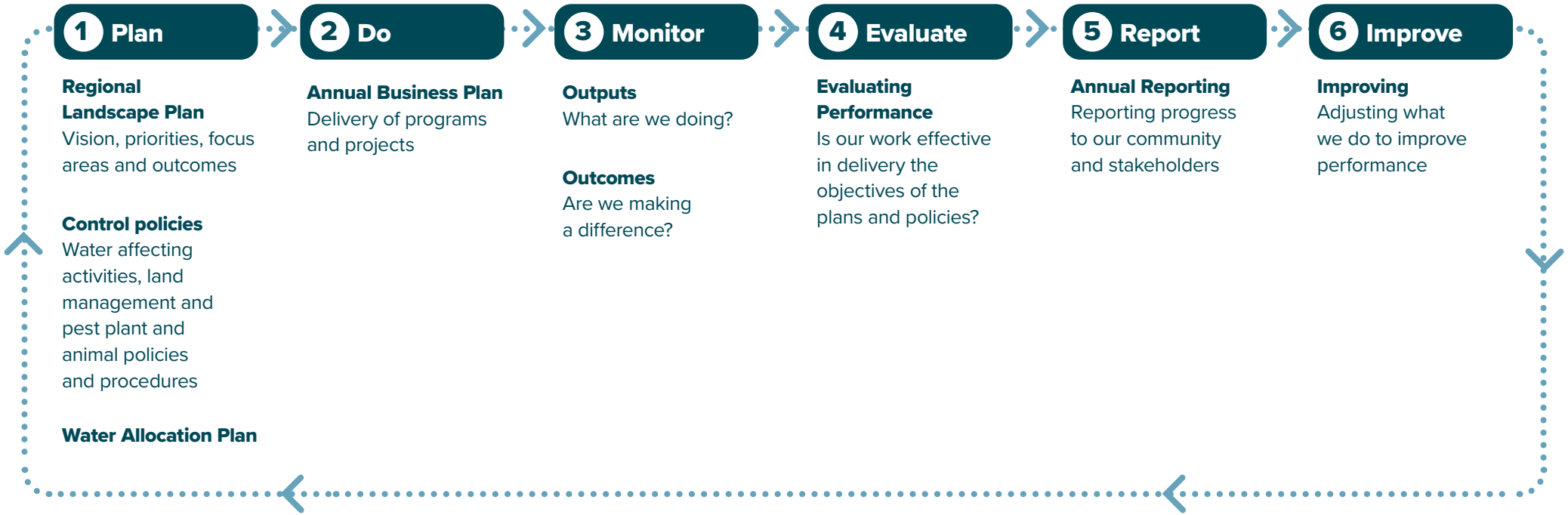


Image: Lake Greenly

Image: Red Gum communities are monitored annually

State of the landscape

This table shows the present state, condition and trends of the region's natural resources, along with the data source.

Monitoring and evaluating the state and condition of natural resources is a responsibility of the Minister and Department for Environment and Water and the data provided in the table is predominantly sourced from monitoring programs run by the Department.

The table shows that the condition of natural resources varies by resource and location. Condition trends are also varied and indicate the effectiveness of strategies and actions implemented by the Board.

The table shows that soil acidification in Lower Eyre Peninsula is improving, with better land management practices and increased lime application mitigating effects of high fertiliser use and continuous cropping. Land cover and soil erosion risk is also improving as a result of land management practices including no-till and stubble retention.

The condition of groundwater and biodiversity (flora and fauna) are poor and showing declining trends. There is a need to address these declining trends and poor conditions over the next five years. Reversing these trends is not simple and will require concerted and innovative efforts over the longer term.

Natural resources	State	Condition[1]	Trend	Data source
Groundwater – Prescribed Wells Areas	Dynamic groundwater levels and salinity that fluctuate with periods of low and high rainfall.	 Poor	 Declining	*Musgrave and Southern Basins Prescribed Wells Areas: 2022–23 water resources assessment*, DEW Technical Note 2024/01
Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems	Red Gum condition improved at all monitoring sites from 2016 to 2021.	 Good	 Improving	*2022 Eyre Peninsula Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Report Cards*, Overview and Red Gum GDE Condition Summary
Riparian aquatic ecosystems	2015 – 10 sites assessed in southern and south-central Eyre Peninsula. Highly modified ecosystems with elevated levels of nutrients, salinity and turbidity.	 Very poor to fair	 Declining	*Eyre Peninsula NRM Regional Summary 2015 Aquatic Ecosystem Condition Report* by the EPA SA
	2020 – 3 sites assessed in Tod River catchment to assess post-bushfire recovery. Moderately modified ecosystem with elevated salinity and nutrients. No indications of lasting impacts from 2005 bushfires.	 Very good	 Stable	*Eyre Peninsula Landscape Regional Summary 2020 Aquatic Ecosystem Condition Report* by the EPA SA
Soil cover – erosion risk	Lower Eyre Peninsula Soil cover stable in higher rainfall areas as result of improved farming practices of no till and stubble retention.	 Fair	 Stable	*Technical information supporting the 2023 Days at risk of soil erosion environmental trend and condition report card*, DEW Technical report 2023/53
	Western and Eastern Eyre Peninsula Lower rainfall seasons impacted plant growth and ground cover.	 Fair	 Declining	
Soil acidity	Lower Eyre Peninsula Soil acidification is getting better, with better land management practices and increased lime application mitigating effects of high fertiliser use and continuous cropping.	 Fair	 Improving	*Technical information supporting the 2023 Soil acidity environmental trend and condition report card*, DEW Technical report 2023/54

Natural resources	State	Condition[1]	Trend	Data source
Soil acidity cont.	Western Eyre Peninsula WEP region has a lower proportion of inherently acidic land which influences the condition score.	Very good		*Technical information supporting the 2023 Soil acidity environmental trend and condition report card*, DEW Technical report 2023/54
	Eastern Eyre Peninsula	Fair	Stable	
Native flora	The percentage of inland waters, coast and marine and terrestrial native flora declining 'getting worse' but this trend has poor reliability.	Unknown	Declining	*Technical information supporting the 2023 native flora and fauna environmental trend and condition report cards*, DEW Technical report 2024/23
Native fauna	The percentage of terrestrial native fauna species declining is getting worse, but this trend has poor reliability. The percentage of inland waters and coastal and marine native fauna species declining is stable, but this trend has poor reliability.	Unknown	Declining Stable	
Threatened species and ecological communities	Native species and ecological communities are impacted by fragmented habitat, pests, altered hydrology, inappropriate fire regimes, development and recreational impacts.	Poor	Declining	*Assessed for the 2021 Landscape Plan using data from Biological Database of South Australia* by the DEW; and the listed threatened species and ecological communities
Coastal ecosystems – mangroves and saltmarsh	Mangroves and saltmarsh have been degraded by land clearance, coastal development, tidal and drainage barriers, water quality and recreational impacts.	Good	Unknown[2]	Assessed for the 2021 Landscape Plan using data from *Saltmarsh survey program* by the DEW for the EP Landscape Board

[1] Condition ratings can be: excellent, very good, good, fair, poor, or very poor

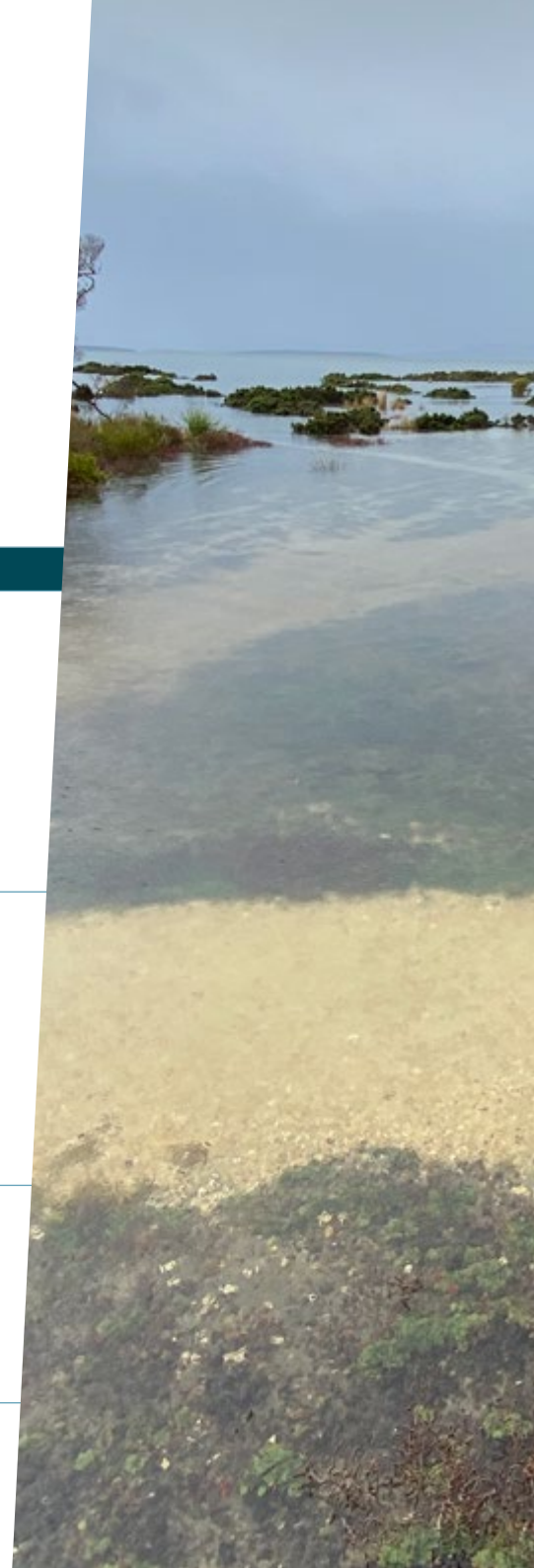
[2] The condition rating is based on expert opinion, and the trend in condition has not been determined. Monitoring programs have been established to collect data about these resources, and these data will be analysed to provide more certainty in future reporting.

Drivers of change

The Eyre Peninsula is influenced by a range of drivers of change acting at global, national, regional and local scales, including environmental, economic, technological, and social factors. Many of these drivers have intensified or shifted significantly in recent years, leading to changes in land use, resource management, and approaches to management and sustainability.

The range of driving influences and their increasing interconnectedness mean much of the future is uncertain and the Board will continually monitor and adapt to the emerging conditions. The below table highlights changes taken into consideration throughout this Plan and the ongoing work of the Board.

	State	Data source
State, national and international	Global population growth Technological innovation Global warming and sea level rise International markets and volatility Growing demand for sustainable production Politics National and state budgets	Climate variability and extreme weather events including droughts, floods and bushfire Climate change and biodiversity legislation Artificial intelligence Energy transition to renewables
Regional	Mining and energy development Water security Emerging pests and biosecurity threats, including bird flu Costs associated with remoteness	Development of renewable energy generation Development of seawater desalination projects Increasing numbers of tourists, especially to coastal areas Greater recognition and input of traditional knowledge and cultural values Increasing input costs Harmful algal blooms
Subregional and local	Rural population decline and urbanisation Landscape fragmentation Pest plants and animals Soil degradation, including salinity and acidity Recreational and commercial fishing	Development in coastal areas Reduced rainfall and drought Reduced groundwater recharge Water security Marine (ocean water) heatwaves



Climate change projections

Action to adapt to a changing climate and reduce emissions is a part of all Board priorities. The changes outlined in the table below will impact on managing our local landscapes and have been taken into consideration when developing this plan.

Changes in the table below are calculated from the baseline period 1986 to 2005.

Temperatures

By 2030, the annual mean daily maximum temperatures are projected to increase by up to 1.1°C. By 2050 maximum temperatures are projected have increased by 1.8°C, and 2.5°C by 2070. Heatwaves are projected to get longer and hotter, and more frequent.

Extreme temperatures are projected to increase at a similar rate to mean temperature, with a substantial increase in the temperature reached on hot days, the frequency of hot days, and the duration of warm spells. The average number of days over 40°C is projected to increase by 50% by 2050 and 100% by 2050.

Rainfall

By 2030, the annual rainfall is projected to decline by around 4%. By 2050 and 2070, declines of 13% and 16% are projected. Increased intensity of extreme rainfall events is projected, with high confidence, although the magnitude of the increases cannot be confidently projected.

Drought

By 2050, time spent in drought (over a 20-year period) is projected to nearly double. This means that up to 70% of time could be in drought by 2050 and the frequency of extreme drought will more than double.

Sea level rise, ocean temperature, acidity and salinity

By 2030, a sea level rise of around 13 cm is projected compared with the average level during 1986–2005. By 2050, a sea level rise of 22–25 cm is projected.

Storm surges will increase the effects of these sea level rises on coastal flooding and erosion.

By 2030 mean sea surface temperatures are projected to increase by 0.6°C at Thevenard and increase by 2.2oC by 2090. Ocean pH is projected to decrease by 0.08 units (i.e. become more acidic). Salinity is projected to decrease by between 0.02 and 0.07 g/kg compared to baseline concentrations.

Fire weather

The number of days with a severe fire danger rating is projected to increase by 12% by 2030 and more than double across the Eyre Peninsula region by the end of the century.

Source - South Australian climate projections viewer, November 2025, https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/climate-viewer/details/ and Guide to Climate Projections for Risk Assessment and Planning in South Australia DEW 2022.

Landscape levies

What are landscape levies?

The levies are a primary source of funding for the management of the region's natural resources. Funds raised through the levies ensure that works are undertaken to achieve the region's vision. The levies also provide the Board with the ability to leverage additional government funds, which greatly increases the amount of work that can be accomplished in our region.

The types of landscape levies

The *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* established the Landscape Boards to assist with the protection of the state's landscapes, and their sustainable and integrated management. To enable the Board to undertake its functions, the Act provides for two forms of levy to be raised. They are:

Division 1 Levies in respect of land – Section 69 of the Act allows for levies to be collected by constituent councils and the Board is responsible for collection outside of the Local Government area within the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board region, consistent with Section 72 of the Act; and

Division 2 Levies in respect of water – water levy – Section 76 of the Act enables the Minister to declare a water levy or levies payable by holders of water licences.

Basis of the regional Landscape levy

The Board has the authority to define the most appropriate basis and rates for regional landscape levies. The Board has decided to retain the existing basis for levy collection on Eyre Peninsula which is a fixed charge of an amount that depends on the purpose for which the rateable land is used.

Collection of the Landscape levy

Within council areas Local Government's collect the regional landscape levy which is then passed to the Board. For properties outside council areas, landowners receive their levy notice and make payment direct to the Board.

More information on the levies including the amounts collected can be found in the Board's Annual Business Plan.

Find all our planning documents including our Business Plan, Control Policies and Subregional Descriptions at **www.landscape.sa.gov.au/ep/about-us/landscape-plan**

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LANDSCAPE SOUTH AUSTRALIA EYRE PENINSULA