

# Your property and the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*



## Caring for land, water, and nature

Whether you're a primary producer, rural lifestyle, bush block owner, or somewhere in between - all landowners and agistees have legal responsibilities around maintaining their land.

The *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* (the Act) helps to protect land, water and nature from land management practices that degrade land.

## Key responsibilities under the Act

The Act focuses on three main areas of land management: soils, water resources, and pest plants and animals. Our common-sense approach aims to:

- Minimise risks of soil erosion and soil degradation
- Ensure equitable sharing of water for users and the environment and minimise impacts on watercourses and swamps
- Mitigate impacts from pests

## 1. Soils

Soil is a valuable resource that takes many thousands of years to form. Soil movement from over-grazed or tilled areas can significantly impact water quality and marine environments far from the source of the issue. Topsoil losses can have significant agricultural impacts.

As a landholder you are responsible for protecting your soil to prevent degradation and erosion. Most simply, this involves maintaining sufficient vegetation cover to protect soils and taking steps to prevent overgrazing.

## 2. Water resources

Water in the region is a precious community resource with great economic, environmental, social and cultural value. Please note: Water licensing is managed by the Department for Environment and Water.

### No new dams and no enlargement of existing dams

Since the Water Allocation Plans for the Eastern and Western Mount Lofty Ranges were implemented in 2013, **the construction of new dams and the enlargement of existing dams is not allowed**. This includes any water storage structures such as wetlands, ponds or basins, that collect and retain surface water runoff.

### Working in creeks, swamps and all other watercourses

Constructing a crossing or undertaking erosion management actions in a watercourse, or repairing a dam are some of the many activities that require an approved permit before works begin. The permit process ensures proposed activities use site-appropriate design and construction methods to minimise environmental harm and improve long-term effectiveness. These types of permits can only be applied for from Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu.





### An important note on Aboriginal Heritage

Many will be surprised that evidence of Aboriginal land use prior to colonisation can still be found across the landscape. Scar trees, middens, hearths, burial sites and stone arrangements are present even in the most highly modified landscapes. Developments close to water have a higher chance of discovering Aboriginal Heritage than many other landscape features. Depending on the nature of development, landowners can conduct an Aboriginal Heritage search via the online Taa Wika portal before starting any work around creeks, lakes, or wetlands. Some Aboriginal groups may also offer site assessments to support your understanding of cultural values.



## 3. Declared pest plants and animals

### What does 'declared' mean?

Pest plants and animals are declared under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* because they are considered a threat to agriculture, the natural environment or public health and safety. This means that restrictions may apply on keeping, moving, selling or releasing them.

In some situations, there may also be a requirement to control declared plants and animals on your property. The Regional Pest Plant and Animal Strategy on our website provides further direction regarding management of these pests.

Refer to the Department of Primary Industries and Regions ([pir.sa.gov.au](http://pir.sa.gov.au)) for a full list of declared species and their specific declarations.



African lovegrass

## Roadside and enforcement responsibilities

Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu is responsible for managing declared weeds on roadsides and may recover control costs from adjoining landholders. We collaborate with the six local councils in our region and use a risk-based approach for effective weed management on roadsides.

### The Stewardship Program is here to help

Our Stewardship Program supports people who are actively engaged in the management of land, water and nature. The program can support you by:

- Providing free advice and property visits
- Delivering courses and field days
- Connecting you with local service providers, peers and mentors
- Connecting you with funding opportunities including grants

Phone our office in Mount Barker on 8391 7500

### Other legislation for property owners to be aware of:

- *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988*
- *Livestock Act 1997*
- *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*
- *Environment Protection Act 1993*
- *Native Vegetation Act 1991*
- *Fences Act 1975*
- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*
- *Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016*
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*