

Hills and Fleurieu Regional Landscape Plan

2026–2031

*A roadmap for collective action
to care for land, water and nature*

Draft for consultation 2026

On behalf of the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board, I am pleased to present the draft Hills and Fleurieu Regional Landscape Plan 2026–2031 for consultation. The plan sets a shared direction for responding to complex, emerging and evolving challenges, restoring our landscapes and strengthening the health of our region, with the next five years proving pivotal.

The plan reflects feedback from stakeholders and conversations with communities. The message we received was clear – we must continue caring for land, water and nature while building resilience to regional challenges, including that of a changing climate.

This plan builds on the achievements of our previous five-year plan and continues to recognise that no single organisation or community can achieve these goals alone. Success will rely on land managers taking action, listening to First Nations, and the energy of local people, volunteers, community groups, industry and government agencies, many of whom are already leading practical action on the ground.

As the global economy shifts toward sustainability, carbon neutrality and regenerative practices, regions like ours are presented with new opportunities to innovate and adapt. Taking full advantage of these opportunities and achieving the plan's goals may extend beyond the five-year horizon, but the actions we take now will determine how well our region can respond, recover and thrive.

I thank everyone who contributed their ideas and insights and would love to hear your thoughts on this draft plan as we continue to foster whole-of-community stewardship across the Hills and Fleurieu, securing a resilient and sustainable future for future generations.

David Greenhough

Chair, Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board

MINISTER'S ENDORSEMENT

xxxxxx MP

Minister for Climate, Environment and Water

Approved under Section 50 of the Landscape South Australia Act 2019

Date: TBC



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Image credits

Front Cover image: Megan Crabb

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Acknowledgement of Wattà/Ruwe/Yerta

We acknowledge First Nations as the first people of the lands and waters where we live and work. We respect the Peramangk, Kaurna, and Ngarrindjeri peoples, past and present, who have cared for Wattà / Ruwe / Yerta for generations, nurturing its life, stories, and landscapes.

We recognise their deep knowledge, spiritual belonging, and enduring connection to Country.

We are committed to walking alongside First Nations, listening, learning, and working together to protect and restore these lands and waters.

Artwork: Jamaya Branson

Peramangk

We, the Peramangk people, belong to this land and water. This Country is our culture and our spirit. It is our duty to pass on and protect this land and water for the next generation and beyond

Ngarrindjeri

Ngani ngangkur meli-ndjeri ruwangk
We are the first people belonging to the land

Namawi paknar muthanar ngopur alyenik ruwe kalalal-ungai
Our Grandfathers and Grandmothers walked this land in the long ago

Namawi pangarar lewun ruwungai
Our spirits dwell within the land

Ngani Ngarrindjeri Meli.
We are Ngarrindjeri people

Kaurna

Ngadlu miyurna yartanangku
We are the people of the land

Ngadlu Kaurna miyurna
We are Kaurna

Ngadluku yitpi yartangka, karrangka
Our spirit within and beyond

Ngadluku pukiana miyurna tidna-arrá
To follow in our ancestors' footsteps

In review by First Nations



A future shaped by the choices we make today

The next five years will be pivotal. Across our region, landscapes are under growing pressure from a changing climate, biodiversity loss, water stress and increasing demands on land and resources. These challenges are real but they are not beyond our influence.

What we do now matters.

The actions we take today will shape how well our landscapes adapt, recover and restore and how they continue to support our communities, industries, culture and wellbeing. This plan is about more than responding to change. It is about actively shaping a future where nature and people can thrive together.

This is a moment to push forward with purpose. To protect what matters, repair what has been damaged and invest in long-term solutions that deliver benefits now and for generations to come. With shared understanding and clear priorities, recovery and regeneration are not only possible. They are achievable.

The future of our region will be shaped by the choices we make today. This plan sets out how we can all take action.

The Hills and Fleurieu

The Hills and Fleurieu region is a place of remarkable diversity, shaped by its people, landscapes and coastlines. Covering approximately 6,700 square kilometres of land, sea and offshore islands, including around 170 kilometres of coastline, the region spans six local council areas and is home to over 170,000 people (ABS 2024).

Country and connection

The region is the traditional lands and waters of the Peramangk, Ngarrindjeri and Kaurna Nations. Their enduring cultural connections to Country continue to guide the care of land, water and sea, and remain central to how landscapes are understood, valued and managed.

A mosaic of landholders and land uses

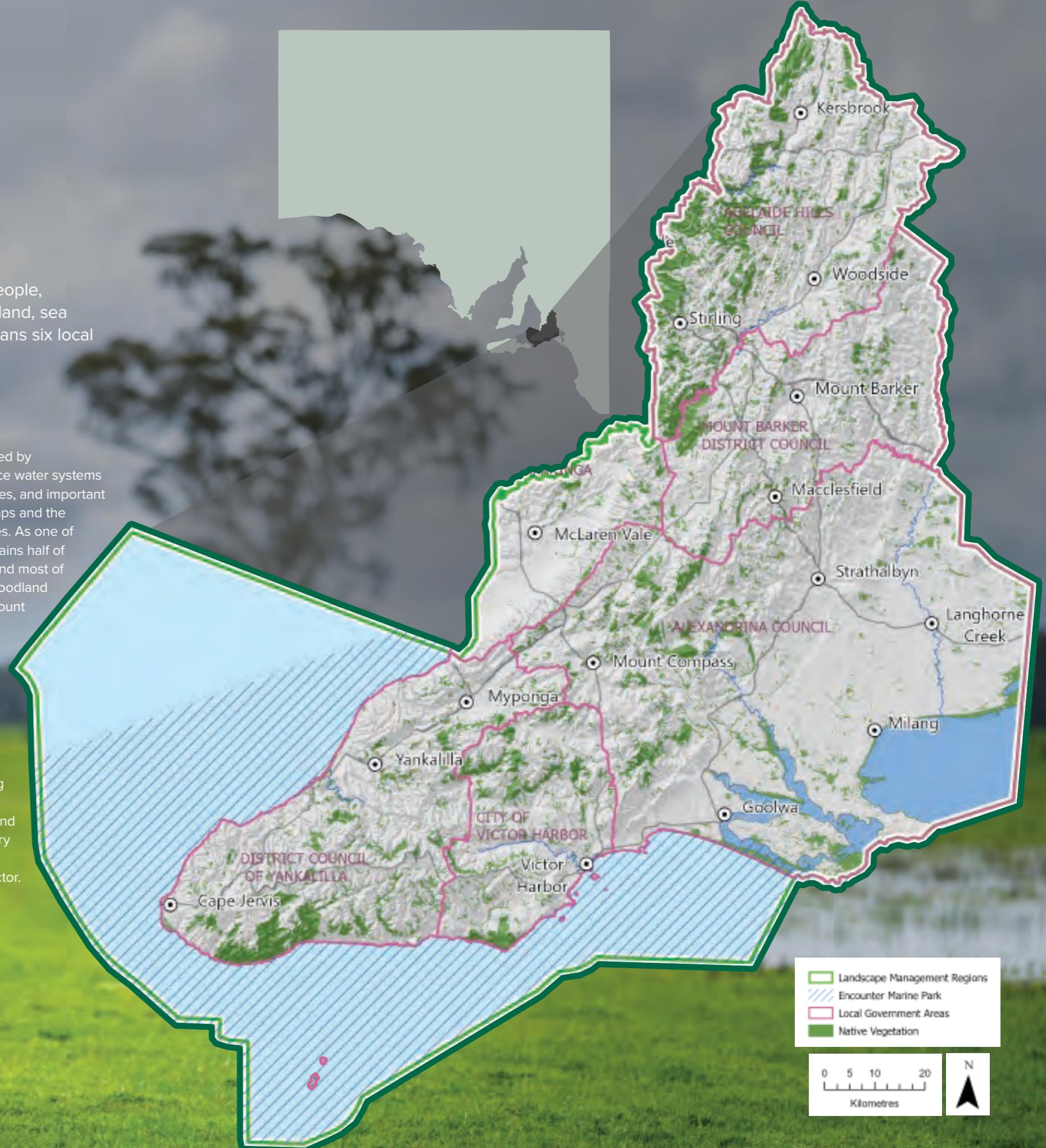
From small lifestyle blocks and peri-urban properties, to broadacre farms, vineyards, orchards, conservation areas and coastal waters, the region supports a wide range of landholders and land managers. Each plays an important role in caring for land, water and nature in a changing climate.



Natural assets and a productive region

The Hills and Fleurieu region is sustained by interconnected groundwater and surface water systems that support farming, local water supplies, and important ecosystems such as the Fleurieu Swamps and the Ramsar listed Coorong and Lower Lakes. As one of Australia's biodiversity hotspots, it contains half of South Australia's native plant species and most of its native bird species, including rare woodland habitats, threatened orchids and the Mount Compass oak-bush.

From rugged southern coastlines to dunes and estuaries, the region's marine environments support fisheries, tourism and vital habitat for resident and migratory shorebirds like the hooded plover. Alongside these natural values, the region underpins a strong and diverse economy, producing world-class food, wine and fibre. It generates over \$400 million annually and leads the state in apple, cherry and dairy production, supported by extensive grazing and a thriving value-adding sector.



Responding to a changing environment

The need for action

The Hills and Fleurieu region is feeling the effects of a changing climate in many ways. Recent bushfires, long dry spells and a marine algal bloom have challenged ecosystems, agriculture and communities, showing just how interconnected and vulnerable our landscapes can be. Soils are under pressure, native species are declining,

and warmer, drier conditions are allowing pest plants and animals to spread rapidly. Understanding these pressures and how they interact is essential for planning and managing the region to protect its natural systems, support sustainable agriculture and maintain healthy communities.

Climate projections indicate the region is likely to experience:

- Rising average temperatures and more frequent heatwaves
- Reduced rainfall overall, particularly in spring, along with more extreme weather events

- More frequent drought
- Fewer frosts, higher evaporation and an increase in fire danger days
- Increased sea-level rise and more frequent storm surges.

Climate projections and landscape health

Environmental conditions across the region are changing, creating challenges for people, ecosystems and industries while also opening opportunities for adaptation and proactive management. Understanding projected conditions helps guide priorities and decisions to support resilient landscapes and communities.

A range of indicators also provide insight into the current state and trends of land, water and nature across the region. The tables offer a snapshot of where

ecosystems, soils and waterways are thriving and where additional attention is needed.

Many indicators highlight pressures on our landscapes. Native species are declining, pest plants and animals are spreading faster under warmer, drier conditions, and new challenges such as avian influenza are emerging. At the same time, other indicators show where restoration, sustainable management and community action are making a positive difference.

Climate baselines and projections

Climate variable and trend		Baseline [~]	2030 RCP8.5	2050 RCP8.5	2090 RCP8.5	2090 RCP4.5	Confidence
	Annual rainfall decrease ^{^1}	625mm	-3%	-9%	-29%	-12%	High
	Extreme rainfall events increase ^{^1}	0.38 mean days/yr above 99.9th percentile	+58%	+55%	+121%	+87%	High
	Mean daily maximum temperature increase*	18.4°C	+1.0°C	+1.6°C	+3.5°C	+1.9°C	High
	Mean daily minimum temperatures increase*	10.3°C	+0.9°C	+1.4°C	+2.8°C	+1.6°C	Very high
	Number of hot days over 35°C increase	7	+2	+4	+12	+5	High
	Number of fire weather danger days increase ^{^2}	4.2	+11.9%	-	+64.3%	+26.2%	High
	Evapotranspiration increase ^{^3}	-	+3.1%	+5.2%	+9.9%	+5.1%	-
	Sea level rise increase ^{^4}	-	+13cm	+24cm	+60cm	+45cm	Very high

Data sources and abbreviations

RCP - Representative Concentration Pathway. RCPs reflect plausible future greenhouse gas emissions scenarios; RCP8.5 being high and RCP4.5 being medium.

[~]Baselines are historical averages used for comparison. Rain: 1981–2010, Temperature: 1986–2005, Sea level: 1986–2005.

^{*}South Australian Climate Projections viewer, NARClIM projections 2021 (NARClIM 1.5). Very high confidence in temperature and high confidence in rainfall projections; rainfall declines most pronounced in spring

^{^1} Guide to Climate Projections for Risk Assessment and Planning in South Australia 2022

^{^2} Table 4-2. High confidence in rainfall projections, low confidence in magnitude of increase in extreme rainfall events.

^{^3} Table 10-2. High confidence in frequency, low confidence in magnitude.

^{^4} Table 8-1

^{^4} Table 11-2. Very high confidence.

Long term landscape health indicators

Indicator	Status	Trend
Climate		
Carbon emissions¹	 Poor	 Unknown
Land		
Soil acidity²	 Poor	 Stable
Groundcover²	 Very good	 Stable
Weeds²	 Good	 Getting worse
Pest animals²	 Good	 Variable
Water		
Groundwater²	 Good	 Stable
Waterway health - stream flow days	 Good	 Getting worse
Waterway health - Aquatic macro-invertebrates³	 Poor	 Getting worse
Waterway health - freshwater fish²	 Poor	 Getting worse
Nature		
Native vegetation cover (percentage cover)	 Fair	 Stable
Native flora⁴	 Poor	 Getting worse
Native fauna⁴	 Very poor	 Getting worse
Terrestrial protected areas²	 Fair	 Stable
Marine protected areas²	 Very good	 Stable
Seagrass²	 Undefined ⁶	 Unknown
Reef ecosystems – Fish species richness⁵	 Undefined ⁶	 Stable
Reef ecosystems – kelp cover²	 Good	 Getting better

1. Ironbark (2023) HF Regional emissions Snapshot May 2023

2. Source: DEW (2023) Trend and Condition Report Cards

3. DEW (2024) Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Region PWRA ecological condition assessment 2022, DEW Technical report, 2024

4. Percentage of native flora threatened. HFLB (2025) HFLB Action Plan for Threatened Species and Ecological Communities 2025 – 2040 (in draft).

5. Green Adelaide Reef Ecosystem Monitoring. A subset of reef indicators, assessed prior to algal bloom.

6. No agreed thresholds for assigning status

Driving regional action

Everybody has a role

The Hills and Fleurieu landscapes are shaped by the actions of many people. More than 14,000 land managers across the region care for farms, bushland, wetlands and coastlines. Everyday actions, from protecting native vegetation and waterways to managing pests and maintaining healthy soils, all help keep the landscape healthy and resilient.

The plan recognises that caring for the region is a shared effort. It relies on practical action and collaboration across the community,

including local people, volunteers, First Nations, land managers, councils, community groups, industry bodies, environmental and agricultural groups, government agencies, funding partners, and the landscape board.

The Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board has prepared this plan for the region to guide landscape management over the next five years. The plan reflects input from across the community and provides a roadmap for collective action.



How to read the Action Tables

The Action Tables are a guide for working together to care for the Hills and Fleurieu region. They set out shared priorities and show how different organisations and community members can contribute.

Some actions will be led by the Board, while others will be delivered by partners. The Board's specific programs will be set out in its annual business plans. Case studies have been included to illustrate the type of work involved, with further initiatives expected to emerge over the life of the plan.

The Action Tables bring together the key elements of the plan for the next five years. They show the priorities, objectives, strategies and actions, as well as the partners involved in delivery.

The tables reflect priorities and actions identified through engagement with regional stakeholders, but they are not exhaustive. Ongoing involvement from land managers is central to most actions and is essential to long-term success.

Understanding the key terms

- Priority areas: The five broad themes of the plan: Land, Water, Nature, Climate and Community.
- Objectives: The long-term outcomes we are working towards, such as healthy soils, fair access to water and thriving biodiversity. Objectives also show how the priorities are connected.
- Strategies: The shared approaches we will take to achieve each objective. Strategies set direction rather than list individual projects.
- Actions: The practical activities that support each strategy. Many actions involve multiple organisations working together.
- Lead organisation/s: The organisation/s best placed to coordinate an action. This role focuses on bringing partners together, not delivering the action alone.
- Supporting organisations: Partners who may contribute expertise, resources or on-ground action. These could include landholders, councils, community groups, industries, First Nations, state agencies or research bodies

No single organisation can deliver the plan - success relies on collaboration across the region.

How the plan fits with other plans and strategies

This plan builds on the foundation laid by the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Plan 2021–26, recognising the progress our region has made. Across the Hills and Fleurieu, land managers, community groups, and volunteers have taken meaningful action to care for our landscapes, improving soil health, protecting biodiversity, and managing water responsibly.

Partnerships with First Nations people have grown stronger, with cultural knowledge guiding how we nurture and protect Country. These efforts demonstrate the power of people working together to make a real difference.

At the same time, our environment is changing and requires new approaches. Recent events, such as a harmful algal bloom, have highlighted the sensitivity of our coastal and marine systems. The new plan builds on past successes while responding to these emerging challenges, setting a course for practical, collaborative action to keep our landscapes healthy, resilient, and vibrant for generations to come.

The plan has been developed with regard to strategies and agreements at local, regional, state, and national levels. It does not replace these documents but brings together shared priorities and guides coordinated action across the region.

The plan adopts the enablers of the State Landscape Strategy:

- Bold collaborative leadership
- Targeted and scaled-up investment
- Inspiring stewardship of landscapes
- Building and sharing knowledge

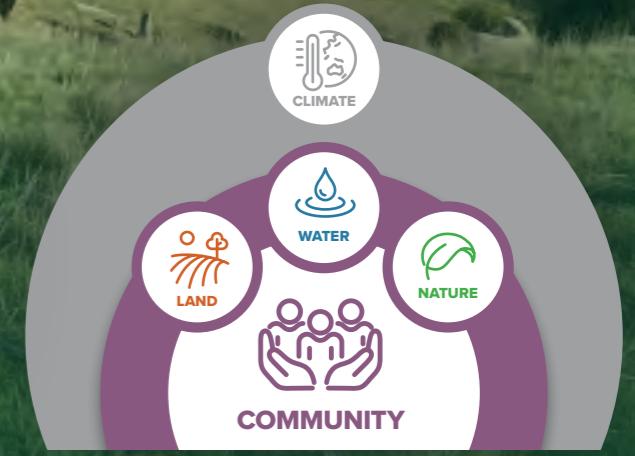


Vision for the region

Healthy and resilient landscapes cared for through whole-of-community stewardship

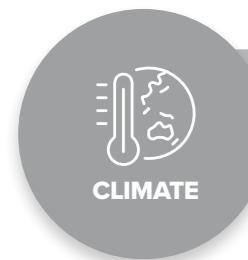
Regional priorities

This plan focuses on five connected priorities: Community, Climate, Land, Water and Nature. It sets shared goals and objectives for each priority, recognising that progress requires collaboration. Community and Climate guide the other priorities, and lasting change depends on all five working together.



Everyone caring for our landscapes

- P1** Foster stewardship of land, water and nature
- P2** Walk alongside First Nations in looking after Watta / Ruwe / Yerta (Country)



A net zero, climate resilient region

- C1** Transition to net zero emissions
- C2** Build landscape and community resilience



Healthy, productive land supporting people, industry and nature

- L1** Protect, manage and restore land and soil health
- L2** Future-proof our agriculture
- L3** Reduce the impact of weeds
- L4** Reduce the impact of pest animals
- L5** Reduce the impact of native species where impacts occur



Sustainable water management and healthy waterways

- W1** Ensure fair and inclusive access to water
- W2** Protect and restore environmental flows
- W3** Strengthen on-farm water use efficiency
- W4** Improve water quality



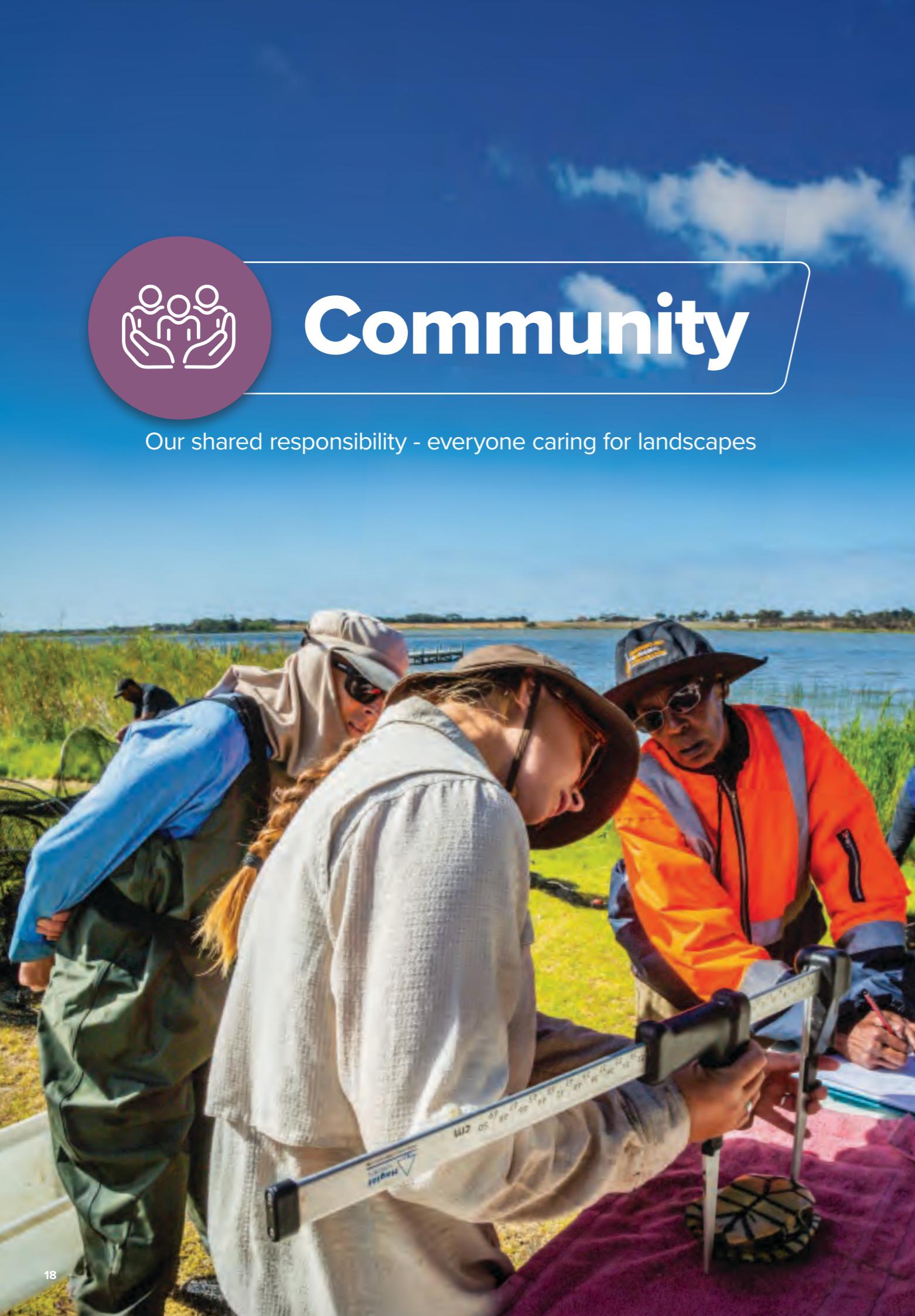
Protecting and restoring native ecosystems and wildlife

- N1** Retain and protect existing native ecosystems
- N2** Restore and expand native ecosystems at scale
- N3** Recover threatened species and ecological communities



Community

Our shared responsibility - everyone caring for landscapes



Why it matters

The health of our land, water, nature and climate depends on the choices we make and the way we live, work and care for landscapes as stewards. From the Fleurieu coast to the ranges, every day our communities make the choice to connect with the landscape and take collective action – restoring habitats, caring for waterways, managing pests and nurturing the places they love.

As our region grows and the climate changes, our shared challenge is to deepen the connection between people and landscapes, and the culture of care that defines the Hills and Fleurieu.

When communities understand that their wellbeing and prosperity are tied to the health of the landscape, change happens. Strong communities create strong landscapes - and together, they form the foundation of a resilient future.

Partners in stewardship

Caring for Country begins with respect for First Nations who have nurtured these lands and waters for tens of thousands of years, and for the knowledge systems that continue to guide how we live within them today.

Across the region, people are working together in new and powerful ways: land managers and volunteers restoring native vegetation, councils partnering on coastal projects, and community groups collaborating with First Nations to honour cultural heritage.

This is shared purpose in action. When we listen, learn and work side by side - listening to First Nations people, science, and local experience - we build landscapes that can sustain us all, long into the future.

Healthy landscapes need healthy communities - connected, knowledgeable, and united in purpose.

What success looks like



People value the land, water, and nature of our region, and act to protect them



First Nations people continue their cultural responsibilities for Country, and their knowledge is respected and supported through self-determined partnerships.



Communities, businesses, and governments invest together in land management



Strong partnerships deliver coordinated, landscape-scale outcomes



Community Action Table

Setting a shared roadmap for collective action. Showing how priorities, partners and actions come together to deliver the plan.

Objectives	Linked objectives	Strategies	Actions	Lead Organisation	Supporting Organisation/s
P1	Foster stewardship of land, water and nature	All	1.1 Increase land manager capacity and understanding of legislated responsibilities	Stewardship actions are integrated throughout land, water and nature priorities	-
				Support volunteer environmental groups with insurance	HFLB
			1.2 Activate volunteer involvement	Deliver GreenSafe grants to support volunteer groups with safety equipment or minor tools	HFLB
				Promote and connect people to local environmental volunteering opportunities	HFLB
			1.3 Inspire and support young people to care for land, water and nature	Support Environmental Leadership programs and development opportunities	Case by case
				Provide grants to support school projects that restore land, water and/or nature	HFLB
P2	Walk alongside First Nations in looking after Wattà / Ruwe / Yerta (Country)	All	1.4 Involve community in citizen science	Promote citizen science projects and opportunities to contribute to research	HFLB
			1.5 Support action through grants and other incentives	Provide grants to support projects that restore land, water and/or nature	HFLB
			2.1 Support First Nations-led Healthy Country planning and projects	Support First Nations-led monitoring, Healthy Country planning and projects	PBCs
				Advocate for integration of Healthy Country Plans into state, regional and local planning processes	HFLB
P2	Walk alongside First Nations in looking after Wattà / Ruwe / Yerta (Country)	All	2.2 Support First Nations to care for, respect and strengthen cultural heritage and living connections with Wattà / Ruwe / Yerta (Country)	Support development of consistent cultural heritage procedures and protocol across government and community	AGD (AAR)
			2.3 Support access to, and care for Country across all tenures, enabling First Nations people to maintain and renew their cultural responsibilities	Facilitate access to Country to support cultural practices on Country	HFLB
			2.4 Partner with First Nations businesses and organisations in landscape restoration and land management	Work with First Nations owned businesses, contractors and ranger programs in project delivery	First Nations organisations, businesses and rangers
					HFLB, eNGOs, agencies

Glossary of acronyms on page 57



Good stewardship starts at home - one paddock, one creekline, one shared landscape at a time.

Case Study Supporting land managers to care for landscapes, together

Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu's Stewardship Program is its flagship program for helping land managers care for the Hills and Fleurieu landscape. It helps people understand and manage the natural systems that sustain their properties - from soils and water to native vegetation and wildlife.

Through workshops, educational resources and practical tools, the program builds knowledge and confidence for land managers to take action. It also connects neighbours, community groups, First Nations people, councils and industries, turning individual efforts into collective outcomes across the region.

Stewardship is about shared responsibility. It recognises that everyone who manages land plays a vital role in sustaining the systems that support us all. By aligning on-ground action with regional goals, the program helps ensure that investment, effort and learning are coordinated, transparent and long-lasting.

Through the **Five ways of stewardship**, the program provides a unifying framework for caring for landscapes - connecting land managers, scientific evidence and community through practical education and partnerships. Together, we're building more resilient landscapes, stronger biodiversity, and thriving rural communities.

Five ways of stewardship for land managers

1. Plan for your property

Prepare an action plan to care for land, water and nature, and connect with local landcare groups and First Nations heritage and knowledge.

2. Care for native vegetation

Improve the condition of existing native vegetation and carry out successful revegetation.

3. Look after water

Improve the health of watercourses and wetlands, and manage and maintain dams for both production and environmental benefits.

4. Care for soils

Improve the condition and resilience of soils, and monitor and manage them for production and landscape health.

5. Understand responsibilities

Understand legislative responsibilities under the *Landscape SA Act 2019*, including weeds and pest animals management, water affecting activities and soils.

Case Study Stewardship in action

When Luke and Sonya Medhurst bought their 83-acre property near Lenswood, they saw an opportunity to restore what had been lost. Soon after moving in, they fenced 30 acres of native scrubland to exclude cattle and began regenerating the damaged ground.

They have since transformed former grazing areas into a mix of cut-flower rows and native shrubs, planted hundreds of indigenous trees from Trees for Life, and linked bushland to cleared land to create flight corridors for small birds.

Pest control, camera traps and plans for a pest-proof fence are part of their long-term goal to be weed-free by 2030.

"It can feel overwhelming at times, but when you see the bush coming back to life, it's worth every bit of effort." Luke Medhurst



Case Study Tikkandi at Kanyanyapilla: Connecting First Nations young people to Country

In Karl Winda Telfer's language, Tikkandi means to sit on Country. This Traditional Owner-led cultural education program strengthens young people's identity and well-being through seasonal immersions at Kanyanyapilla (near McLaren Vale).

First Nations young people gather in ceremonies, sit in yarning circles and learn about bicultural history, traditional plants, language, story-telling, and oral

traditions. They also help heal the cultural landscape cleared since colonisation, regenerating local native plants, caring for Country, and learning about climate resilience.

Karl's vision is to grow the Tikkandi cultural education program in the future so that more young people in our community can connect with and care for Country.





Climate

A net zero, climate resilient region



Why it matters

Climate change is already influencing every part of the Hills and Fleurieu landscape. Longer dry periods, more intense rainfall and storms, and changing growing seasons affect how we manage land, water and biodiversity. These changes increase risks to productivity, community safety and the health of our ecosystems.

Climate change cuts across everything we do. It shapes how we plan, where we invest and the actions we take to build resilience. Strategies that help mitigate climate change, such as emissions reduction and carbon sequestration, as well as those that support climate adaptation need to be part of all aspects of landscape management. These have been incorporated throughout the land, water and nature priority areas in this plan. By embedding climate objectives into all our priorities, we can help our region prepare for and thrive under changing conditions.

Preparing for climate change is about foresight, not fear. Planning today for a resilient tomorrow.

Working with community

Responding to climate change is a shared responsibility. Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu, councils, industries, agencies, researchers and community groups need to work together to plan and act on climate priorities such as drought resilience, fire ready landscapes, sustainable farming and carbon storage.

Partnerships with the agricultural sector are particularly important. Industries are working to adapt to climate change and supporting uptake of emissions reduction and sequestration.

Resilience is built locally, in every paddock, town and catchment.

What success looks like



The region is producing net zero emissions



Land managers and industries understand and are adapting to climate risks



Landscapes, biodiversity and communities are resilient to heat, drought and other extreme events



Climate change mitigation and adaptation are built into programs and partnerships across the region



Net zero agriculture emissions in Hills and Fleurieu region by 2050

Regional targets



Net zero agriculture emissions in Hills and Fleurieu region by 2050



Climate Action Table

Setting a shared roadmap for collective action. Showing how priorities, partners and actions come together to deliver the plan.

Objectives		Linked objectives	Strategies	Actions	Lead Organisation	Supporting Organisation/s
C1	Transition to net zero emissions	L2, N1, N2, N3, W1, W2	1.1 Support land-based emissions reduction and sequestration	See actions under L2	-	-
			2.1 Build the resilience of agriculture to climate change (Future proof our agriculture)	See actions under L2	-	-
			2.2 Build resilience of nature to climate change	See actions under N2	-	-
			2.3 Support the community to prepare landscapes for, and recover from, fire and other extreme climate-related events	Implement the Hills and Fleurieu Land, Water and Nature Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery Plan	HFLB	Local Govt., DEW, CFS, PIRSA, DIT, Forestry SA, SA Water, GISA, EPA
C2	Build landscape and community resilience	N1, N3	2.4 Implement nature-based solutions for community climate resilience	Collaborate with regional partners to implement the Regional Climate Action Plans and explore project opportunities	HFLB	RDA, Local Govt., DEW, KILB
				Align regional strategies with state and national disaster risk reduction and biodiversity frameworks and climate targets	HFLB	DEW, SPC
				Collaborate in the recovery of natural assets after emergency events	HFLB	DEW, Forestry SA, SA Water, Local Govt., eNGOs
			2.5 Improve policy integration across climate, disaster risk reduction, and biodiversity	Embed climate and biodiversity goals into regional plans for development and land-use strategies	SPC, DHUD, DEW	HFLB, Local Govt., RDA
				Mandate climate and biodiversity considerations in infrastructure, agriculture, and urban planning approvals	SPC	DEW, HFLB, EPA

Glossary of acronyms on page 57



Case Study **Climate Ready Agriculture Program – helping farmers adapt and lead**

The Climate Ready Agriculture Program supports producers to understand climate risks, diversify income and adopt practices that store carbon, conserve water and protect soil. Through workshops, farm-scale planning tools and partnerships with farming systems groups, the program helps farmers integrate climate projections and carbon opportunities into business decisions.

The program is co-designed with producers and technical experts to ensure it remains practical and profitable. It connects farmers to the latest science in soil carbon, on-farm biodiversity and emissions reduction, helping agriculture remain productive while contributing to a low carbon future.

Case Study **Carbon farming – a landholder's perspective**

Derek and Sarah Walter from Willow Creek have made history as the first property in South Australia to receive Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs) for a soil carbon project. Their experience shows both the opportunity and the challenge of entering the carbon market.

“In mid-2024 we were issued 641 ACCUs, worth about \$74 per hectare per year at current rates - but we haven't seen any direct income yet.” - Derek Walter, Willow Creek.

The Walters joined a government pilot that covered these costs, acknowledging the project wouldn't have been possible otherwise. Their 25-year project is tied to their land title, and Derek says he would structure it differently next time to allow greater flexibility.

Carbon Service Providers assist with reporting and compliance but can take a significant fee. Derek advises other landholders to read contracts carefully and understand who is involved. Soil-carbon results can vary, and he admits there's some luck in the outcome.

Despite these hurdles, the Walters remain committed to improving soil health and resilience through carbon farming.

“At the end of the day, we know how valuable carbon is for our soil. We'll keep adapting our management to build soil carbon for productivity and resilience.”

Providing landholder support for on-going learning and to explore carbon opportunities helps build confidence in the evolving carbon-farming space.



Land

Healthy, productive landscapes supporting people, industry and nature



Why it matters

Healthy soils underpin agriculture, biodiversity, water quality and community wellbeing - they sustain the industries and livelihoods that define our region.

But land condition is under pressure from pest plants and animals, a drying climate, and increased risk of erosion. Managing these threats is a shared responsibility. Land managers play a key role by controlling declared plant and animal species and maintaining their land in good condition. The effectiveness of these actions can be greatly improved through coordinated support and guidance from the Board and other agencies.

Helping land managers protect soil health, control pests and maintain productive, resilient landscapes is a key priority of this plan.

Every land manager plays a vital role in keeping our landscapes healthy - we're here to help them do it.

Working with Community

Caring for land is a shared responsibility across the region. Land managers, councils, industries and community groups are working together to reduce the impact of weeds and pest animals and manage native species where they cause damage.

Through shared learning, partnerships and local leadership, people across the region are improving land and soil health and helping to future-proof agriculture. These collective efforts are building productive, resilient landscapes that can sustain both people and nature for generations to come.

Caring for land is a shared responsibility - across farms, councils and communities.

What success looks like



Soils are healthy, productive, protected from erosion and nutrient loss, and resilient in dry times



Land managers adopt practices that build soil carbon, improve water retention and reduce chemical inputs



Priority pest animal and weed species are eradicated, new incursions are prevented, and established pest animals and weeds are managed to reduce their impact



Impact-causing native species are effectively managed to reduce their impact

Regional targets



Erosion risk on agricultural land is kept to **under 5 days a year**



Eradication of feral deer and goats in the region by **2032**



Land Action Table

Setting a shared roadmap for collective action. Showing how priorities, partners and actions come together to deliver the plan.

Objectives	Linked objectives	Strategies	Actions	Lead Organisation	Supporting Organisation/s
L1 Protect, manage and restore land and soil health	C2, W4	1.1 Protect land and soil health	Increase land managers' knowledge of the importance of maintaining groundcover	HFLB	PIRSA, SA Drought Hub, farming systems groups
			Monitor regional groundcover to enable proactive compliance and mitigation	DEW	HFLB, PIRSA
			Develop compliance tools and resources for groundcover management (including Landscape Affecting Activities Control Policy)	HFLB	PIRSA
			Undertake targeted compliance to protect the condition of land	HFLB	PIRSA
		1.2 Manage and restore land and soil health	Support land managers' knowledge and uptake of best practice management of land and soil including actions to address soil constraints	HFLB	PIRSA, farming systems groups, SA Drought Hub
			Support on-farm data measurement and monitoring to enable informed decisions and identify opportunities for improvement	HFLB	PIRSA, SA Drought Hub
			Support land managers' knowledge and uptake of regenerative land management practices	HFLB	Regenerative Agriculture networks
			Support holistic property planning	HFLB	PIRSA
			Support innovation and research, trialling of new technologies and/or practices, and knowledge sharing	HFLB	PIRSA, SA Drought Hub, Research institutions

Glossary of acronyms on page 57



Objectives		Linked objectives	Strategies	Actions	Lead Organisation	Supporting Organisation/s
L2	Future-proof our agriculture	C1, C2, N2	2.1 Protect high value agricultural land	Advocate for the incorporation of agricultural interests in policy land-use planning and development decisions.	HFLB	PIRSA
				Investigate and monitor the region's land-based emissions profile	HFLB	PIRSA, DEW, Industry, Research Institutions
				Develop and implement a regional net zero emissions strategy for agriculture	HFLB	PIRSA, Industry, DEW
				Support land managers to measure their emissions and sequestration potential	Industry	PIRSA, HFLB
			2.2 Support land-based emissions reduction and sequestration	Support the accelerated uptake of low emissions farm practices	HFLB, PIRSA	Industry, DAFF
				Support innovation, trial new technologies and/or practices and knowledge sharing	Ag Industry	PIRSA, HFLB, Research Institutions, DAFF, DCCEEW
				Facilitate connection to new agricultural technologies and innovative practices	HFLB	PIRSA, farming systems groups
				Support circular economy systems and local supply chains	Industry	RDA, GISA, Local Govt.
			2.3 Support primary producers to understand and prepare for projected climate change including extreme events	Build understanding of regional climate projections and potential impacts	DEW, PIRSA	HFLB, SA Drought Hub, BOM
				Support the development and implementation of climate adaptation plans for agricultural industries	Industry, PIRSA	HFLB, farming systems groups
			2.4 Improve sustainability of local agricultural industries	Support land managers to plan and implement adaptation activities	Industry	PIRSA, HFLB, SA Drought Hub
				Advocate for, and support environmental outcomes in agricultural industry sustainability frameworks	Industry	PIRSA, HFLB
				Support holistic property planning aligned to industry sustainability frameworks	Industry	PIRSA, HFLB



Objectives	Linked objectives	Strategies	Actions	Lead Organisation	Supporting Organisation/s
L3 Reduce the impact of weeds	N1, N2, N3, C2	3.1 Prevent new declared weed incursions	Facilitate the reporting of alert and notifiable weeds	PIRSA	HFLB
			Collaborate to identify new and emerging weed threats	HFLB	PIRSA, Local Govt., Landscape Boards, DIT, ARTC, ForestrySA
			Advise land managers of their weed control responsibilities	HFLB	PIRSA, Local Govt.
		3.2 Locally eradicate priority weed species identified in the regional pest and weed strategy	Provide advice to land managers on best practice weed control methods	HFLB	Local Govt., eNGOs
			Connect land managers to contractors for weed control	HFLB	Local Govt.
			Collaborate with public land managers on control of priority weeds	HFLB	Public land managers
			Undertake targeted compliance to support weed control outcomes	HFLB	PIRSA
			Provide education on alert weed species	HFLB	PIRSA, Local Govt.
			Control new declared weed incursions	Landholder	HFLB
		3.3 Manage established weeds	Undertake targeted control of priority roadside weeds	HFLB	Local Govt.
			Provide advice on best practice weed management	HFLB	Local Govt., eNGOs
			Support land managers to develop and implement property action plans for weed control	HFLB	Industry, PIRSA
			Control priority roadside weeds	HFLB	Local Govt.

Objectives		Linked objectives	Strategies	Actions	Lead Organisation	Supporting Organisation/s
L4	Reduce the impact of pest animals	C1, C2, N1, N2, N3	4.1 Prevent new pest animals arriving and spreading	Undertake targeted compliance on the confinement of high risk farmed animals	HFLB	-
				Coordinate response to priority new pest species or populations	HFLB	PIRSA
				Engage land managers in feral deer and goat control programs	HFLB	PIRSA, Landscape Boards
			4.2 Eradicate feral deer and goats from the region to reduce the impacts on production, biodiversity and public safety	Education campaign on the threat posed by feral deer and goats	HFLB	PIRSA, Landscape Boards
				Coordinate a ground and aerial shooting program	HFLB, PIRSA	Green Adelaide, NYLB, SA Water, ForestrySA
				Undertake targeted compliance to support pest control outcomes	HFLB	-
			4.3 Support land managers to adopt best practice management of rabbits, foxes, and cats	Collaborate on the targeted control of pest animals	HFLB	PIRSA, DEW, SA Water, ForestrySA, Green Adelaide
				Advise land managers of their pest animal control responsibilities	HFLB	-
				Provide advice to land managers on appropriate pest animal control methods	HFLB	PIRSA, Local Govt.
L5	Reduce landscape damage from impact-causing native species	C1, C2, N1, N2, N3, L1, L2	5.1 Promote collaborative kangaroo management to reduce the impacts on production, biodiversity and climate resilience	Connect land managers to qualified, reliable contractors	HFLB	-
				Monitor, review and report on kangaroo populations	DEW	HFLB
				Raise public awareness of the impacts of over-abundant kangaroos in the region.	HFLB	DEW, PIRSA, eNGOs, PPSA, Landscape Boards
				Provide advice to land managers on best practice kangaroo management	HFLB	DEW, PIRSA
				Undertake targeted kangaroo control for protection of priority assets	Land managers	DEW, HFLB
			5.2 Support appropriate management of other impact-causing native species	Advocate for more ecologically sustainable kangaroo management	HFLB	DEW, PIRSA, HFLB, eNGOs, SAAL, AWGIC, Research Institutions, industry
				Share research and information regarding innovative approaches to management of impact-causing native species	DEW	HFLB, Local Govt.
				Provide advice to land managers on best practice management options for impact-causing native species	HFLB	DEW, PIRSA



Case Study **Eradicating feral deer in the Hills and Fleurieu**

Feral deer are a major grazing pest in the Hills and Fleurieu region, damaging native vegetation, reducing pasture productivity and increasing road-safety risks. In South Australia, there were an estimated 40,000 feral deer in 2022, and the statewide SA Feral Deer Eradication Program has already removed over 26,000 deer through coordinated control.

Between 2022 and 2025, more than 7,500 feral deer were removed across the Adelaide Hills and Fleurieu Peninsula, significantly reducing grazing pressure in key hotspots. In the challenging peri-urban zones of the

Mount Lofty Ranges and Fleurieu foothills, more than 2,400 deer have been controlled since November 2022. These areas are notoriously difficult to manage, with deer moving between gardens, roadsides, reserves and private land, making coordinated action essential.

By aligning regional work with the statewide eradication program, the Hills and Fleurieu region is contributing to South Australia's long-term goal of achieving a deer-free landscape by 2032, protecting biodiversity, productivity and community safety.

Case Study **Reducing the impact of deer, goats and over-abundant kangaroos**

Uncontrolled grazing by feral deer, feral goats and overabundant kangaroos places heavy pressure on farms, native vegetation and soils. These impacts ripple across the landscape - reducing groundcover, preventing regeneration and making it harder for both land managers and ecosystems to recover after drought, fire or other stress. Reducing total grazing pressure is a shared responsibility. Land managers, councils, government agencies and volunteers all play a role in managing grazing animals, monitoring their impacts and restoring vegetation. Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu provides coordination, data, compliance support and technical expertise - helping everyone work together across boundaries.

Using mapping, monitoring and targeted control, the Regional Grazing Pressure Management Program identifies hotspots where grazing animals are limiting

recovery and regeneration. Partnerships enable coordinated action across public and private land, ensuring that investment and effort have maximum impact.

Kangaroo management remains a sensitive and complex topic. It is important that as a community we talk about the damage that kangaroo numbers are doing to native vegetation and productivity, and work together to find sustainable, humane ways to manage kangaroo impacts.

The regional grazing pressure program operates as a collaboration between the Department for Environment and Water, ForestrySA, SA Water, local councils, PIRSA and private land managers across priority landscapes. Partners are working together to address one of the most significant land-management challenges in the region.



Case Study **Working together to control roadside weeds**

There are over 5,000km of roads in the region, meaning over 10,000km of roadsides, and over 150 declared weeds.

This involves Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu working directly with all six councils, the Department for

Infrastructure and Transport and adjacent landholders to co-design management actions to prioritise roadside weed control across the road network, protecting biodiversity, agriculture and biosecurity, and supporting fire preparedness and resilience.



Water

Sustainable water management and healthy waterways



Why it matters

Around 60% of Adelaide's water supply comes from the catchments in the Mount Lofty Ranges. These catchment areas generate an estimated \$20.5 billion annually in total income across all sectors, representing 7.7% of South Australia's total income.

Economic figures capture one dimension of water's worth. Water also provides ecological, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values that sustain the Hills and Fleurieu region. From the forested ranges to the coastal estuaries, water sustains native plants and animals, underpins sustainable production and connects communities to nature.

Our rivers, wetlands and coasts face significant pressure from land-use change, erosion, altered flows and a changing climate. Drier years and more intense rainfall are placing strain on waterways and groundwater systems. When water health declines, the impacts flow through our soils, biodiversity, farms and towns.

Healthy water resources are the foundation of a resilient landscape.

Healthy water means healthy land, thriving nature and resilient communities.

Working with Community

Water is central to life on Country and to the identity of the Hills and Fleurieu, flowing through hundreds of local watercourses including the Onkaparinga, Bremer, Finniss, Inman and Hindmarsh rivers, and the Fleurieu swamps. First Nations people, land managers, councils, industries and volunteers all share deep connections with these waterways.

Through shared knowledge, cultural understanding and practical experience, local partners are improving the way water is managed and cared for across the landscape. Coordinated catchment action will improve water quality, restore swamps and riparian ecosystems, while strengthening the connection between land, water, nature and people.

What success looks like



Water access is fair, secure and inclusive, supporting ecological, industry, cultural and social needs.



Water quality and flows sustain people, production and nature.



Rivers, wetlands and estuaries are healthy and connected from ranges to reef.



Land-based activities are not adversely impacting estuaries, coasts or marine environments.



Communities and industries are engaged in water planning and play an active role in water stewardship.



Water storage and use is efficient, minimising waste.

Regional targets



New Water Allocation Plans for the **Eastern** and **Western Mount Lofty Ranges** that balance competing needs for water and support climate resilience are completed and implemented.

Water Action Table

Setting a shared roadmap for collective action. Showing how priorities, partners and actions come together to deliver the plan.

Objectives	Linked objectives	Strategies	Actions	Lead Organisation	Supporting Organisation/s
W1 Ensure fair and inclusive access to water	C1, C2, N1, L2	1.1 Build knowledge of water resources and trust in water science	Monitor the condition of surface and ground water resources	DEW	HFLB, EPA
			Address knowledge gaps through applied water and climate science	DEW	HFLB, Research Institutions
			Share research findings and involve community in water monitoring	HFLB	DEW, Research Institutions
		1.2 Amend and implement Eastern and Western Mount Lofty Ranges Water Allocation Plans that balance competing needs for water and support climate resilience	Engage community and stakeholders in transparent and inclusive water allocation processes	HFLB	Watertrust Australia, DEW
			Develop amendments to Water Allocation Plans	HFLB	DEW
			Enforce Water Allocation Plan rules including Water Affecting Activities	HFLB	DEW
		1.3 Recognise and enable First Nations' water interests	Provide commercial and cultural entitlements to First Nations in the EMLR and WMLR Water Allocation Plans	HFLB	DEW, PBCs
			Incorporate First Nations' knowledge and interests into environmental flows restoration programs	HFLB, PBCs	SA Water, DEW, CEWH, Landscape Boards
		2.1 Increase flows through farm dams and reservoirs to support watercourses, wetland systems and estuaries	Raise awareness of the importance of low flows for Water Dependent Ecosystems	HFLB	DEW, eNGOs, Local Govt., Landscape Boards
			Support landholders to pass low flows through farm dams	DEW	HFLB
			Deliver environmental flows from reservoirs to improve downstream ecosystem health	SA Water	HFLB, DEW, Green Adelaide
W2 Protect and restore environmental flows	C2, N1	2.2 Support River Murray environmental water delivery to significant wetlands	Deliver CLLMM Ramsar research projects and management	CLLMM, DEW	Research Institutions, MDBA, MRLB
			Deliver environmental water to targeted wetlands of high conservation value	MRLB	MDBA, CEWH, HFLB

Glossary of acronyms on page 57



Objectives		Linked objectives	Strategies	Actions	Lead Organisation	Supporting Organisation/s
W3	Strengthen water security and water use efficiency	W3, C2, L2	3.1 Drive efficient water use at all scales	Support land managers with on-farm water security planning and implementation	HFLB	Industry
				Promote improvements in primary production water use efficiency	Industry	HFLB, PIRSA
				Promote efficient urban water use	Local Govt., SA Water	DEW, EPA
			3.2 Strengthen water re-use	Plan and develop water re-use and alternative water sources (sub-regional solutions)	SA Water, Local Govt.	RDA, DEW (SMA), Water Sensitive SA, EPA
W4	Improve water quality	W4, N2	4.1 Reduce sediment and nutrient runoff into watercourses	Support landholders to care for watercourses, wetlands and dams	HFLB	eNGOs
				Regulate water affecting activities to reduce erosion and pollution into watercourses	HFLB	DEW, EPA
				Provide guidance to developers on reducing pollution of watercourses	EPA	DHUD, HFLB, Local Govt.
				Encourage Water Sensitive Urban Design to reduce urban runoff	Water Sensitive SA, DHUD	HFLB, Water Sensitive SA, Local Govt., Green Adelaide, EPA
				Prepare and implement stormwater management plans in priority areas	Local Govt., Green Adelaide, EPA	DEW (SMA), Local Govt., Green Adelaide, EPA
			4.2 Collaborate with industries to manage groundwater salinity	Monitor and manage groundwater salinity hotspots	DEW	HFLB, Industry

Glossary of acronyms on page 57



Aerial imagery of a chain of illegal dams constructed without a permit.

Case Study

Tackling illegal dams

When landholders construct or enlarge dams without approval in the Mount Lofty Ranges, they undermine the very foundations of the region's water-sharing system. The region's Water Allocation Plans (Eastern & Western) establish sustainable limits and clear rules for how much water can be captured and who holds licences. Unauthorised dams effectively "steal" water that hasn't been lawfully allocated - reducing flows to environment, downstream users and licenced water-holders.

In response, the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board has worked with landholders to explain approval requirements, conduct site assessments and educate the community and where needed undertake regulatory

action. Addressing illegal dams early and collaboratively helps protect environmental flows, support fair access to water and maintain confidence in the region's water-sharing system.

"Capturing water in an illegal dam amounts to water theft."

Michael Garrod, General Manager, Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board

Case Study

Balancing water for people, industry and the environment

The review and amendment of the Eastern and Western Mount Lofty Ranges Water Allocation Plans is the Board's flagship water initiative. These plans are the region's key tool for ensuring sustainable use of water.

The update is a collaborative, science-backed process that brings together licence holders, community members, First Nations, industry and technical experts to balance the region's social, economic and environmental needs.

Originally adopted in 2013, the plans were reviewed in 2022–23 and found to need significant amendments to respond to climate change, overallocation and declining water-dependent ecosystems.

Using new data, hydrological modelling and ecological monitoring, the new plan intends to set updated sustainable limits and allocation rules grounded in the best available science.

This process represents one of the region's most detailed examples of evidence-based, collaborative planning - combining technical expertise with local experience and community input.

Sound science and shared decisions – that's how we'll secure the region's water future.



Nature

Protecting and restoring native ecosystems and wildlife



Why it matters

From the Fleurieu coast to the ranges, the natural world shapes our region's identity and resilience. Native vegetation, wetlands and coastal ecosystems filter our water, protect soils, store carbon and provide habitat for the plants and animals that make this region unique.

Nature is under pressure - habitat loss, invasive species, altered fire patterns and a changing climate are fragmenting ecosystems and reducing biodiversity. Restoring and protecting nature is essential - healthy landscapes support community wellbeing, sustainable industries and our ability to adapt to a changing climate.

Every patch of bush, wetland and dune is part of a living network that sustains us all.

Working together to care for nature

Protecting biodiversity is a shared responsibility. First Nations, land managers, councils, industries and community groups all play vital roles in restoring habitat and managing threats.

By sharing knowledge, connecting local action, and coordinating investment across private and public land, we can achieve landscape-scale change. Blending cultural insight, local experience and science, we can rebuild connected, climate-resilient ecosystems that sustain both people and nature.

What success looks like



Native vegetation is protected and restored at scale across the region.



Threatened species and ecological communities are recovering.



Coastal and marine ecosystems are healthy and resilient to climate impacts.



Biodiversity protection is embedded in legislation, planning codes and industry practice.

Regional targets



Native vegetation cover is restored to at least **30% within priority bioregions***



88 priority threatened species and **7 priority threatened ecological communities** have reduced risk of extinction by 2040

* IBRA Associations



Nature Action Table

Setting a shared roadmap for collective action. Showing how priorities, partners and actions come together to deliver the plan.

	Objectives	Linked objectives	Strategies	Actions	Lead Organisation	Supporting Organisation/s
N1	Retain and protect existing native ecosystems	C1, C2, W4	1.1 Strengthen community understanding of the benefits of natural assets and biodiversity	Support community connection to and valuing of nature	eNGOs	DEW, Landscape Boards
				Build land managers' and community knowledge of biodiversity values in their area	HFLB	Local Govt., eNGOs
				Strengthen community knowledge of First Nations cultural values in relation to wildlife Ngartjis/totems and their habitats	PBCs	HFLB
			1.2 Prevent loss of native ecosystems and vegetation (terrestrial, riparian, swamp, wetland, coast and estuarine)	Encourage additional protections for native vegetation and ecosystems using a range of tools	DEW, SPC	-
				Undertake threat mitigation activities (e.g. exclusion fencing) to protect remnant habitats	Land manager	HFLB, eNGOs, PIRSA
				Implement actions in the Southern Fleurieu Coastal Action Plan to protect coastal areas	HFLB, Local Govt., DEW, DIT	eNGOs, First Nations
			1.3 Increase area of protected habitats, including under-represented habitat types	Manage native roadside vegetation	Local Govt.	HFLB
				Implement the Strategy for Protected and Conserved Land Areas in South Australia to increase protected areas in the region	DEW	HFLB, eNGOs, private land managers
				Identify protection opportunities for under-represented and at-risk habitats (including permanent pools, Fleurieu Peninsula Swamps, estuaries)	DEW	HFLB

Glossary of acronyms on page 57

Objectives	Linked objectives	Strategies	Actions	Lead Organisation	Supporting Organisation/s
N2	Restore and expand native ecosystems at scale to reverse biodiversity declines and improve climate resilience	C1, C2	Support land managers to undertake revegetation	HFLB	eNGOs
			Implement the ReBird the Ranges Action Plan including coordination of large-scale revegetation projects	HFLB	eNGOs, research institutions, DEW, public land managers, landscape boards
			Develop a native seed supply strategy to support restoration efforts	Research Institutions	HFLB, eNGOs
			Implement actions in the Southern Fleurieu Coastal Action Plan to restore coastal ecosystems and offshore island habitats	HFLB, Local Govt., DEW	eNGOs, First Nations, Green Adelaide
			Provide advice on prevention and management of priority marine pests	PIRSA	-
			Reconstruct and restore shellfish reefs and seagrass habitats	eNGOs, Research Institutions	DEW, HFLB, PIRSA
			Improve understanding of seagrass extent and condition	DEW	Research Institutions, eNGOs, EPA, PIRSA, SA Water
			Implement the Algal Bloom recovery plan (in development)	DPC	DEW, Research institutions, PIRSA, Green Adelaide, HFLB, eNGOs, EPA
			Support land managers to undertake restoration and threat mitigation activities	HFLB	eNGOs, Local Govt.
			Provide advice on the prevention and control of priority freshwater pest species	PIRSA	DEW, HFLB, Green Adelaide
N3	Recover threatened species and ecological communities	C2	Continue the implementation of Ramsar management strategies and related plans	DEW	MRLB, CLLMM, HFLB, Aust. Govt.
			Support cultural practices on Country including fire, and First Nations-led restoration of habitats for the protection of Ngartjis/ totems	HFLB	PBCs, Local Govt., eNGOs, DEW, MRLB
			Support establishment and engagement of First Nations led Ranger Teams in landscape restoration and cultural asset protection	HFLB	PBCs, Local Govt., eNGOs, DEW
			Implement actions outlined in the HFLB Action Plan for Threatened Species and Ecological Communities	HFLB	DCCEEW, DEW, eNGOs, ForestrySA
			Support land managers' and community participation in threatened species and ecological community recovery actions	HFLB	eNGOs



Case Study

Restoring habitat to bring species back from the brink

The Back from the Brink program is restoring habitat on the Fleurieu Peninsula and the Mount Lofty Ranges to give species at risk a fighting chance. Across 2020–22, over 240,000 seedlings were planted across more than 80 hectares of the region's landscapes.

One of the species benefiting is the western beautiful firetail, one of the region's most vulnerable bird populations, with fewer than 50 mature individuals known in the Mount Lofty Ranges.

By re-creating dense shrubland habitat in cleared areas, the project is rebuilding links between existing bushland patches and creating safe corridors for vulnerable wildlife. The program is delivered through partnerships between land managers, volunteers, First Nations groups, conservation agencies, the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board and the Australian Government, bringing science and practical action together on the ground.

Case Study

Protecting the hooded plover

Along the Fleurieu and metropolitan Adelaide coasts, the hooded plover remains one of Australia's most vulnerable beach-nesting birds. With only a few dozen breeding pairs across the region, its survival depends on careful management and strong community partnerships.

Supported by Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu, Green Adelaide, local councils-BirdLife Australia and volunteers work together to fence nesting sites, monitor breeding success, restore coastal dunes and educate community about the importance of keeping dogs on leads. More than 7,000 native plants have been established to stabilise habitat and reduce predation.

In the 2024-25 season, 35 breeding pairs were recorded – close to the highest number since monitoring began.

This ongoing effort shows how local action and shared stewardship can help species like the hooded plover recover and thrive along our changing coast.



"It's proof that when communities, land managers and agencies work together, recovery can happen."

Caroline Taylor, Coast and Marine Project Officer

Planning framework

This Regional Landscape Plan is shaped by ideas, strategies and values from across our region. It draws on agreements and plans at local, regional, state and international levels. Delivery is a shared effort, with many partners working together to turn plans into action.

About the board

The Hills and Fleurieu Landscape 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 responsibilities include preparing and maintaining a regional landscape plan.

The board is a regional facilitator, catalyst and partnership builder. The board fosters local capacity, helps share knowledge between stakeholders, and supports and aligns work of many across the region. Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu delivers programs and projects on behalf of the board.



National and State Strategies

- Australia's Strategy for Nature 2024-2030
- National Soil Strategy and Action Plan 2023
- National Agreement on Closing the Gap
- National Biosecurity Strategy 2022-2032
- South Australia's Net Zero Strategy 2024-2030

State Landscape Strategy

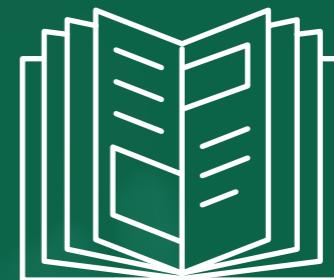


- State planning policies and PDI Code
- SA Government Resilience and Adaptation Actions
- SA's Water Security Statement 2022
- SA Feral Deer Eradication Strategy



Regional and Local Plans and Strategies

Hills and Fleurieu Regional Landscape Plan 2026-2031



- Healthy Country Plans
- Regional Plans under PDI Act
- Drought Resilience Plans
- Resilient Hills and Coasts Regional Climate Action Plan
- Hills and Fleurieu Regional Pest Plant and Animal Strategy
- Hills and Fleurieu region land, water and nature emergency preparedness, response and recovery plan

- Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board Action Plan for threatened species and ecological communities
- Southern Fleurieu Coastal Action Plan
- Murray-Barling Basin Plan
- Eastern and Western Mt Lofty Ranges Water Allocation Plans
- Hills and Fleurieu Net Zero Emissions Strategy for Agriculture (in draft)
- Councils' Strategic Plans
- Organisational investment and business plans

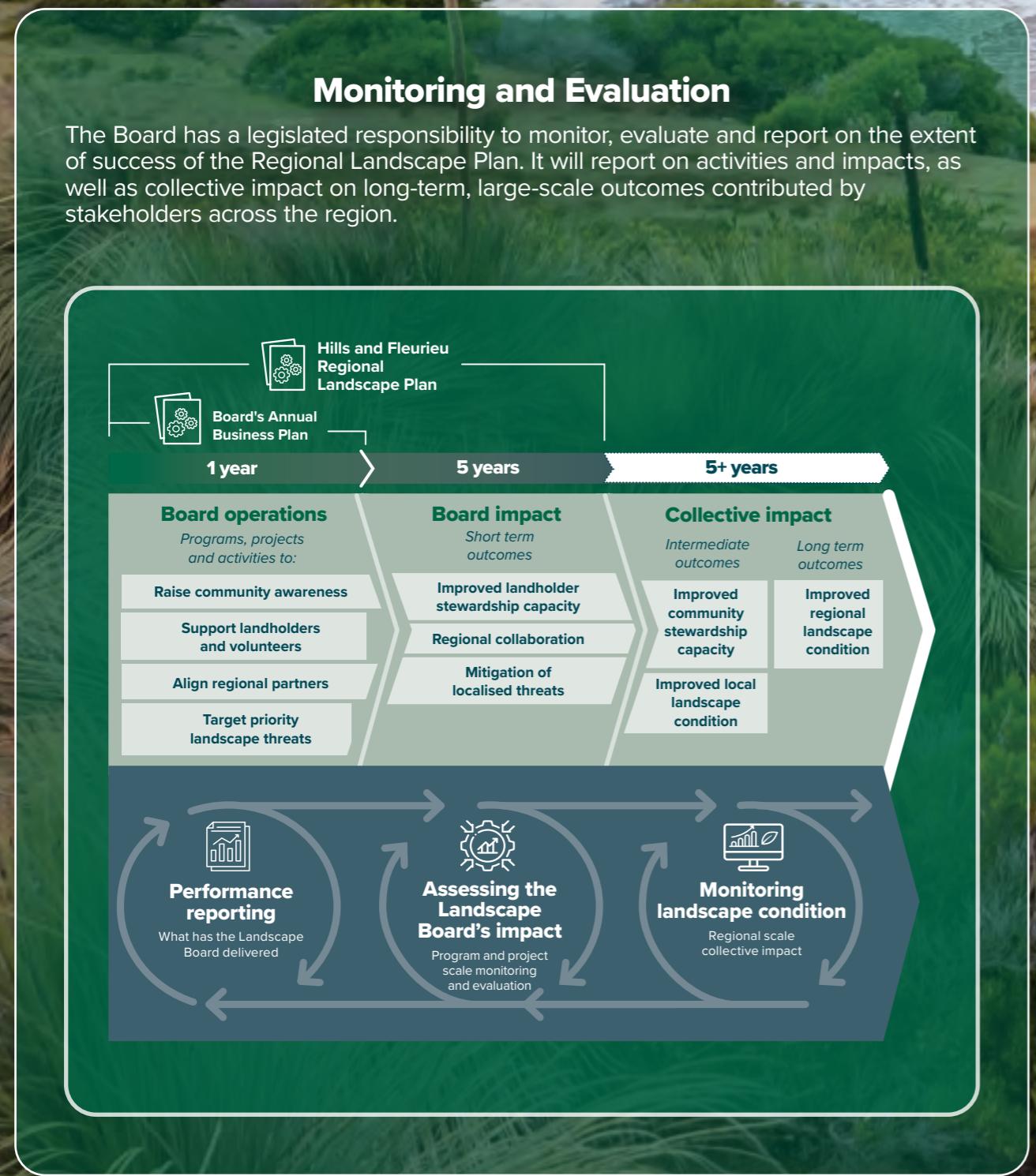


Delivered by partners across the region



- Landscape Board
- Councils
- First Nations
- Industry Bodies

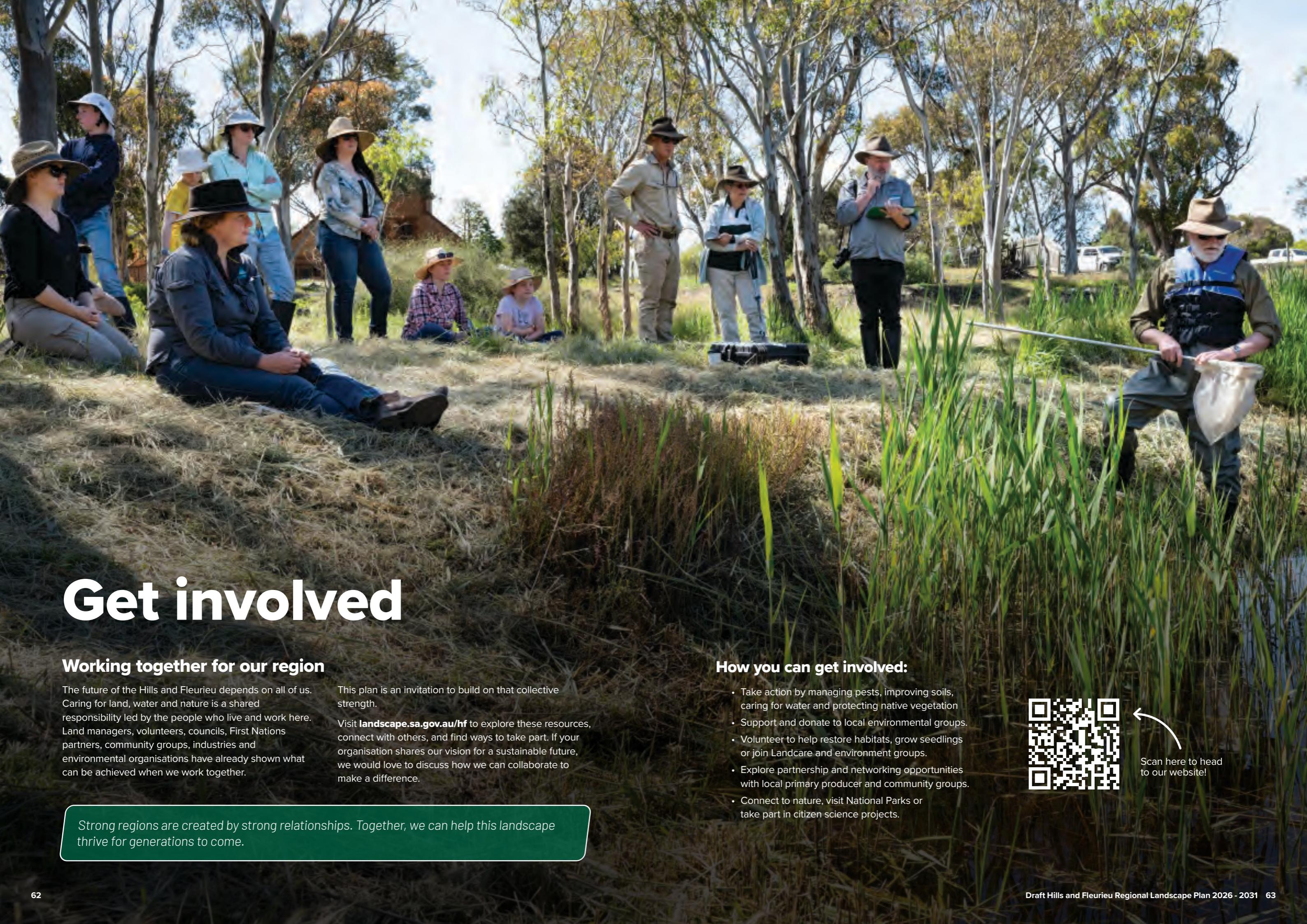
- Land managers
- Environmental and agricultural groups
- Agencies
- Funding partners



Actions table glossary

ACSA-SA	Australian Citizen Science Association (SA Branch)
AGD (AAR)	Attorney-General's Department (Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation)
ARTC	Australian Rail Track Corporation
AWGIC	Australian Wild Game Industry Council
CEWH	Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder
CFS	Country Fire Service
CLLMM	Coorong Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Research Centre
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
DEW	Department for Environment and Water
DEW-NVC	DEW Native Vegetation Council
DHUD	Department for Housing and Urban Development
DIT	Department for Infrastructure and Transport
eNGO	environmental non-government organisation (includes community groups)
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
GISA	Green Industries SA
HFLB	Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board
KILB	Kangaroo Island Landscape Board
MRLB	Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board
PBC	Prescribed Body Corporate*
PIRSA	Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia
PPSA	Primary Producers SA
RDA	Regional Development Australia
SAAL	SA Arid Lands Landscape Board
SAFA	SA Government Financing Authority
SANTS	South Australian Native Title Services
SMA	Stormwater Management Authority
SPC	State Planning Commission

* Legal entity that represents First Nations people and manage native title rights on their behalf



Get involved

Working together for our region

The future of the Hills and Fleurieu depends on all of us. Caring for land, water and nature is a shared responsibility led by the people who live and work here. Land managers, volunteers, councils, First Nations partners, community groups, industries and environmental organisations have already shown what can be achieved when we work together.

Strong regions are created by strong relationships. Together, we can help this landscape thrive for generations to come.

This plan is an invitation to build on that collective strength.

Visit landscape.sa.gov.au/hf to explore these resources, connect with others, and find ways to take part. If your organisation shares our vision for a sustainable future, we would love to discuss how we can collaborate to make a difference.

How you can get involved:

- Take action by managing pests, improving soils, caring for water and protecting native vegetation
- Support and donate to local environmental groups.
- Volunteer to help restore habitats, grow seedlings or join Landcare and environment groups.
- Explore partnership and networking opportunities with local primary producer and community groups.
- Connect to nature, visit National Parks or take part in citizen science projects.



Scan here to head to our website!



Connect with us

-  www.landscape.sa.gov.au/hf
-  [HFLandscapeSA](#)
-  [@landscapeshillsandfleurieu](#)
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