

Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board Business Plan

2022 - 2023



Foreword

Last year saw the board deliver its inaugural business plan. It was an exciting stage in establishing our contribution to the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Plan - building new partnerships, developing new projects and responding strongly to the region's land management challenges. As you'll see from this document, in 2022-23 we are consolidating that good work and extending the board's efforts in key areas.



I am pleased to present the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board's Business Plan 2022-23. It outlines the board's budget and highlights programs and activities we'll be undertaking in the coming 12 months. This year the board will have a significant focus on:

- supporting land managers to sustainably manage land, water and nature and recover from recent bushfires;
- working with relevant agencies, councils and landholders to locally eradicate priority weeds, control pest animals including feral goats and deer;
- building capacity in regenerative agriculture and in adapting to a low carbon future;
- reviewing water allocation plans alongside the community and industries;
- partnering with First Nations to care for our landscapes and cultural heritage;
- supporting habitat restoration to protect threatened species, including the Southern Brown Bandicoot and Mt Lofty Ranges birds; and
- working with partners to restore coastal and marine habitats for wildlife conservation.

We look forward to working with the community and partners to protect and enhance the land, water and nature of our beautiful region.

David Greenhough
Chair of the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board



This plan identifies some fantastic programs and projects that the board will support over the next 12 months.

Caring for our landscapes and tackling environmental challenges in a changing climate is vital.

I, Susan Close, Minister for Environment and Water, after taking into account the requirements of section 51, and in accordance with Schedule 5, clause 95(3)(c), of

the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, hereby adopt the Business Plan 2022-23 for the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board.

Hon. Susan Close MP
Minister for Environment and Water

Date: 18 June 2022

Contents

Supporting landscape health in 2022-23	2
Priorities for sustainable landscape management	4
Sources of funding	6
Program investment.....	7
Land Program	8
Water Program	10
Nature Program	12
Climate Program.....	14
Community Program	15
Board operations	16
Map of the Hills and Fleurieu region	17
Measuring progress	18
Landscape and water levies.....	20

Acknowledgement of Yerta / Ruwe (Country)

We have much to learn from First Nations in Caring for Country.

The Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board respects the Peramangk, Kurna and Ngarrindjeri Nations as the Traditional Owners of the region and respects First Nations People's deep knowledge and relationship with Yerta/Ruwe.

We are committed to walking together with First Nations People in learning about and managing our landscapes.



Supporting landscape health in 2022-23

The Hills and Fleurieu region is a remarkably beautiful and prosperous place but its landscapes are in decline. As the regional landscape board we are committed to working in partnership to reverse this trend. We are working to create a region recognised internationally for its resilient and beautiful landscapes, cared for through whole-of-community stewardship. There is much to do.

This Business Plan shows where the board will invest funding and effort in the 2022-23 financial year to contribute to the **Hills and Fleurieu Landscape**

Plan 2021-26. All projects are made possible by landholder levy contributions and backing from project partners. We see this work as a joint effort; reflecting the importance our community places on building a sustainable future for the region.

We want to work with you

If you care for the sustainability of Hills and Fleurieu landscapes and want to partner with us, **reach out**, we are keen to collaborate. Together we will have a greater positive impact.

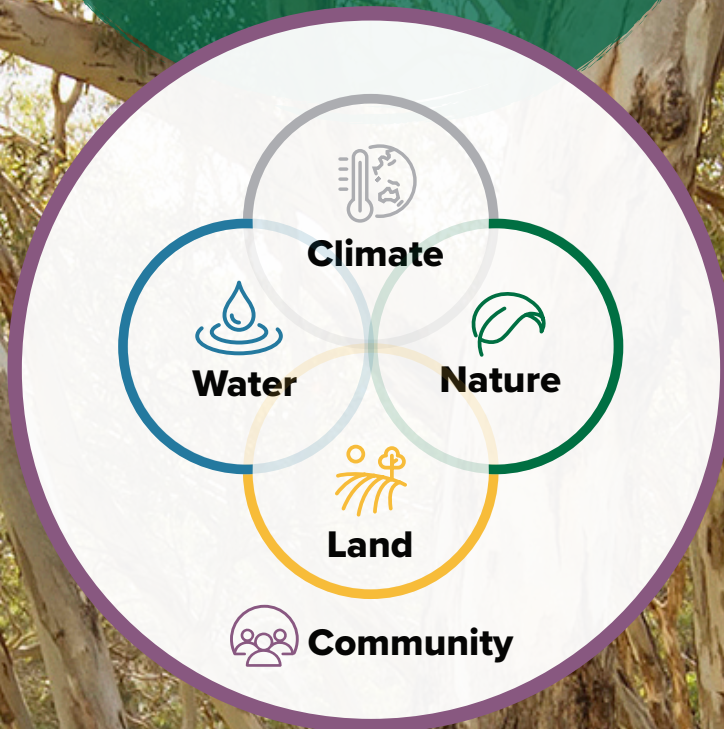
What is the board?

The board is a statutory body established under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* tasked with helping manage the region's landscapes and natural resources. The board's obligations include maintaining water allocation plans, issuing Water Affecting Activities permits, supporting landholders to sustainably manage land, declared pest plants and animals and impact-causing native species, and engaging the community in landscape management.

The board raises landscape and water levies to deliver its obligations and programs that contribute to the priorities of the regional Landscape Plan. The levies also help the board attract additional funding and support to increase what is achieved in our region.

Vision






A region inspired to protect its uniquely biodiverse and productive landscapes into the future.



Five priorities for sustainable landscape management

The board's 5-year Landscape Plan provides strategic guidance for addressing some of the region's biggest challenges and opportunities.

The **Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Plan 2021-26** calls for an integrated regional approach by all stakeholders and articulates five priorities in the areas of Land, Water, Nature, Climate and Community. These Priorities, along with Focus Areas and Strategies, reflect the values and concerns of the region's community and define where effort and investment is needed. The Priorities and Focus Areas are shown below.

Priorities	Focus areas
 Land Regenerating biodiverse and highly productive landscapes	L1. Reduce the impact and spread of weeds L2. Reduce the impact of pest animals and impact-causing native animals L3. Support the uptake of regenerative agriculture and land management L4. Future-proof our agriculture
 Water Managing water resources sustainably	W1. Deliver water resource planning to meet ecological, economic, cultural and social needs W2. Improve on-ground management of our water resources W3. Build understanding of our water resources
 Nature Conserving natural places, ecosystems and wildlife	N1. Protect and restore our native vegetation and freshwater ecosystems N2. Conserve and rehabilitate our coastal, estuarine and marine ecosystems N3. Recover our threatened species and ecological communities
 Climate Becoming a carbon neutral and climate resilient region	C1. Transition to net zero carbon emissions C2. Build climate resilience of our nature C3. Build climate resilience of our communities and agriculture
 Community Everyone caring for our landscapes	P1. Foster a regional culture of landscape stewardship P2. Walk alongside First Nations in looking after Yarta / Ruwi (Country) P3. Strengthen shared understanding of landscape management challenges P4. Increase community capacity to manage our landscapes



The board's leadership approach

The board has a critical part to play in addressing the region's landscape challenges but it is one of many important stakeholders. Working collaboratively is key to maximising our collective effort.

To this end, the board operates as a regional facilitator, catalyst and partnership builder. This role involves supporting and aligning the landscape management work being done, fostering local capacity, championing innovation and helping share knowledge between stakeholders.

The specific investments shown in this document reflect the board's commitment to putting its leadership principles into action. This is being done in the following ways:

1

Listening and facilitating dialogues

The board is bringing stakeholders together to develop a coordinated plan for tackling the decline in Mount Lofty Ranges woodland birds, to develop a regional pest management strategy, and to review the effectiveness of the Water Allocation Plans.

2

Partnering, innovating and expanding investment

The board is working with partners to deliver significant projects, including Bushfire and Catchment Recovery to provide support to landholders in the Cudlee Creek fire catchments. It is also focussing on building new partnerships to attract investment and multiply our collective impact on critical issues.

3

Harnessing and building capacity

The board is continuing to deliver core capacity-building programs to support landholders in managing weeds and pest animals, water-affecting activities and regenerative agriculture. It is also working with First Nations on projects to share cultural knowledge of landscape management.

4

Connecting to nature and shifting culture towards restoration

The board is amplifying the learning and impact of land management volunteers, innovators and 'best practice' case studies across the region. It is finding effective ways to support volunteers, promote opportunities that connect people with nature and build people's active involvement in managing and restoring healthy landscapes.

5

Bringing the ambition, courage and creativity needed to succeed

The board is working on key regional challenges, including becoming carbon neutral and supporting climate adaptation initiatives. It is also working with landholders and industries to create opportunities for the sustainable management of our landscapes and climate-smart farming.

Sources of funding

Table 1: Sources of funding in 2022-23

Funding source	2022-23 (\$)
Landscape and water levies	
Regional landscape levy ¹	5,209,500
Water levy ¹	2,236,800
External funding	
Australian Government National Landcare Program Regional Land Partnerships ²	1,070,700
Australian Government Environmental Restoration Fund	250,000
Australian and State Government through Department Primary Industries and Regions Local Economic Recovery Cudlee Creek Bushfire	941,300
Landscape Priorities Fund	558,000
Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife - Bandicoot Superhighway	134,000
Greening Australia - Carbon plantings for threatened bird habitat	15,000
Service level agreement with other landscape boards ³	359,000
TOTAL REVENUE	10,774,300
Other funding	
External funding requested carry-over ⁴	570,000
State Government Catchment Recovery Cudlee Creek and Cherry Gardens Bushfires extension carry-over ⁴	1,526,000
TOTAL FUNDING	12,870,300

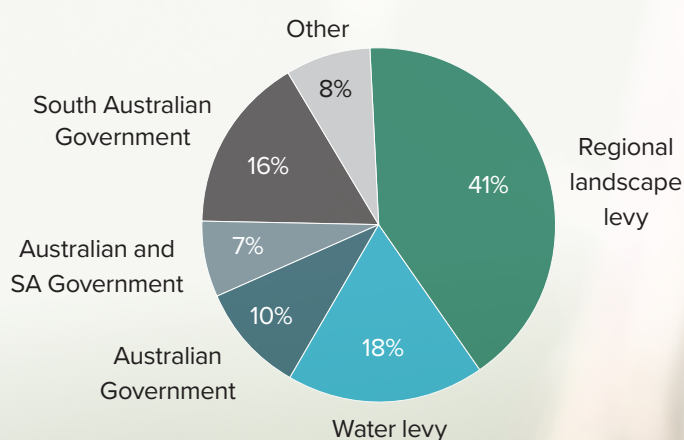
¹ Landscape levy income to be raised in 2022-23 is based on 2.5% actual CPI rate (September 2021 quarter, Adelaide) increase on the approved 2021-22 income, and water levy income is based on 2.5% increase on the 2021-22 water levy rates.

² The H&F Landscape Board receives external funding to delivery programs and services. This includes the board delivering the Australian Government's National Landcare Program: Regional Land Partnerships (RLP) services across the AMLR Management Unit.

³ Green Adelaide and the landscape boards collaborate on the delivery of some programs and services across regions. These arrangements are formalised by Service Level Agreements.

⁴ Existing funding subject to Department of Treasury and Finance approval for expenditure authority.

Fig 1. Funding by source



Program investment

The board invests funding from the levies and other sources into delivering activities against the five priorities of the Landscape Plan. The following tables provide the anticipated expenditure against each priority, and Tables 3A-E also indicate the Focus Areas that will be addressed by projects.

When referring to these tables, please note that the relative levels of funding should not be taken to indicate relative priority, as some activities have inherently different delivery costs. For example, water monitoring is significantly more expensive than running capacity-building workshops.

Table 2: Expenditure by priorities and funding source in 2022-23

Priority	Landscape and water levies (\$)	External funding (\$)	Total (\$)
Land	1,775,200	1,098,600	2,873,800
Water	3,183,400	-	3,183,400
Nature	860,400	3,030,800	3,891,200
Climate	328,700	956,300	1,285,000
Community	1,298,600	338,300	1,636,900
Total expenditure	7,446,300	5,424,000	12,870,300

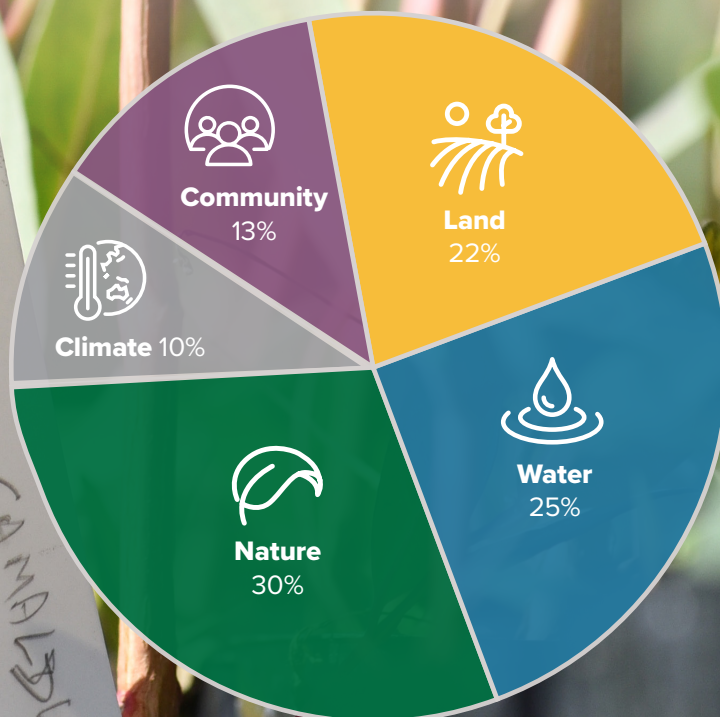


Fig 2. Expenditure by priority



Land Program Investment

Table 3A

Primary Focus Areas	Projects	Levy funded expenditure (\$)	Externally funded expenditure (\$)
L1. Reduce the impact and spread of weeds	Priority pests management	774,500	443,400
	Towards eradication: 20 weeds by 2023		
	Coordination of compliance activities	91,400	-
L2. Reduce the impact of pest animals and impact-causing native animals	Regional grazing pressure and impacting native animals	225,600	-
	Pathway to compliance - farmed deer	-	108,000
L3. Support the uptake of regenerative agriculture and land management	Future-proofing our agriculture	247,800	
	Landscape SA Soil Extension	53,500	115,600
	Healthy Soils, Healthy Landscapes	29,700	288,500
L4. Future-proof our agriculture	Land manager core resources	34,800	-
	Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator	-	143,100
	Project support ¹	317,900	-

¹ Included in the 'Program Support' for each priority are board and committee expenses, monitoring and business running costs.

Featured projects

Towards Eradication - 20 Weeds by 2023

This project is tackling local eradication of some established and emerging weeds of concern across the region. Funded by the State Government's Landscape Priority Fund, the project is using a two-pronged approach. One component sees the board working with private landholders to control the priority weeds; while

the other is strengthening partnerships with the region's six local councils, National Parks and Wildlife Service South Australia (NPWSSA), SA Water and the Department of Infrastructure and Transport, to eradicate weeds on roadsides and in reserves, including in the Cherry Gardens fire scar.



Government of South Australia

Pathway to Compliance - Farmed Deer project

Some deer owners are struggling to comply with the State Feral Deer Policy, and this project will support them to become compliant. The State Government's Landscape Priority Fund is supporting the project to provide a compliance pathway for deer farmers who

would like to exit the industry. For those that opt-in to the project, the board will engage qualified contractors to shoot and process deer on-site to a standard suitable for animal consumption. All processed deer will then be donated to Monarto Safari Park.



Government of South Australia



Regenerative Agriculture Networks

To support the uptake of regenerative agriculture and land management, the board and Goolwa to Wellington LAP have been connecting interested producers through four regenerative agriculture networks in the region - Central Hills, Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges, Upper Fleurieu and Southern Fleurieu.

The networks aim to build capacity in regenerative land management to increase benefits for productivity and biodiversity, increase understanding of localised soil issues, and support landholders to learn from leading regenerative agriculture practitioners.



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment



Future
Drought
Fund



Future Proofing our Agriculture - Wildlife for Wine

The Wildlife for Wine project supports a network of grape growers to create a balance between our environment and viticulture. Each property develops 'Biodiversity Action Plan' a help meet biodiversity and industry sustainability standards, ensuring regeneration of the land and recognising stewardship of environmental assets.

Partners in the Wildlife for Wine project include McLaren Vale Grape, Wine and Tourism Association, Adelaide Hills Wine, Langhorne Creek Grape and Wine, Biodiversity McLaren Vale, Hills Biodiversity, grape growers, University of Adelaide and the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board.



Regional Grazing Pressure Management

Grazing pressure from large herbivores can have substantial impacts on primary production, native vegetation, and threatened flora and fauna.

The Regional Grazing Pressure Management project implements a strategic and coordinated approach to reducing the impacts of feral goats, feral deer and impact-causing western grey kangaroos in the Hills and Fleurieu region.

In partnership with National Parks and Wildlife Service South Australia, Forestry SA, SA Water and the Department for Environment and Water, the project delivers grazing pressure management through specialist staff-led operations, and the use of contractors and volunteers to deliver targeted outcomes.



Government of
South Australia





Water Program Investment

Table 3B

Primary Focus Areas	Projects	Levy funded expenditure (\$)	Externally funded expenditure (\$)
W1. Deliver water resource planning to meet ecological, economic, cultural and social needs	Water planning for McLaren Vale, EMLR and WMLR	681,400	-
W2. Improve on-ground management of our water resources	Management of watercourses and water resources	522,400	-
W3. Build understanding of our water resources	Monitoring water resources	308,700	-
	State Water Planning and Management costs ¹	1,475,300	-
	Program support	195,600	-

¹ State Water Planning and Management contributions include the following functions: water licensing and assessment, water resource monitoring, state and condition reporting for water resources, compliance activities and water planning advice to support the management of water resources. These services are provided by the Department for Environment and Water, including departmental staff based regionally.

Featured projects

McLaren Vale Regional Water Security Strategy

In the Willunga Basin, vignerons have led the charge for a Water Security Strategy to be developed, based on their understanding that climate change is expected to increase temperatures, decrease rainfall, and increase demand for water. The board is part of a collaboration with the wine industry, local council, community, Traditional Owners, business and government to develop the strategy. The strategy will look at future water demands and explore options for recycled, alternative and native water resources to meet demands by 2050.



Government of
South Australia



Supporting landholders to protect waterways

Works in and around watercourses, lakes and dams can have adverse impacts on condition of water resources, use by downstream water users and the health of ecosystems. The board is working with landholders to ensure that water affecting activities are managed effectively. Board staff support landholders with advice and permits, and conduct compliance investigations if required. The board is also collaborating with local and state government agencies to develop 'best practice operating procedures' that help agencies minimise the impacts of their works in and around water resources.



Balancing water needs

Water allocation plans play a critical role in balancing how much water is available for social, cultural, environmental and economic needs. The board is reviewing the McLaren Vale Water Allocation Plan (WAP) together with a committed and enthusiastic Advisory Committee of representatives from industry, partner organisations and community. In 2022-23, the board will also kick off the reviews of the Eastern and Western Mt Lofty Ranges WAPs.

Facilitating the reviews is a key role for the board and a major body of work. The reviews bring together scientific and community views on the condition of the water resources, how effective the WAPs have been in balancing the competing needs for water, and what policies are needed in future to support the environment, industries and the community in the face of climate change.



Understanding the condition of our water resources

The board is working with community volunteers to monitor the health of the Angas and Finniss catchment through the annual 'Waterbug Bioblitz'. In this citizen science event, volunteers collect waterbug and water quality data that contributes to long term monitoring. The bioblitz is supported by a wide range of partners, including Peramangk and Nganguraku First Nations people, volunteers, waterbug specialists and support staff from the board and the Australian and

South Australian government-funded Flows for the Future program.

The board is also monitoring surface water flows across the region, working with the Angas Bremer Water Management Committee and landholders to test and understand water salinity, and working with the Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association and volunteers to measure turbidity in the Bremer Creek.



Government of
South Australia



Australian Government





Nature Program Investment

Table 3C

Primary Focus Areas	Projects	Levy funded expenditure (\$)	Externally funded expenditure (\$)
N1. Protect and restore our native vegetation and freshwater ecosystems	Nature stewardship	158,900	-
	Mt Lofty Ranges bird recovery collaboration	138,100	40,000
	Catchment recovery	-	1,526,000
N2. Conserve and rehabilitate our coastal, estuarine and marine ecosystems	Restoring Fleurieu coastal habitats for wildlife conservation	27,700	150,000
	Coast and marine conservation projects	115,700	-
N3. Recover our threatened species and ecological communities	Back from the Brink	142,000	727,000
	Southern Bell Frog recovery		250,000
	Bandicoot Superhighway	34,700	134,000
	Threatened orchids recovery project	-	23,800
	Management of Australian Government partnerships for biodiversity outcomes	-	180,000
	Program support	243,300	-

Featured projects

Restoring Coastal and Marine Habitats for Wildlife Conservation

Funded by the State Government's Landscape Priority Fund and in partnership with Green Adelaide, Yankalilla, Victor Harbor and Alexandrina councils, and local community groups and volunteers, Hooded Plover populations will be supported through the 'Our Plover Coast' project which is removing weeds and revegetating dune systems from Myponga Beach to Goolwa.

In partnership with OzFish, the 'Seeds for Snapper' project will work with volunteers to collect, process and disperse seagrass seeds in key locations on the Fleurieu coast, to help restore seagrass meadows, and support fish nurseries.



Government of
South Australia



Catchment Recovery

The State Government's Catchment Recovery funding is supporting landholders in both the Cudlee Creek and Cherry Gardens fire-affected areas with land management issues and securing biodiversity and productivity goals as they recover from the bushfires. Catchment Recovery is part of the board's broader bushfire recovery project, and aims to empower landholders to manage for more resilient landscapes to better deal with climate change and future extreme events.

Support will be rolled out in 2022-23 to support the development of Bushfire Recovery Action Plans for landholders, and investment in creek-lines, paddock tree renewal and land management activities.



Government of
South Australia

Back from the Brink

The board is working with partners to reduce immediate extinction risks and improve the long-term viability of 39 threatened species and ecological communities in the Mount Lofty Ranges and Fleurieu Peninsula.

The Back from the Brink project is funded by the Australian Government's National Landcare Program. We are focussing on threatened orchid recovery with the SA Seed Conservation Centre, revegetation for threatened birds with the Department for Environment and Water and National Parks and Wildlife Service, and Hooded Plover protection with Green Adelaide, Birdlife Australia and Councils.



MLR bird recovery

Many bird species across the Mount Lofty Ranges are in decline. The board has initiated a collaboration with non-government organisations, neighbouring landscape boards and the Department for Environment and Water to scale-

up restoration efforts, reverse this decline and support resilience of species. Partners are working together to understand and prioritise the work needed to support the species, and to start on-ground restoration work.

Bandicoot Superhighway

The community-led Bandicoot Superhighway project aims to reduce the extinction risk of the Endangered Southern Brown Bandicoot in the Mount Lofty Ranges, by creating an ecologically functional highway of habitat.

The Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board and Sturt Upper Reaches Landcare Group secured a two-year funding commitment from the Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife to promote the project through community education, improving knowledge of bandicoot distribution and habitat needs, reducing threats to isolated and vulnerable sub-populations; and preserving, restoring and revegetating habitat.

It is great to have many partners supporting this community-led approach, including the Department for Environment and Water, Green Adelaide, University of Adelaide, Friends of Parks, Nature Conservation Society of SA and private landholders.





Climate Program Investment

Table 3D

Primary Focus Areas	Projects	Levy funded expenditure (\$)	Externally funded expenditure (\$)
C1. Transition to net zero carbon emissions	Transition to net zero emissions	73,500	-
C2. Build climate resilience of our nature	Carbon plantings for threatened bird habitat	-	15,000
C3. Build climate resilience of our communities and agriculture	Climate readiness of industries and communities	108,500	-
	Cudlee Creek Local Economic and Bushfire Recovery	-	941,300
	Program support	146,700	-

Featured projects

Local Economic Bushfire Recovery (LER)

The LER Bushfire Recovery project is helping landholders affected by the 2019 Cudlee Creek fire to reconnect with their land and with like-minded landholders, to sort through their land management priorities, and establish more resilient properties for the future. Landholders can access free land management workshops and field days, rabbit control advice and baits and pest plant management strategies.

There are also activities targeting on-ground works such as creekline habitat restoration, soil and pasture sustainability strategies, and fire-driven weed control, as well as native plants for revegetation projects.

The project is funded through the Local Economic Recovery Program, a partnership between the board and Department of Primary Industries and Regions co-funded by the Commonwealth and South Australian governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.



Transitioning to net zero emissions

The board aims to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2026, and is starting on this journey by auditing its emissions. It is then developing a Carbon Neutral

Roadmap, which will consider how it can reduce its emissions relating to its business operations, including electricity and water use, waste and transport.

Resilient Hills and Coasts

This important partnership is working on a range of knowledge sharing and on-ground projects identified as priorities in the Regional Climate Change Adaption Plan for the Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island.

Partners include Adelaide Hills, Alexandrina, Kangaroo Island, Mount Barker, Victor Harbor and Yankalilla Councils, Southern & Hills LGA, RDA Adelaide Hills Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island, Kangaroo Island Landscape Board and the South Australian Government.





Community Program Investment

Table 3E

Primary Focus Areas	Projects	Levy funded expenditure (\$)	Externally funded expenditure (\$)
P1. Foster a regional culture of landscape stewardship	Raising community awareness	392,100	60,000
P2. Walk alongside First Nations in looking after Yerta / Ruwe (Country)	First Nations partnerships	29,700	278,300
P3. Strengthen shared understanding of landscape management challenges	Regional dialogues and partnerships	233,800	-
P4. Increase community capacity to manage our landscapes	Engaging community and volunteers	268,600	-
	Grassroots Grants	220,000	-
	Program support	154,400	-

Featured projects

First Nations Partnerships

The board is continuing to build relationships with Kaurna, Peramangk and Ngarrindjeri Nations, and to explore opportunities to partner with Nations in projects on Country. Together, we are developing an Action Plan for Hills and Fleurieu and implementing activities to create lasting two-way benefits. Initiatives include those that:

- support First Nations to share knowledge with landholders and access private land
- build the capacity of the board and staff to work respectfully and inclusively with traditional owners and First Nations communities

- involve First Nations in water allocation planning and other natural resources planning and management
- ensure Aboriginal heritage sites are respected in activities
- build the capacity of, and engage, Aboriginal businesses.



Grassroots Grants program

The board's Grassroots Grants program supports landholders, volunteers, schools, First Nations and community groups to make a difference in their local area with environmental and sustainable agriculture projects.

The grants result in fantastic outcomes for the environment and our communities. In its first two years, almost 70 recipients have delivered a range of projects including weed control, revegetation, swamp regeneration and more.

Supporting volunteers and environmental alliances

The board supports over 80 community groups that are working locally to restore and sustainably manage our region's landscapes with insurance, senior first aid, bus tours, cultural safety awareness networking opportunities, videos and technical advice.

The Eastern Fleurieu Community Environmental Alliance is a network of 22 community-based groups with a focus on on-ground environmental action and regional collaboration, partnership building and environmental advocacy. Led by the Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Association with the board's support, the

alliance successfully attained funding through the Federal Government's Healthy Rivers fund in February 2022, to undertake weed control, revegetation and partner with First Nations within the region.

The Greater Adelaide Environment Network is a newly formed alliance of nine community-based environment centres operating across the Greater Adelaide area, bringing together a wealth of experience and local connections under a new collaborative and coordinated framework.



Board operations

The board consists of seven community members with a range of skills and knowledge, appointed by the Minister for Environment and Water. For more information about the board members, see the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board website at www.landscape.sa.gov.au/hf.

In 2022-23, the board has the following committees to support its operations:

- Risk and Performance Committee
- Water Resources Steering Committee
- Water Allocation Planning Advisory Committees for McLaren Vale, the Western Mt Lofty Ranges, and the Eastern Mt Lofty Ranges.

Staffing

Projects and services are implemented by a team of dedicated staff who work for the Landscape Board. Day-to-day operations of the board are managed by a General Manager who employs the staff. The staff are public sector employees.

In 2022-23, it is anticipated that there will be 46.9 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions (30.4 FTE funded by levies and 16.5 FTE funded by external funding). The H&F levy-funded staff salaries and on-costs will cost \$3.52M. In Tables 3 A-E, these staff costs are apportioned to the projects that they will deliver.

In 2022-23, the board will contract the Department for Environment and Water to provide corporate services support.

Planning framework

As shown in Figure 3, both the work of the board delivered through the Business Plan, and the work of other organisations and community, contribute to achieving the Landscape Plan.

The Landscape Plan contributes to, and aligns with, the State Landscape Strategy and other state, national and international policies and agreements.

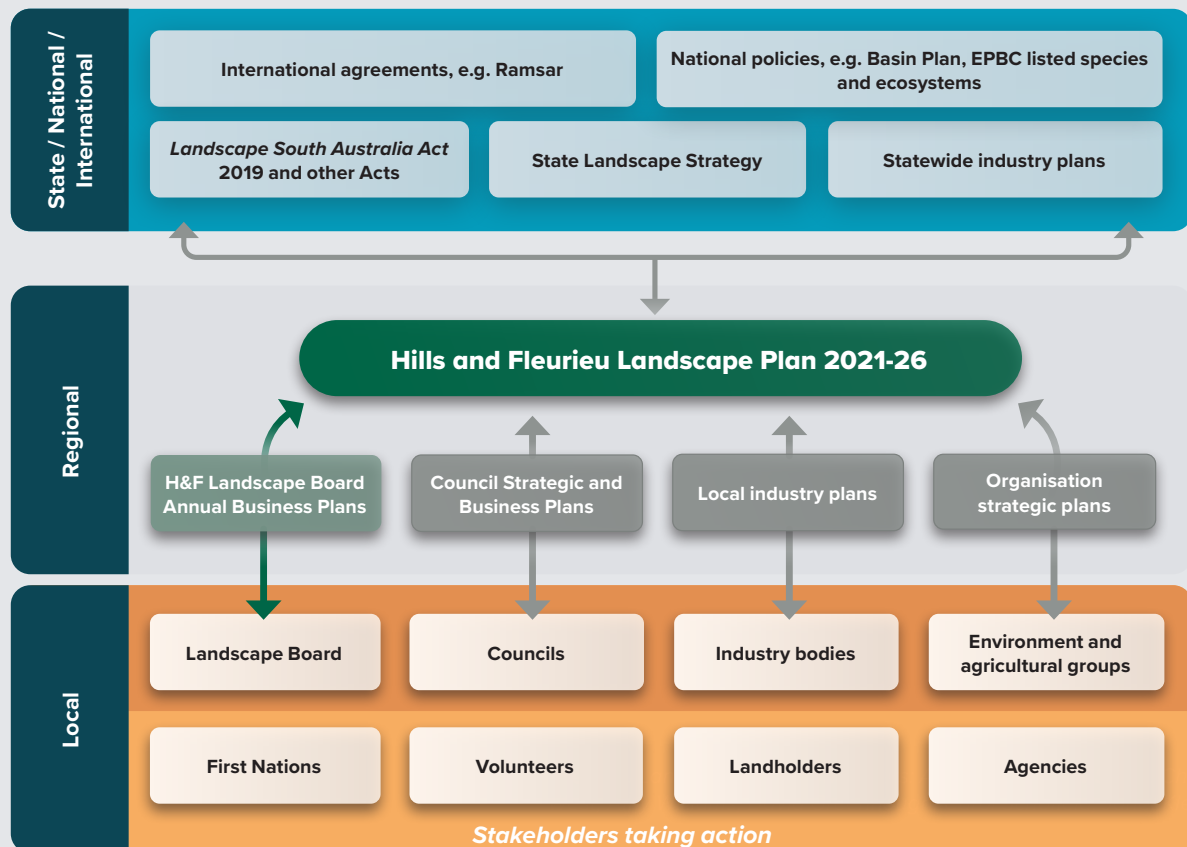
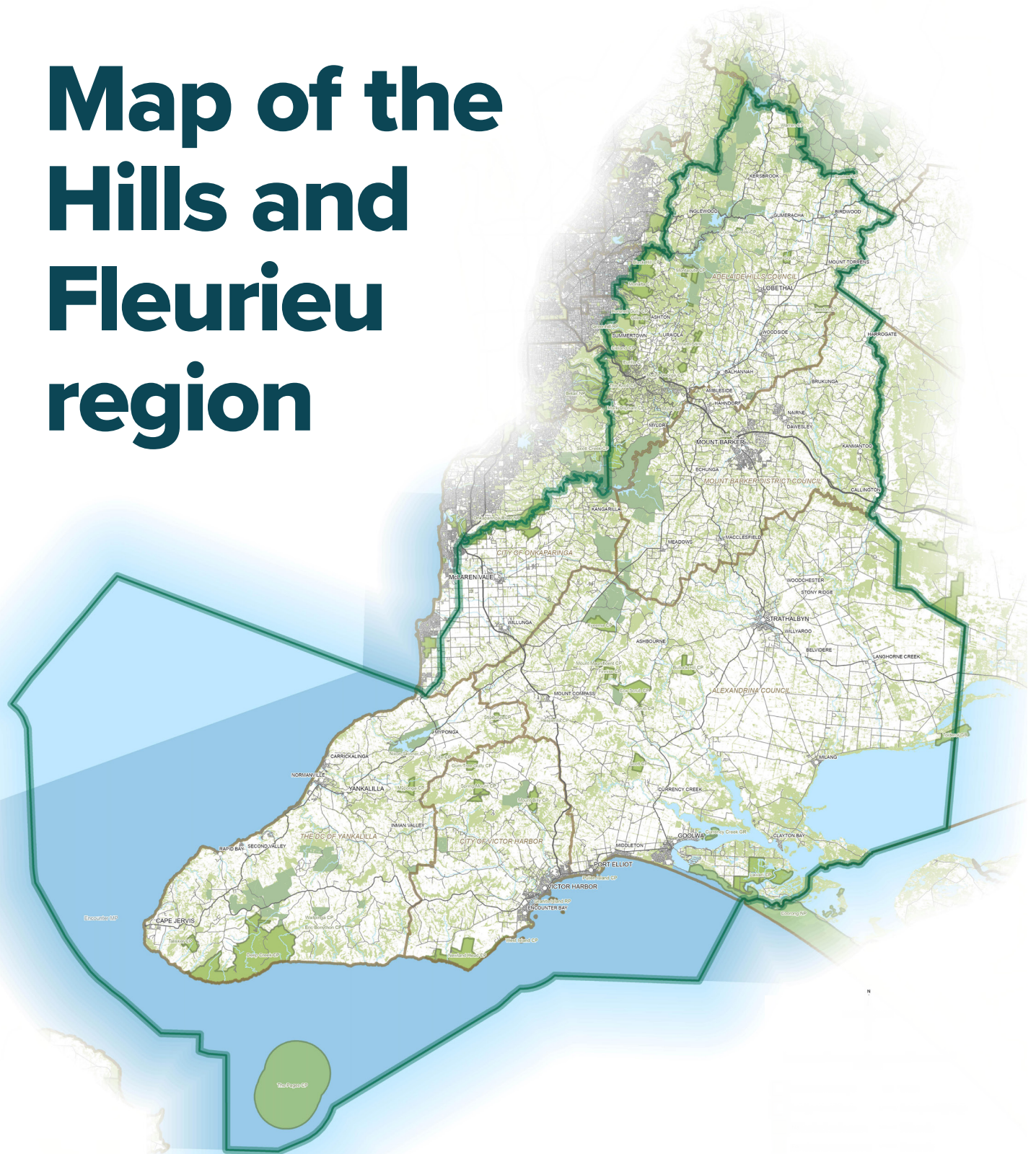


Figure 3: Planning Framework

Map of the Hills and Fleurieu region



Measuring progress

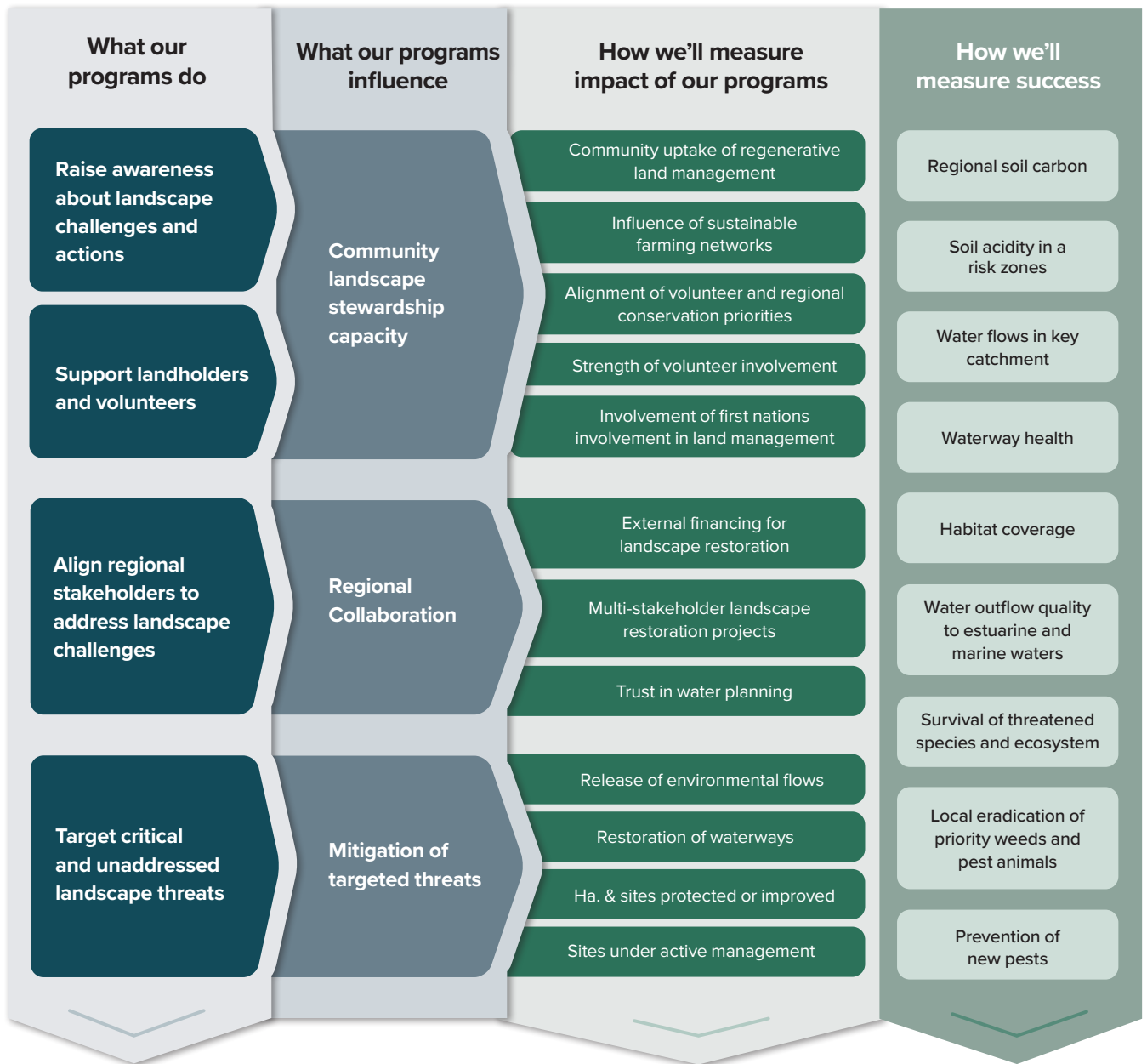
The board will carry out and support a wide range of programs and activities to contribute to the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Plan 2021-2026. Making sure these activities are effective and have their desired impact requires tracking, evaluating and reporting. This process is described in our MERI (Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement) Plan and is summarised in the diagram on the next page.

This MERI framework diagram shows how the board's programs influence landscape health and how the board will monitor the impact and success of those programs over the life of the Landscape Plan.

In key stages of this process, the board will report on the progress and impact of its programs, including:

- producing an Achievements Report and a statutory Annual Report showing how the levy funds have been spent in the financial year and what has been achieved;
- program level monitoring to evaluate and understand the positive impacts of the board's work and progress being made; and
- evaluation at the end of the Landscape Plan 2021-2026 period to understand how the plan's implementation has influenced the condition of the region's landscapes.





Annual Activity Reports:

Provide updates on board activities and expenditure of levy funds

Impact Reports:

Provide updates to the board about progress made on Strategies and Focus Areas outlined in the Landscape Plan

Evaluation Reports:

Provides an assessment of the board's contribution to the Landscape Plan and its influence on the health of the region's landscapes

Landscape and water levies

To enable the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board to lead the management of landscapes in the region, the Act provides for two types of levies to be raised: a regional landscape levy collected by councils from rate payers, and a water levy collected from water licence holders.

Why do we pay levies?

The levies are the primary source of funding for the management of the region's landscapes and natural resources. Our landscapes benefit everyone, which is why we all contribute to the levies. The levies enable the

Board to deliver important programs, and also enable it to leverage significant, additional funding - greatly increasing the amount of work achieved in the region.

Regional landscape levy

In the Hills and Fleurieu region, the regional landscape levy is raised based on the value of rateable land. The landscape levy is raised and collected by local councils. Councils pay quarterly contributions to the Landscape Board and gazette a levy rate to reimburse themselves for this amount.

The total amount of income collected from the landscape levy in 2022-23 will be a CPI (Consumer Price Index) increase on the approved 2021-22 income.

In 2022-23, the council contributions have been determined in accordance with the % of regional capital value within each council, and a minor adjustment in the

amounts contributed by the ex-Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges and SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resource Management (NRM) areas so that there are no further increases in the levy rate paid by ratepayers in the ex-SAMDB areas. For Alexandrina and Mt Barker Councils, the landscape levies will continue to be collected based on the NRM region boundaries (see Table 4). Under the Transition Scheme of the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, 2022-23 is the last year that different rates can continue to be charged in these two councils. Levy rates will then be equalised to a common rate across the region.

Table 4: Council contributions to regional landscape levy income, number of rateable properties and collection fees for councils for 2022/23.

Local government area	Council contribution to regional landscape levy 2022-23 (\$)	No. rateable properties	Council collection fees (\$)
Adelaide Hills	1,117,410	18,522	7,449
Alexandrina (AMLR NRM area)	203,156	3,771	3,613
Alexandrina (SAMDB NRM area)	1,261,838	15,941	6,778
Mount Barker (AMLR NRM area)	131,963	2,021	3,158
Mount Barker (SAMDB NRM area)	1,447,126	16,772	6,994
Onkaparinga	363,787	6,664	4,366
Victor Harbor	454,232	11,108	5,521
Yankalilla	230,035	5,949	4,180
Total	5,209,547	80,748	42,058

Water levy

Water levies are collected by the Department for Environment and Water on behalf of the Minister and paid to the landscape board.

In 2022-23, the H&F Landscape Board will raise water levies consistent with the levy basis used in previous years:

- for the Eastern Mt Lofty Ranges and Angas Bremer prescribed water resources (formerly in the SAMDB NRM region), levies will continue to be charged

based on a rate per ML of water allocated, with a minimum charge of \$200; and

- for the Western Mt Lofty Ranges and McLaren Vale prescribed water resources (formerly in the AMLR NRM region), levies will continue to be charged based on a rate per ML of water allocated.

The levy rates for 2022-23 (Table 5) are increased by CPI of 2.5% on the 2021-22 rates.

Water resource sharing arrangements

For the prescribed water resource areas that are shared by Hills and Fleurieu and neighbouring landscape regions, the water levy is shared between the boards in proportion to the amount of water allocated in each region (see Table 5).

The board is responsible for water planning for the McLaren Vale Prescribed Wells Area, and the Western

Mt Lofty Ranges and Eastern Mt Lofty Ranges (including the Angas Bremer) Prescribed Water Resource Areas. The H&F Landscape Board will work together with the Green Adelaide, Northern and Yorke, and Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Boards to ensure that water planning and programs are implemented collaboratively and consistently.

Table 5: Water levy rates and proportion of allocated water in each prescribed water resource in the Hills and Fleurieu region for 2022-23

Prescribed Water Resource Area (PWRA) / Prescribed Wells Area (PWA) and allocation type	2022-23 levy rate	Proportion of the PWRA's allocated water within Hills & Fleurieu
Angas Bremer PWA water taking allocation	\$6.99 per ML of water allocated or a levy of \$200, whichever is greater	100%
Eastern Mt Lofty Ranges PWRA water taking allocation	\$6.99 per ML of water allocated or a levy of \$200, whichever is greater	98%
Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges PWRA water taking Lower Angas Bremer allocation (Flood)	\$1.67/ ML	100%
McLaren Vale PWA water taking allocation	\$6.50 /ML	96%
Western Mount Lofty Ranges PWRA water taking allocation (including water levy on organisations authorised under section 105 to take water)	\$6.50/ML	93%
Western Mount Lofty Ranges PWRA public water supply - SA Water fixed charge	\$1,300,067	100%



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