Eastern and Western Mount Lofty Ranges Water Allocation Plan (WAPs) Reviews

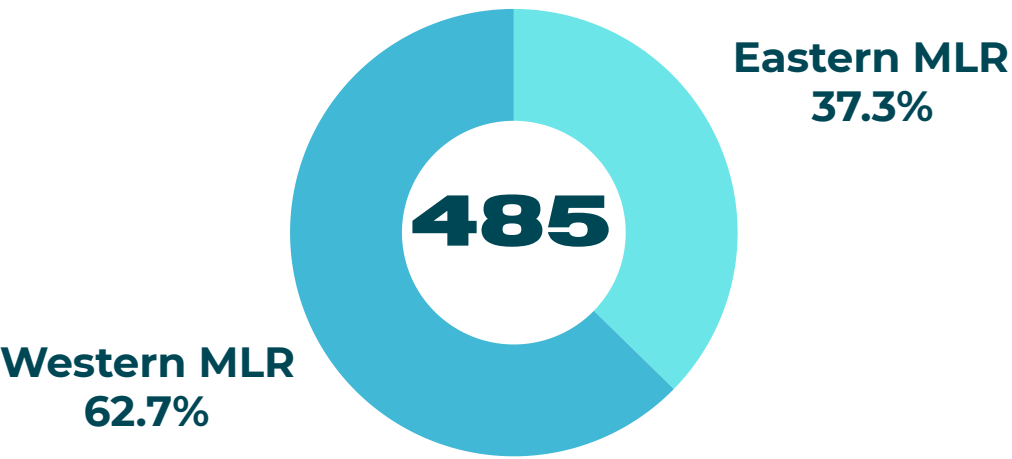**LANDSCAPE SOUTH AUSTRALIA HILLS AND FLEURIEU**

How we engaged

About the WAP Reviews

- WAPs were adopted in 2013.
- Must be comprehensively reviewed every 10 years.
- This review process started in 2022 and was completed in 2023.
- Review assessed WAP successes and future needs.

Survey participants

485

Eastern MLR 37.3%

Western MLR 62.7%

*MLR = Mount Lofty Ranges

Our reach

>2,700 letters sent to licence holders

>50,000 Facebook reach

>37,000 print advertisement reach

>360 face-to-face discussions

Key issues raised

Stock and domestic

Water efficiency

Forestry

Climate Change

Water security

Fire water

Concern about allocation cuts

Transparency and accessibilty
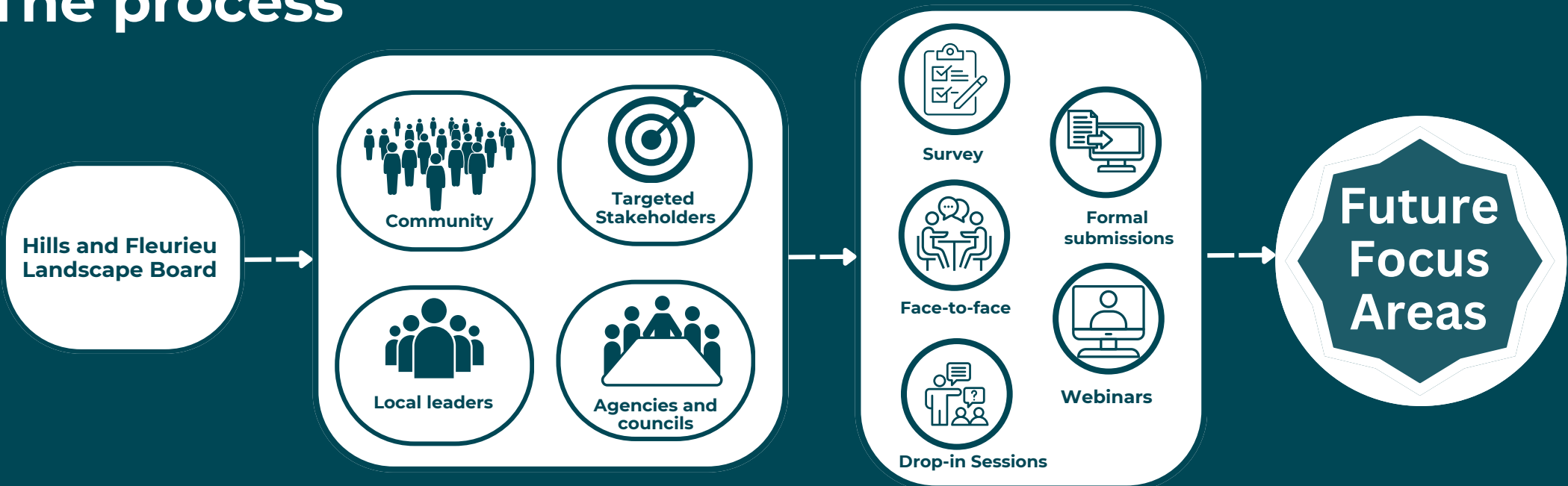
Ecosystem health

Changing land-use

Water quality

Trading and transfer rules

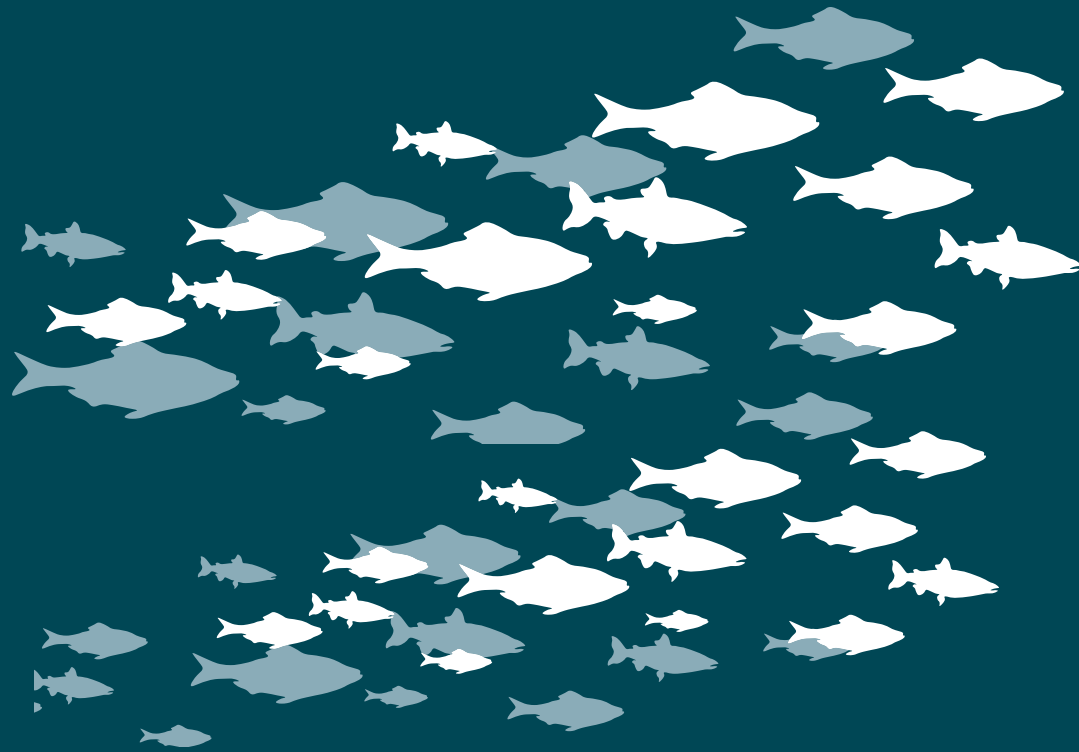Low flows

Buy-backs

First Nations water interests

The process

Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board

Community

Targeted Stakeholders

Local leaders

Agencies and councils

Survey

Formal submissions

Face-to-face

Webinars

Drop-in Sessions

Future Focus Areas

Key Findings

What the 2013 WAPs achieved

- Introduced additional controls on the development of dams.
- Established a framework for water licensing and trading.
- Proposed strategies to mitigate the impact of dams on catchment flows.

What we've learnt

Water-dependent ecosystems are declining in many parts of the region due to altered flow patterns caused by water storages and water diversions.

Water resources are overallocated in many areas.

Groundwater resources are currently stable in most areas.

First Nations involvement in planning process is crucial for progress.

More information and new approaches need to be explored to manage forestry and stock and domestic water use in future.

Climate change is influencing the timing and quantity of rainfall. This requires updated data and analysis methods.

What next?

- The amendment is expected to run until the end of 2027.
- **Focus areas** will reassess capacity of water resources and environmental objectives, address knowledge gaps and improve monitoring sites.
- The process will involve scientific research and further engagement with the community and policy makers.