



Business Plan 2026-2027

Eyre Peninsula Regional Landscape Plan 2026-31

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Front page photo: Eight Mile Creek, Whyalla.

Foreword



On behalf of the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board (the Board), I would like to present our annual Business Plan under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, which outlines our priorities for the next 12 months.

This Business Plan sees us move forward within our new *2026-2031 Eyre Peninsula Regional Landscape Plan* which guides how we will safeguard Eyre Peninsula's natural and productive landscapes up to 2031.

The updated regional landscape plan provides a framework to manage Eyre Peninsula's natural resources, balancing environmental protection, community values and economic productivity in a changing climate – in line with requirements of the Landscape Act.

With the new plan comes some modifications to our five core priorities. They are now - Water, Primary Production, Pest Plants and Animals, Land and Coastal

Biodiversity, and Collaborations and Partnerships. Our program for delivering these priorities during the next 12 months is detailed in this plan.

I would also like to note that the updated *Water Allocation Plan for Southern Basins and Musgrave Prescribed Wells Areas* comes into effect on 1 July 2026. The review of this plan has set a clear direction for sustainable water management across the region.

The updating of the water and regional landscape plans have been considerable bodies of work and I thank all staff who have been involved in this, as well as all their efforts with all of our other core work. I am continually impressed with the staff of the Board who care deeply for our region's diverse landscapes and are committed to protecting our natural assets.

I'd also like to acknowledge the efforts of my fellow Board members who represent our local Eyre Peninsula community. *See page 14 for more details of our Board membership.*

As always, we look forward to continuing our work with regional partners, including industry groups,

relevant government agencies, businesses, local government and individuals. Achieving the vision and outcomes identified in our plans requires strong partnerships and shared responsibility.



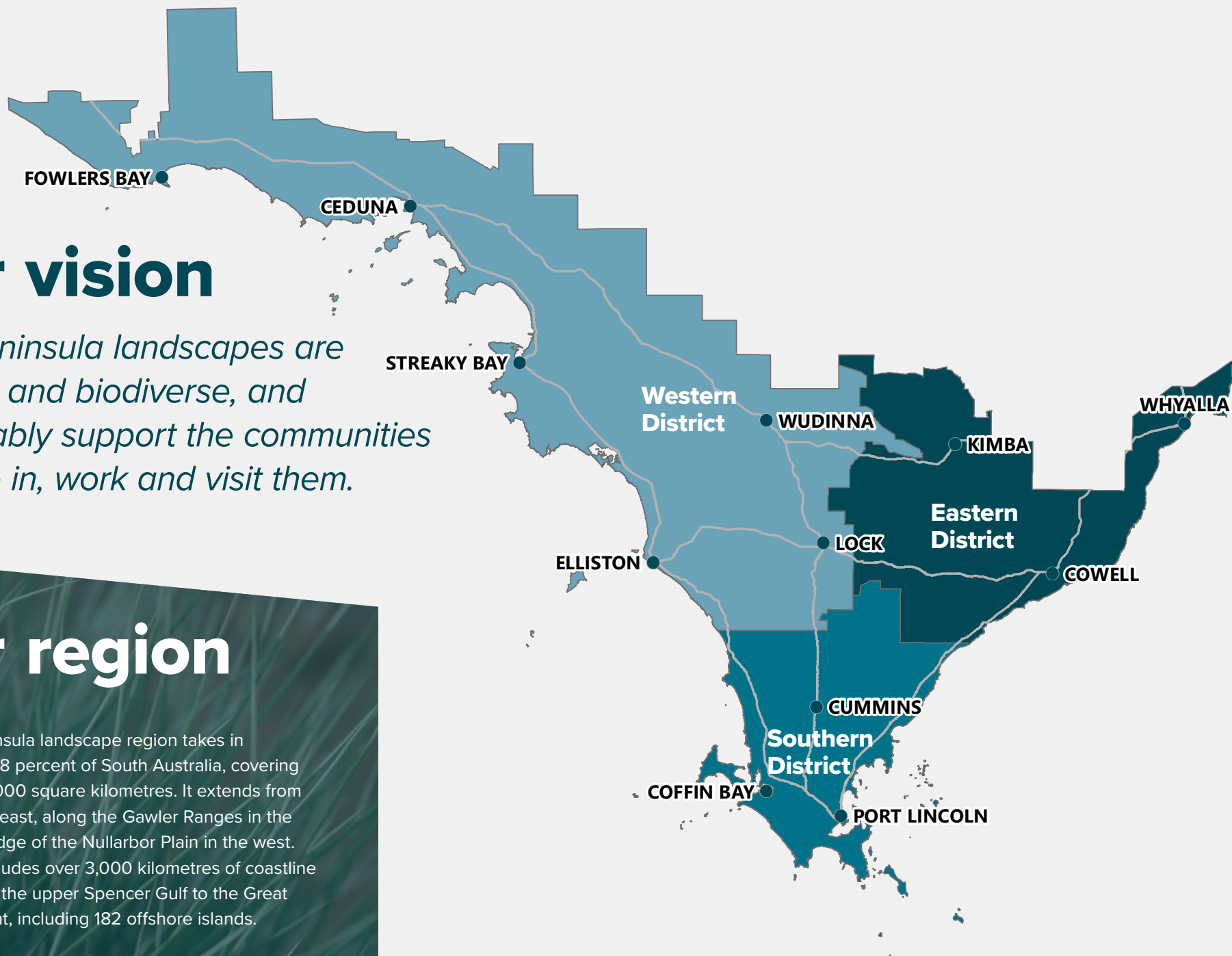
Peter Treloar
Presiding Member of the
Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board

Our vision

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

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 3,000 kilometres of coastline spanning from the upper Spencer Gulf to the Great Australian Bight, including 182 offshore islands.

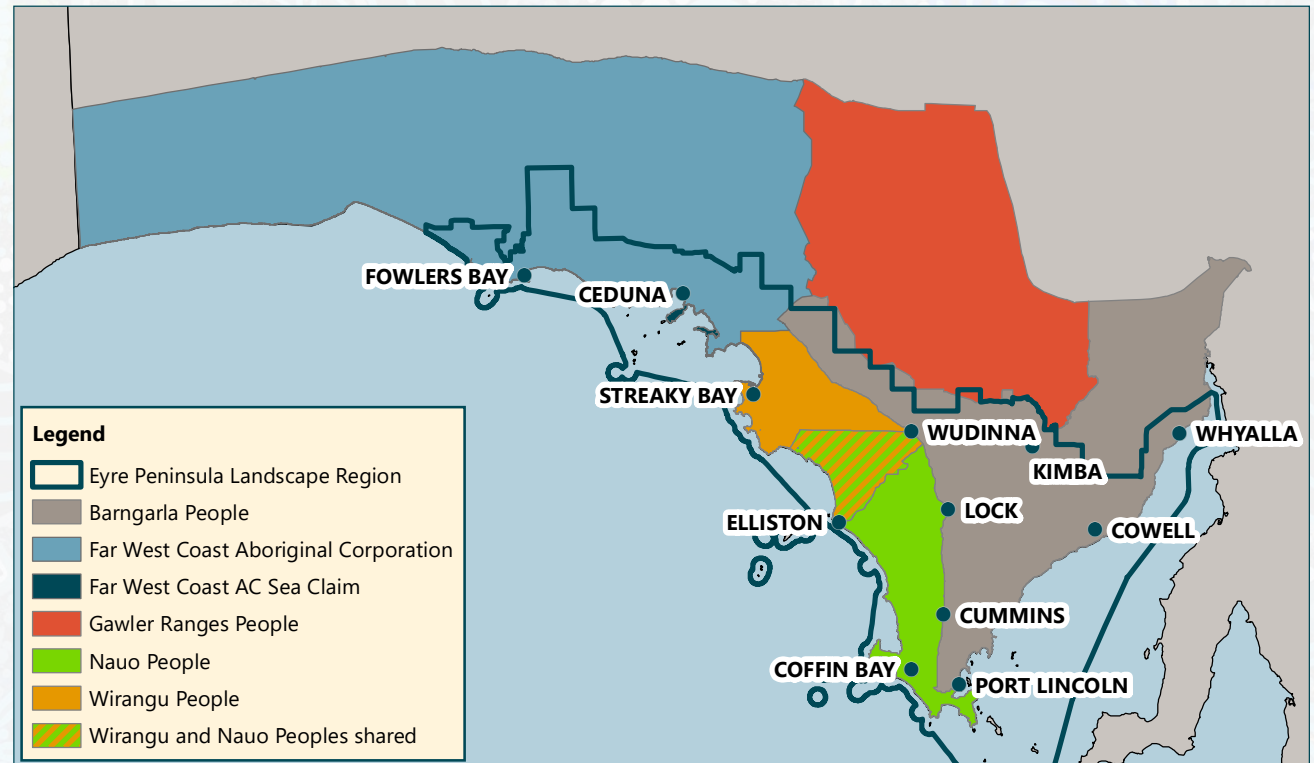


Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge and respect 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 partnering with 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 traditional custodians in the region are Barngarla people, Far West Coast Aboriginal people, Gawler Ranges Aboriginal people, Naou people and Wirangu people.



This artwork was created for the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board by Aboriginal artist Presten Warren and is titled "Protection".

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

Decision-making principles

Board investment is targeted at the highest priority outcomes contained within our Regional Landscape Plan, regardless of how it is raised.

Below are the principles the Board use to support their decision-making processes:

- Core function – statutory requirement under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* or other legislative or regulatory requirements.
- Strategic – alignment with the Regional Landscape Plan, Ministerial priorities and other key plans.
- Outcomes-focused – will lead to sustainable use, protection and conservation of the region's natural resources.
- Cost/benefit – for a given cost, the benefit or value is maximised where value is assessed through aspects such as total outcomes; number of partnerships; extent of community engagement; and extent of delivery whether local, district or region-wide, across a one or multiple industries or community sectors.
- Capacity and capability – resources, knowledge and skills required to undertake the work are available within the Board, community or partner organisations.
- Collaborative – forms partnerships with other groups and organisations to share responsibility and deliver the best possible landscape management outcomes.
- Innovative – opportunity to drive innovation, demonstrate best practice and/or increase understanding of natural resources.
- Visibility – raising the importance of the landscape and its natural resources and the work being undertaken by the Board, the community and partner organisations.



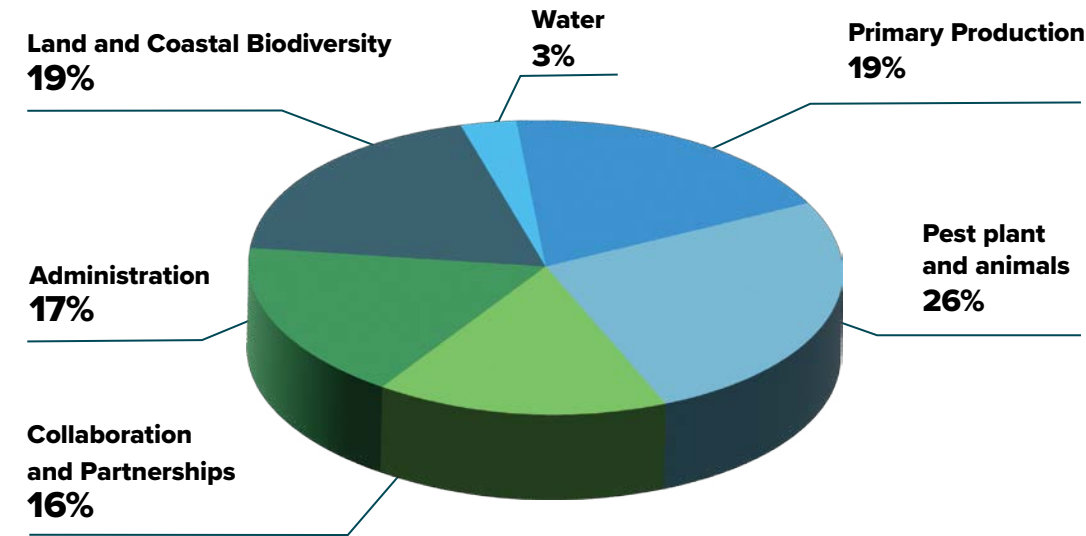
Investment

This Business Plan sets out the expenditure and expected revenue for the 2026-2027 financial year. The Board’s investment will be delivered through a range of projects and approaches including direct investment, contracts for works or services, and grants to community organisations.

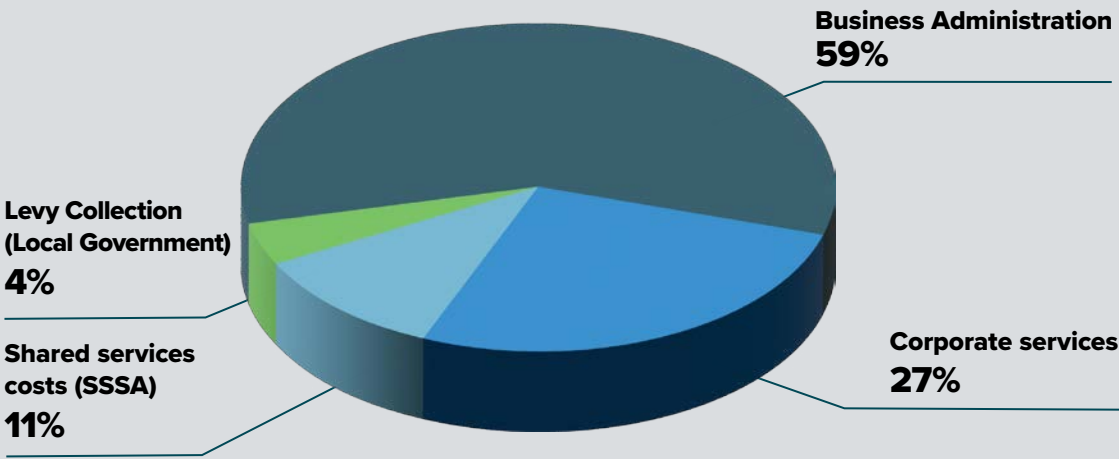
Priority	Landscape and Water levies (\$)	External funding (\$)	Total (\$)
Water	192,244	0	192,244
Primary production	204,034	1,251,076	1,455,110
Land and coastal biodiversity	668,110	784,067	1,452,177
Pest plants and animals	1,228,202	763,670	1,991,872
Collaboration and partnerships	704,116	563,907	1,268,023
Administration	1,196,197	130,000	1,326,197
Total Expenditure	4,192,902	3,492,720	7,685,623

Table 1: Expenditure by priorities and funding source in 2026-27

Total expenditure



Administration breakdown



Priority	Key focus areas / projects ¹	Levy Funds (\$)	External Funds (\$)	Total (\$)	Unfunded (\$)	Total Required (\$)
 Water	Effective water allocation planning in prescribed water areas	76,898	0	76,898	0	76,898
	Managing water affecting activities	115,346	0	115,346	150,000	265,346
	Catchment and integrated water management	0	0	0	500,000	500,000
 Primary Production	Reduce the risk of land degradation to protect the region's valuable soils	71,412	437,877	509,289	250,000	759,289
	Facilitate sustainable primary production through building capacity and encouraging practice change	132,622	813,200	945,822	150,000	1,095,822
 Land and Coastal Biodiversity	Maintain and enhance biodiversity in priority land and coastal ecosystems	334,055	595,634	929,689	550,000	1,479,689
	Protect and enhance habitats for important species	334,055	188,433	522,488	850,000	1,372,488
 Pest Plants and Animals	Manage prioritised pest plants and animals	1,154,510	717,850	1,872,360	650,000	2,522,360
	Respond to new or developing threats from pest plants and animals and explore different monitoring and management approaches	73,692	45,820	119,512	150,000	269,512
 Collaboration and Partnerships	Collaborate with local government and other organisations	264,044	214,954	478,997		478,997
	Work with Aboriginal people and organisations	176,029	134,000	310,029	250,000	560,029
	Build capacity and share knowledge about managing natural resources	264,044	214,954	478,997	300,000	778,997
 Administration	Emissions reduction - Net Zero strategy	0	0	0	200,000	200,000
	Business Administration	704,774	0	704,774	140,000	844,774
	Shared services costs (SSSA)	126,750	0	126,750	0	126,750
	Corporate Services costs (DEW)	318,627	130,000	448,627	0	448,627
	Levy collection (Local Government)	46,046	0	46,046	0	46,046
Total Expenditure		4,192,902	3,492,720	7,685,623¹	4,140,000	11,825,623

Table 2: Expenditure by focus areas and funding source in 2026-27

¹includes Australian Government Regional Delivery Program carry-over of \$455,639 from 25-26.

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

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.

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.

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 involves 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.

Priority Water

Focus areas

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

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**

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

Water Affecting Activities

The Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board regulates water affecting activities under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* to protect surface and groundwater resources across the region.

Water affecting activities include works such as dams, drainage, and alterations to watercourses that may impact water availability, ecosystems and downstream users. A permit is required for activities that pose a risk, with applications assessed against clear, consistent policy principles.

These principles are designed to maintain water quantity and quality, protect water-dependent ecosystems, and minimise risks such as erosion, flooding and salinity.

The program provides advice and support to landholders and industry, and aims to ensure activities are planned and managed in a way that balances environmental, social and productive outcomes, while supporting reliable water supplies for communities.





Primary Production

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

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.

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 Ag Innovation and Research Eyre Peninsula (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.

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



Priority

Primary Production

Focus areas

- Reducing the risk of land degradation to protect the region's valuable soils.
- Facilitating regenerative land management to improve soil health and vitality.

Carbon outreach program

Working in collaboration with landscape boards across South Australia, funding has been secured through the Australian Government to provide carbon farming outreach services on Eyre Peninsula. The objectives of the program are to:

- support farmers and land managers to make decisions to reduce emissions
- build capacity of trusted advisers to deliver independent advice
- facilitate access to clear, consistent and culturally appropriate information on carbon farming and low-emissions technologies and practices.

A key element of this program is delivering training and advice to empower farmers, land managers and First Nations people to understand and ultimately participate in carbon markets and integrate low emission technologies and practices into their pastoral and farming operations and land management practices.



Land and Coastal Biodiversity

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

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 underrepresented 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.

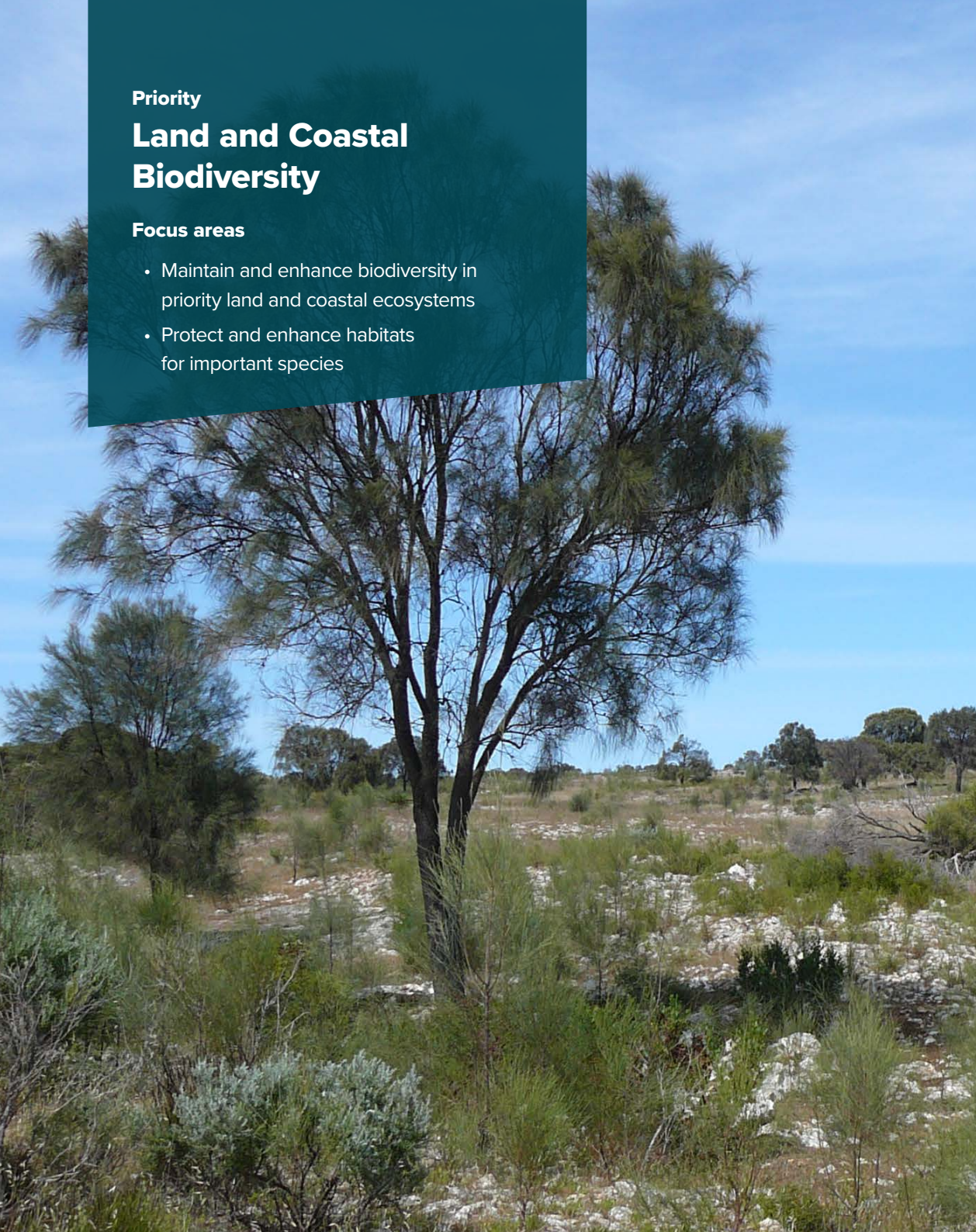
Outcomes	Funding
There is an increase in the extent and connectivity of native vegetation communities.	P
There is an improvement in the health of Eyre Peninsula’s coast and marine ecosystems.	P
The condition and extent of the drooping sheoak grassy woodland have improved.	P
There is an increase in the 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.

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



Priority

Land and Coastal Biodiversity

Focus areas

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

Recovery actions for the critically endangered Drooping Sheoak Grassy Woodland on calcrete

Eyre Peninsula has 22,500 km² of native vegetation cover. As a small part of this area, there are a number of threatened vegetation communities. One of these communities is the ‘Drooping sheoak grassy woodland on calcrete of the Eyre Yorke Block Bioregion’ which is listed as critically endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The Australian Government announced this listing in 2022 after the Board, with assistance from key partners, submitted an application in 2018 for the vegetation community to be protected under the EPBC Act.

Drooping sheoak grassy woodland on calcrete once covered vast areas of the west coast of EP but now only a few healthy remnants remain mainly near Streaky Bay, Elliston and Coffin Bay which equates to only 2% of its original distribution. The Board acknowledges the many non-government organisations and individuals who have researched or looked after this vegetation community for decades and the traditional owners who have looked after it for thousands of years.

The Board has secured Australian Government funding through the Regional Delivery Program project over a four year period for a project that aims to:

- improve the condition of the drooping sheoak grassy woodland in existing areas by managing threats such as overgrazing (by stock, pest herbivores and overabundant native herbivores) and incursion of environmental weeds
- increase the area where this vegetation community is found by undertaking revegetation activities.

The Board looks forward to working with key stakeholders and committed land managers in partnership to look after this important vegetation community that can have productive benefits on farm.



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 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.

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.

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

Priority

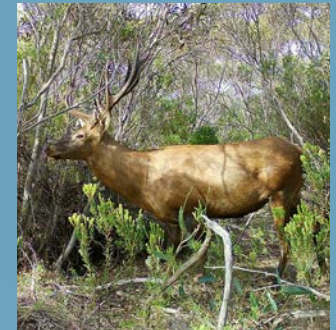
Pest Plants and Animals

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

Deer Eradication Project

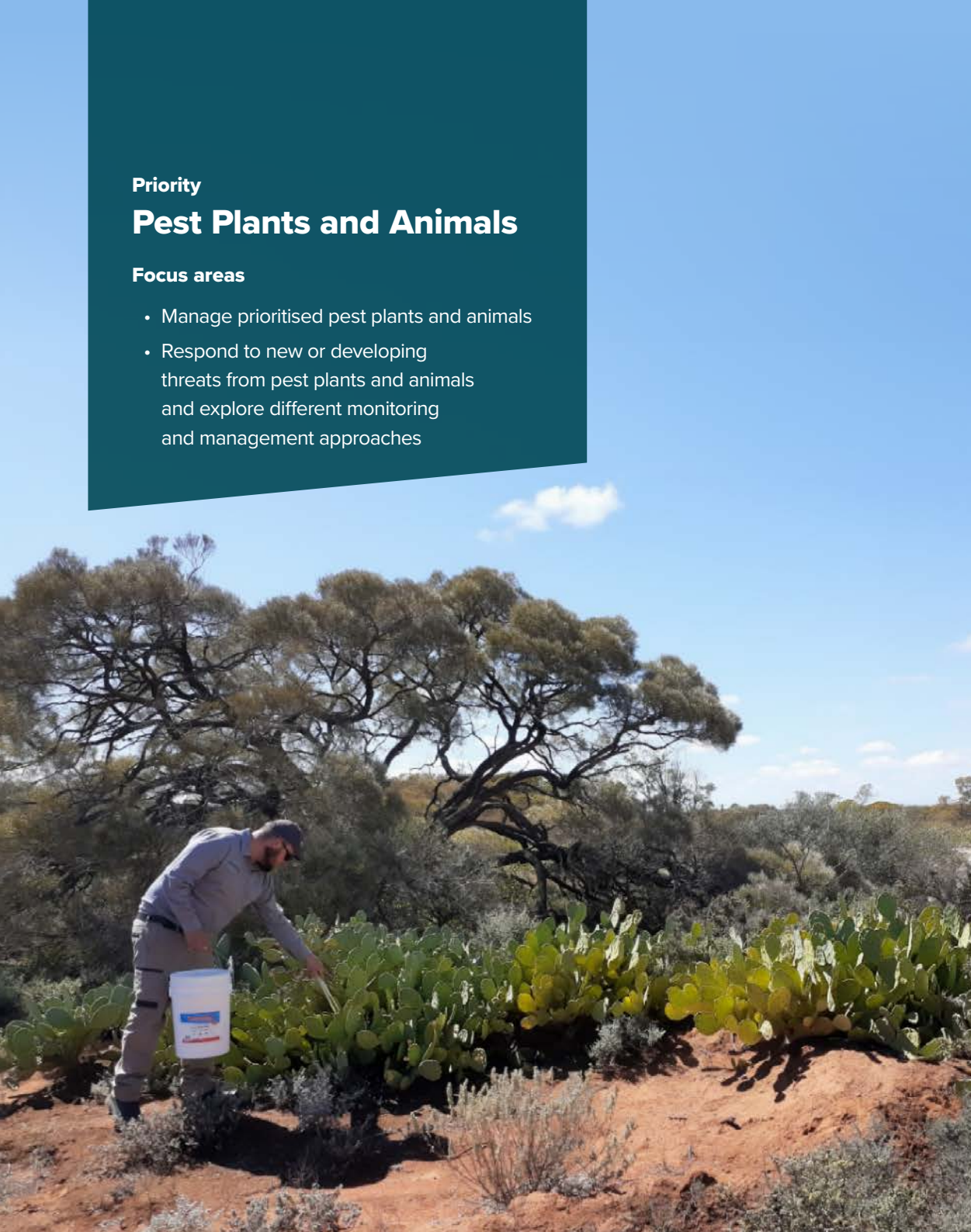
The Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board is leading a collaborative effort with Primary Industries and Regions SA, the Department for Environment and Water, and local landholders to eradicate feral deer from the region.

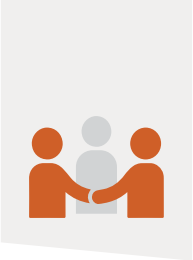


Feral deer are a major emerging biosecurity threat, impacting primary industries, spreading disease, and posing road safety risks. Declared for destruction under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, landholders are legally required to control them on their properties.

With a natural population growth rate of up to 50% per year, feral deer numbers will escalate rapidly without intervention. If left unmanaged, the Eyre Peninsula is projected to face an annual loss in agricultural revenue of \$7.75 million by 2031.

"The region is progressing towards becoming the first mainland area in South Australia to achieve effective eradication, setting a national example for the importance and feasibility of controlling isolated populations before they become widespread and unmanageable.





Collaboration and Partnerships

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

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 Board, 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 and refer relevant development applications to the Board for review.

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 Board's 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.

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.

Priority Collaboration and Partnerships

Focus areas

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

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

Who are the Board?

The Board meets throughout the year to oversee and review the work of the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board.

The Board comprises up to eight community members, including a Chair, who represent communities across the Eyre Peninsula. Members are appointed by the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water.

Current members include:

- Peter Treloar (Chair) – Edillilie
- Mark Dennis – Koppio
- Kate McShane – Port Lincoln
- Cecelia Cox – Ceduna
- Nikki Becker – Elliston
- Sonya Coleman – Streaky Bay
- Sandra Walsh – Whyalla

Further information on all Board members is available on our website www.landscape.sa.gov.au/ep

Photo: Kate, Sandra, Mark, Peter, Cecelia and Sonya. Absent: Nikki.



Unfunded programs

The Business Plan includes a number of programs and initiatives that are identified as being either partially funded or unfunded. These programs represent key areas where additional investment is required to support delivery of the Regional Landscape Plan and achieve the Board's priorities.

The following outlines the priority unfunded program areas aligned to the Plan's focus areas, including indicative annual investment required.

Water

Additional investment is required to deliver sustainable, climate responsive management of watercourses, wetlands and groundwater across the region.

Unfunded priorities include:

- Delivery of water affecting activity assessment and compliance **(\$150,000 p.a.)**
- Catchment and integrated water management to improve condition and resilience of priority systems **(\$500,000 p.a.)**

Primary Production

Investment is required to protect soil health, reduce land degradation and support sustainable and adaptive primary production systems.

Unfunded priorities include:

- Actions to reduce the risk of land degradation and protect the region's valuable soils **(\$250,000 p.a.)**

- Building capacity and supporting practice change to facilitate sustainable primary production **(\$150,000 p.a.)**

Land and Coastal Biodiversity

Additional investment is required to improve ecosystem condition and support priority species and habitats across land and coastal environments.

Unfunded priorities include:

- Maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in priority land and coastal ecosystems **(\$550,000 p.a.)**
- Protecting and enhancing habitat for priority species **(\$850,000 p.a.)**

Pest Plants and Animals

Increased investment is required to effectively manage priority pest plants and animals and respond to emerging risks across the region.

Unfunded priorities include:

- Management of priority pest plants and animals **(\$650,000 p.a.)**
- Responding to new and emerging pest threats and improving monitoring and management approaches **(\$150,000 p.a.)**

Collaboration and Partnerships

Strengthening partnerships and community capacity is critical to delivering outcomes across all Regional Landscape Plan priorities.

Unfunded priorities include:

- Working with Aboriginal people and organisations to support engagement and delivery **(\$250,000 p.a.)**
- Building capacity and sharing knowledge to support improved natural resource management outcomes **(\$300,000 p.a.)**

Administration

Additional investment is required to support climate response obligations and organisational capability to deliver priority programs.

Unfunded priorities include:

- Emissions reduction and implementation of a Net Zero strategy **(\$200,000 p.a.)**
- Business administration support to enable delivery of unfunded program areas **(\$140,000 p.a.)**



A photograph of two women in a field of young trees. The woman in the foreground is kneeling, wearing a light grey shirt and dark pants, and is holding a green funnel. The woman in the background is also kneeling, wearing a dark jacket and dark pants. They are surrounded by many young trees, each with a green protective sleeve and a wooden stake. The background shows a landscape with hills under a cloudy sky.

Staff resources

Under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, the Board will have a General Manager and staff working to deliver the programs and services of the Board. In 2026-27, it is anticipated that there will be 25.07 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions spread across the region.

The Board will continue to receive corporate services support through the Department for Environment and Water in 2026-27.

Total = 25.07

Full-time equivalent staff

Western district (6 FTE)

- Team Leader Landscape Operations West (Streaky Bay)
- Landscape Officers (Streaky Bay) x 3
- Landscape Officer (Ceduna)
- Landscape Officer (Elliston)

Eastern district (4 FTE)

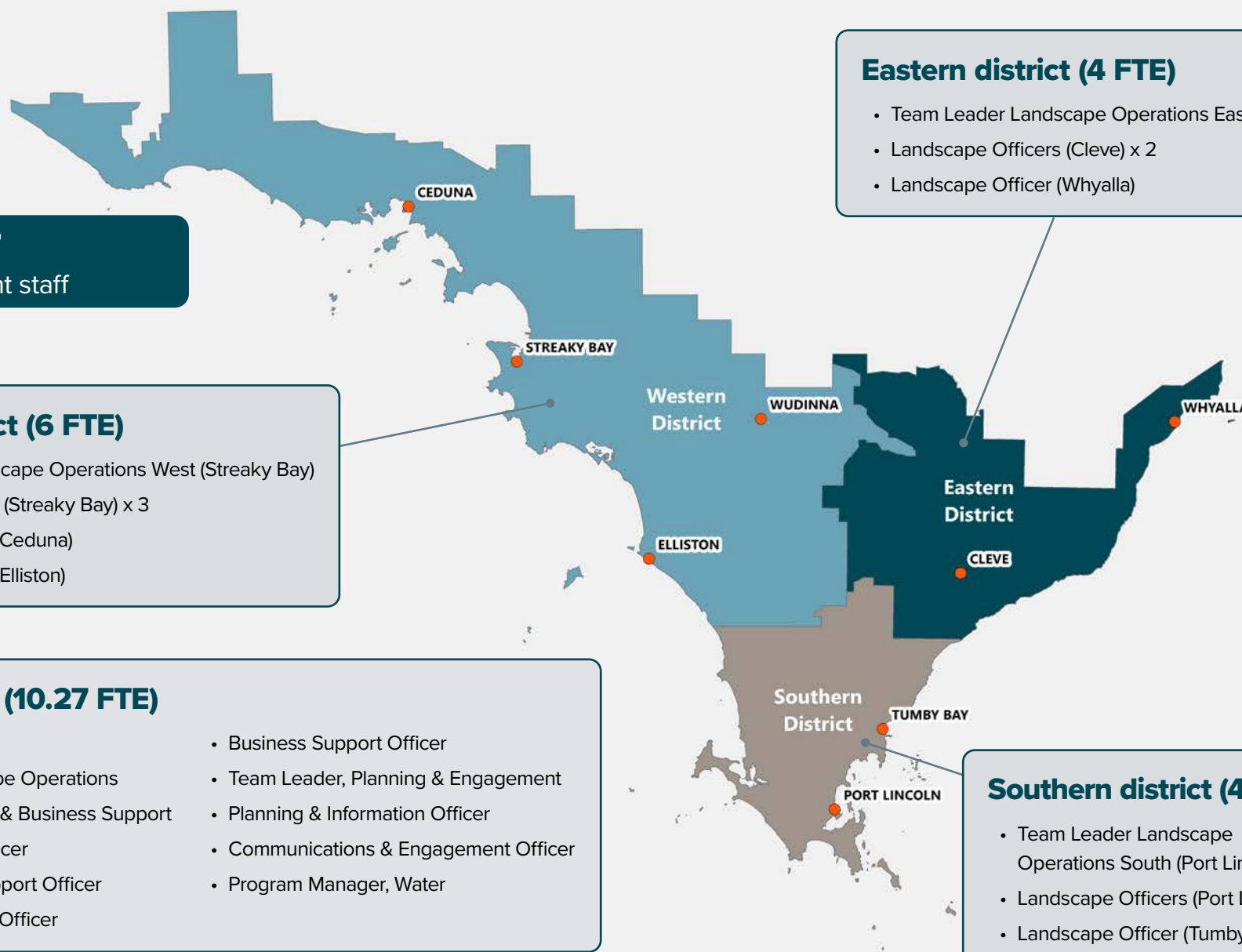
- Team Leader Landscape Operations East (Cleve)
- Landscape Officers (Cleve) x 2
- Landscape Officer (Whyalla)

Regional staff (10.27 FTE)

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| • General Manager | • Business Support Officer |
| • Manager, Landscape Operations | • Team Leader, Planning & Engagement |
| • Manager, Planning & Business Support | • Planning & Information Officer |
| • Senior Finance Officer | • Communications & Engagement Officer |
| • HR & Business Support Officer | • Program Manager, Water |
| • Executive Support Officer | |

Southern district (4.8 FTE)

- Team Leader Landscape Operations South (Port Lincoln)
- Landscape Officers (Port Lincoln) x 3
- Landscape Officer (Tumby Bay)



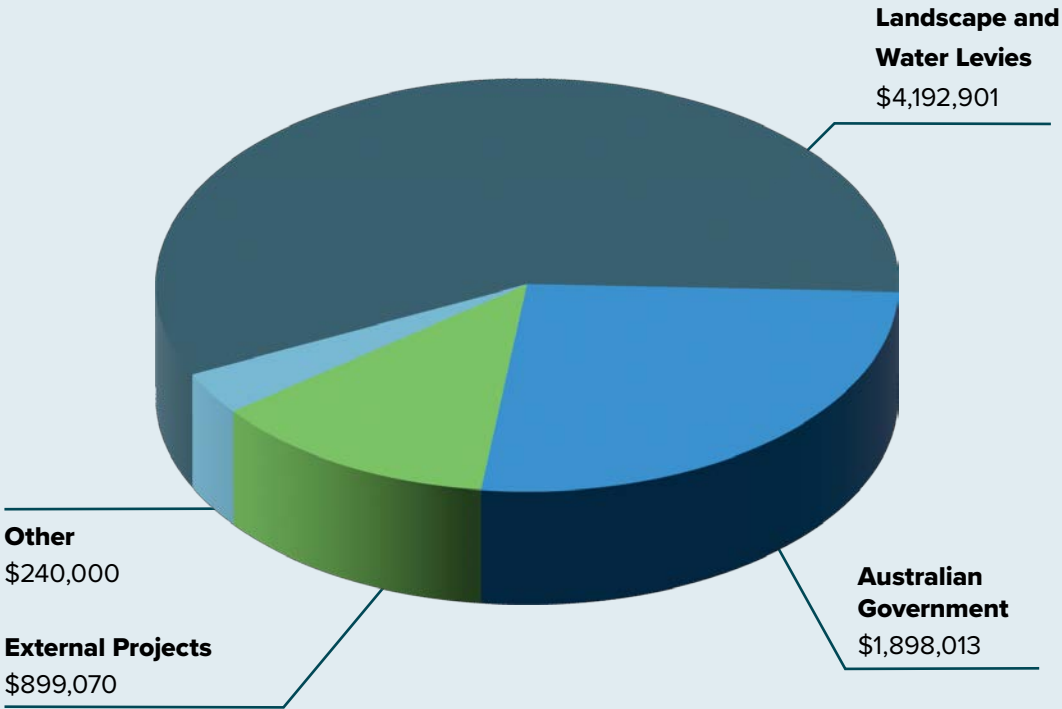
Sources of funding

The Board receives funds from a range of sources to implement the programs described in this Business Plan (Table 3). These funds are also used throughout the year to leverage additional funds to the region, either directly to the Board or through some of our partner organisations.

Table 3: Sources of Funding

Funding Source	2026/27 (\$)
Landscape and Water Levies	4,192,901
NRM Levy (Division 1)	3,695,002
NRM Levy (Division 1) - Out of Council	59,341
NRM Levy (Division 2)	438,558
Australian Government Regional Delivery Program	1,898,013
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water – <i>Regional Capacity Service</i>	342,200
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water – <i>Drooping Sheoak</i>	545,862
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – <i>Sustainable Agriculture</i>	836,902
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – <i>Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator</i>	173,049
Landscape Priority Funding (LPF)	899,070
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water – <i>Climate Ready Livestock: LPF Resilient Farms</i>	140,000
LPF <i>Landscape-scale Pest Animal Control</i>	261,000
LPF <i>Building Climate Resilience through Reef Recovery</i>	105,400
LPF <i>Feral Herbivore Control</i>	65,670
LPF <i>Roadside Weed Control</i>	327,000
Other sources of income	240,000
Department for Infrastructure and Transport – <i>Roadside Weed and Pest Control Project</i>	80,000
Interest (DTF)	130,000
Cost Recovery	30,000
Total External Funding Income	2,797,083
TOTAL INCOME	7,229,984

Total funding streams 2026-27





Landscape Levies

The types of Landscape levies

The *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* (the Act) 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.

Why have 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 of "Eyre Peninsula landscapes supporting biodiversity, community and business in a changing climate".

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.

Basis of the regional Landscape levy

The Board has the authority to define the most appropriate basis and rates for regional landscape levies. Under section 69(3)(a) of the Act, the following options are provided as the basis for calculating the regional landscape levy:

- Option 1 – the value of rateable land;
- Option 2 – a fixed charge of the same amount on all rateable land;
- **Option 3 – a fixed charge of an amount that depends on the purpose for which the rateable land is used; or**
- Option 4 – the area of rateable land.

The Board has decided to retain the existing basis for levy collection in Eyre Peninsula which is outlined in option 3. The category of rateable land is defined by the *Landscape South Australia (General) Regulations 2020*, Part 4, section 12, sub-regulation 1, taking into account contiguous land and single farming enterprises, in accordance with sections 152(2)(c) and (d) respectively of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

Levy rates and collection from Local Government

Table 4 outlines each Local Government's contribution to the regional landscape levy for the 2026-27 financial year. The table further includes collection fees that Local Government can recover, in line with the requirements of the *Landscape South Australia (General) Regulations 2020*.

Table 4: Estimated council contributions to Landscape levy income, and collection costs for 2026-27

Local Government area	Landscape Land Levy Contribution (\$)	Landscape Land Levy Contribution (\$)	Council Collection fee (\$)
	2025-26	2025-26	2026-27
District Council of Ceduna	213,834.66	219,345.56	3,833.52
District Council of Cleve	126,795.72	130,213.74	3,533.04
District Council of Elliston	128,404.92	138,004.31	3,544.24
District Council of Franklin Harbour	143,692.35	131,665.40	3,541.68
District Council of Kimba	85,287.75	87,776.93	3,399.60
District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula	443,666.70	458,385.27	4,427.12
City of Port Lincoln	844,168.89	868,236.77	5,906.80
District Council of Streaky Bay	210,474.27	215,522.86	3,798.32
District Council of Tumby Bay	225,051.75	229,894.27	3,803.76
City of Whyalla	1,096,861.07	1,123,777.01	6,838.00
District Council of Wudinna	90,162.69	92,180.30	3,419.44
Total quantum (Local Government areas only)	3,608,400.79	3,695,002.41	46,045.52

* Local Governments are responsible for the collection of land levies within their council area. To cover the costs of this collection process, councils are asked each year if they intend to invoice the Board and if so, a budget allocation is set aside for councils.

Table 5: Levy rate per land use purpose

Land use	Number of properties	Multiplier*	Levy rate per land use (\$)	Quantum per land use (\$)
Residential	25,958	1.0	96.78	2,527,530.49
Commercial	1,693	1.5	145.17	249,104.55
Industrial	433	1.5	145.17	62,566.47
Primary Producers	2,914	2.0	193.55	555,694.76
Other & Vacant land	3,145	1.0	96.78	300,106.14
Total	34,143			3,695,002.41

* The multiplier is applied to the base levy rate of \$96.78 to give the levy rate per land use.

Outside of council levies

Outside council areas, land owners will continue to be liable to pay a land levy, with land levy rates set by the relevant landscape board. In 2026-27 for outside council areas, the Board has retained the original fixed rate basis of \$106.96, which includes a CPI increase of 3.2%. The total quantum raised from out-of-council areas for 2026-27 is \$57,970.41.

Basis of the water levy

The Board has the authority to define the most appropriate basis and rates for water levies. Under section 76 (7) of the Act, the following options are provided as the basis for calculating the water levy:

- Option 1 – a fixed charge;
- **Option 2 – the quantity of water allocated;**
- Option 3 – the quantity of water received or taken;
- Option 4 – the quantity of water passing through any works;
- Option 5 – the size, type or capacity of any works;
- Option 6 – the quantity of water used;
- Option 7 – the share of the water that makes up the relevant water resource;
- Option 8 – the area of land where the water may be used, or the area of land where the water is used; or
- Option 9 – the effect that the taking or using of the water has, or may have, on the environment, or some other effect or impact that, in the opinion of the Minister, is relevant and that is capable of being determined, measured or applied.

The Board has decided to retain the existing basis for the water levy in Eyre Peninsula which is outlined in option 2. The water levy does not apply to stock and domestic use.

The total water levy collected from water licensees in the Southern Basins and Musgrave Wells Areas is outlined in table 7, which has increased by 3.2 % in 2026-27. The total quantum to be raised from water levies for 2026-27 is \$555,088.07.

Water levies will continue to be collected by the Department for Environment and Water on behalf of the Minister and will be paid to the Landscape Board.

A landholder who is also a water licensee within the Southern Basins and Musgrave Prescribed Wells Areas will be required to pay a Landscape levy and a water levy.

Table 6: Indicative Landscape water levy rates for 2026-27

Allocation type	Levy rate (cents per share)	Water access entitlement shares	Total landscape water levy quantum (\$)
Public water supply purposes	5.94	6,605,785	392,384
Irrigation, industrial and recreational	3.29	679,497	22,355
Mining and energy sectors	5.94	401,000	23,819
Total		7,686,282	438,558



Social impacts of levies

In 2015/16 the basis for the collection of the land and water levies in Eyre Peninsula were reviewed, resulting in a Social and Economic Impact Assessment being prepared by EconSearch Pty Ltd in October 2015. The assessment used representative financial models to consider the impacts of the landscape levies on people and businesses using the following measures:

- Households – after tax on average personal income and low income earners.
- Primary Production – Earnings Before Interest and Tax (EBIT).
- Commercial and industrial businesses – Gross Operating Surplus (GOS); a measure of a firm's profit that represents the surplus generated by operating activities after labour and other operating costs have been paid. GOS is used as the measure of profit for non-farm industries as the economic model from which the data are drawn is industry-wide and not detailed enough to calculate EBIT.

A copy of this report is available on request.

The assessment rated the impacts on households, businesses and/or industries using the following scale of impacts on the measures:

- Less than 1% - Minor
- 1% to less than 5% - Moderate
- Greater than 5% - Significant

Based on the assessment of impacts in comparison to other models that were assessed, the Board considered that the land levy options used would result in the least impact on ratepayers, which include:

- Minor impact on households; ranging from 0.13% for the mean after-tax income, through to 0.30% for single full-age pensions.
- Minor impact on dryland farms; for both marginal operations and profitable enterprises.
- Minor impact on business profitability across most sectors of non-farm businesses. Businesses in the professional services, scientific and technical services could be significantly impacted because of the low median Gross Operating Surplus in these sectors. Education, training, arts and recreational services could also be moderately impacted.

Please note these percentages are reflective of the rates applied in the modelling, and rates may change upon the Board approving the multiplier for specific land uses.

In regard to the landscape water levy, there was only one minimal change to the basis of the levy, which was the introduction of a new classification to allow for a differential rate for water supply to the energy and minerals sector. The impacts of the changes to water levy were assessed, with the results indicating a minimal impact on all water licensees.





Monitoring and Evaluation

Under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, Landscape Boards are responsible for setting out the method or methods they will use to assess the extent to which they have succeeded in implementing their plans and policies. Monitoring and evaluating the state and condition of natural resources is a responsibility of the Minister and Department for Environment and Water.

The Board's work in this area is guided by the Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) Plan, which underpins the Regional Landscape Plan. The MERI Plan provides a framework for the Board to support

accurate, consistent, simple and realistic evaluation and reporting on progress toward the regional priorities.

Some Board projects are funded by State and Commonwealth programs with specific monitoring, evaluation and reporting requirements. The Board also contributes to statewide and national monitoring programs that support broader reporting on natural resource values and threats. Participation in MERI activities that are not directly related to implementing the Regional Landscape Plan, or to currently funded projects, will depend on available funding and resources.

Other

Information about Board members, its role and activities can be found at: www.landscape.sa.gov.au/ep/about-us





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