## Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board Business Plan

2021-2022



With the inaugural five year Landscape Plan finalised in July 2021, we're excited to shift focus from the high-level strategic needs of the region to putting the plan into action. There's lots to do!



This business plan shows how the board will contribute to the five year Landscape Plan priorities for 2021-22. It sets out:

- the board's revenue from levies and other funding sources
- what programs and activities the board will invest in.

The Hills and Fleurieu region faces significant opportunities and challenges over the next decade. How we respond as a regional community will shape the long-term health of the region. The business plan reflects the board's emphasis on addressing a set of on-going issues, as well as tackling emerging challenges. For example, in 2021-22, the board will put a significant focus on:

- working with Councils towards locally eradicating priority weeds;
- supporting landholders with catchment recovery from the Cudlee Creek bushfires;
- reviewing the McLaren Vale Water Allocation Plan and supporting the development of a water security plan;
- facilitating regional dialogues and partnerships to stop the decline in woodland birds in the Mount Lofty Ranges; and
- building capacity in regenerative agriculture and adapting to a low carbon future.

We look forward to working with the region's stakeholders to achieve the priorities of the Landscape Plan.

I May

David Greenhough

Chair of the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board



I, David Speirs, 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 2021-22 for the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board.

Hon. David Speirs MP
Minister for Environment and Water



## The board's business plan

This annual business plan details how the board will contribute to the priorities of the regional Landscape Plan 2021-2026 in its first year. It shows how revenues from the board levies and external sources will be spent across a range of programs and projects in accordance with the board's statutory obligations. These include:

- · maintaining water allocation plans;
- supporting landholders to sustainably manage land, water-affecting activities, declared pest plants and animals and impact-causing native species;
- · building community involvement in landscape management; and
- fostering biodiversity conservation and integrated landscape management.





#### The board's leadership approach in 2021-22

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 will be key to maximising our collective efforts.

To this end, the board will operate as a regional facilitator, catalyst and partnership builder. This role will involve 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 (see <u>Landscape Plan</u>) into action. In 2021-2022, this will be done in the following ways:

### Listening and facilitating dialogues

The board will bring stakeholders together to develop a coordinated plan for tackling the decline in Mount Lofty Ranges woodland birds, develop a regional pest management strategy, and review the effectiveness of the McLaren Vale Water Allocation Plan.

### Partnering, innovating and expanding investment

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

#### Harnessing and building capacity

The board will continue to deliver core capacitybuilding programs to support landholders in managing weeds and pest animals, wateraffecting activities and regenerative agriculture. It will also work with First Nations on projects to share cultural knowledge of landscape management.

## Connecting to nature and shifting culture towards restoration

This year the board will seek to amplify the learning and impact of land management volunteers, innovators and 'best practice' case studies across the region. We are 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 will start work on key regional challenges, including moving towards carbon neutrality by auditing its own carbon footprint and understanding the emissions from land-related activities in the region. We will also work with industries on climate adaptation through a project funded by the Future Drought Fund.

# Five priorities for sustainable landscape management

In 2020-2021 the board developed a 5-year Landscape Plan providing strategic guidance for addressing some of the region's biggest challenges and opportunities.

The <u>Landscape Plan</u> 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		
o ക	Land	L1.	Reduce the impact and spread of weeds	
M	Regenerating biodiverse and highly productive landscapes	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	
۵.	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	
ψ.		N2.	Conserve and rehabilitate our coastal, estuarine and marine ecosystems	
		N3.	Recover our threatened species and ecological communities	
-03	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	
~0	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	
		P.4	Increase community capacity to manage our landscapes	























### Partnering across the region

#### Priority Pest Control & Towards eradication: 20 Weeds by 2023

Involving the development of a Regional Pest Plant and Animal Strategy, 20 eradication plans for priority

weeds and multiple weed control projects with the region's six councils focused on roadsides and reserves.

#### **Local Economic Fire Recovery**

Working with Department of Primary Industries and Regions (DPIR) to deliver economic and landscape bushfire recovery in the Cudlee Creek firescar.

Engaging local contractors and consultants to deliver a range of fire recovery activities such as pest plant and animal control, watercourse rehabilitation, pasture management and internal fencing.



#### McLaren Vale Water Allocation and Water Security Planning

Working with industries, partner organisations and community to review the McLaren Vale Water Allocation Plan and to develop a Water Security Plan to ensure future availability of water for the region.



YANKALILLA

VICTOR HAR

McLAREN VALE

CAPE JERVIS

#### **Grassroots Grants**

Supporting individuals, volunteers, community groups, schools, and NGOs working at the local level on a not-for-profit basis to improve the management of natural and productive landscapes at the local level.





















Working to strengthen our shared understanding of Kaurna, Ngarrindjeri and Peramangk knowledge of Country, cultural practices and history.
Collaborating with First Nations to incorporate their interests and priorities into project design and delivery across the region.







Building on five years of paddock tree restoration in the eastern Mount
Lofty Ranges, this project aims to improve the resilience of declining woodland birds in low rainfall grassy woodlands, within the Cudlee Creek fire scar.



#### **Back from the Brink**

Reducing extinction risks and improving the long-term viability for 37 threatened species in the



MOUNT BARKER

GOOLWA

#### Future Proofing Agriculture and Building Drought Resilience

Facilitating the sharing of information by connecting industry and agriculture groups and providing courses, workshops and field days to help rural landholders improve their knowledge of regenerative land management and adapt to climate change.













## Major funding partners in 2021-22

#### **Australian Government**

The board is proud to partner with the Australian Government to deliver outcomes for the *National Landcare Regional Land Partnerships* (RLP) program. The Board is the Service Provider for the Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges management unit. It delivers Core Services, such as communications, regional planning, First Nations partnering and the Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator, and three 5-year projects: *Healthy soils, Healthy Landscapes, Back from the Brink* and *Threatened orchids recovery.* The projects contribute towards the following RLP outcomes:

- By 2023, the trajectory of species targeted under the Threatened Species Strategy, and other EPBC Act priority species, is stabilised or improved (RLP Outcome 2).
- By 2023, there will be increased awareness and adoption of land management practices that improve and protect the condition of soil, biodiversity and vegetation (RLP Outcome 5).

The Resilient Hills and Fleurieu project funded by the Future Drought Fund (FDF) NRM Grants is focused on increasing the resilience of farming systems in the region. Project activities will include developing multi-species summer fodder crop demonstration sites in partnership with the Fleurieu Farming Systems group; monitoring a commercial farm embracing regenerative agriculture, field days, case studies and developing a practitioners' network.















#### **Joint Australian and State Govt**

The board and Department of Primary Industries and Regions are partnering to deliver the Building Back Better Agriculture and Land Management – Cudlee Creek Bushfire project. Co-funded by the South Australian and Australian Governments through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, it will support:

- · Cudlee Creek land managers in fire recovery through pest plant and animal, soil and watercourse management activities
- · Economic recovery through engagement of local contractors and consultants
- · Land managers building and maintaining disaster resilience and preparedness.

The Woodlands Birds Resilience project builds on a long term partnership with Trees for Life, delivering the Paddock Tree Project in the eastern Mt Lofty Ranges. With support from the Australian and South Australian governments, the aim is to improve the resilience of woodland bird populations by planting and protecting scattered native trees on grazing properties the Cudlee Creek fire scar. Working closely with DEW, this project will also produce a fire planning tool to help identify and prioritise locations for prescribed burning that will improve habitat quality for key threatened bird species.









#### South Australian Government

The board is delivering the Catchment Recovery project for the South Australian government as part of the government's bushfire recovery funding. The project will implement a grants program that supports private landholders with fencing and land management activities that restore catchments affected by the Cudlee Creek and Cherry Gardens bushfires.

The board will coordinate delivery of three projects funded by the Landscape Priorities Fund:

- For the Towards Eradication 20 weeds by 2023 project, the board will develop 20 local eradication plans for priority weeds and will partner with councils to implement weed eradication on roadsides and council reserves.
- The Natural Resource Centres Building Capacity project will provide critical funding for the Natural Resources Centres across the Hills and Fleurieu, Northern and Yorke and Green Adelaide regions to support community participation in landscape management activities.
- The Restoring coastal and marine habitats for wildlife conservation project will be a collaboration between the board, Green Adelaide, councils, local community groups and volunteers to support Hooded Plover populations to remove weeds and revegetate dune systems from Myponga Beach to Goolwa. It will also partner with OzFish on 'Seeds for Snapper' seagrass restoration.







#### Non-government organisations

A Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife Community Conservation Grant is supporting the Bandicoot Superhighway project to reduce



the extinction risk of the endangered Southern Brown Bandicoot in the Mount Lofty Ranges. By partnering with the Sturt Upper Reaches Landcare Group, DEW, private landholders, and the broader community, this project will undertake coordinated interventions in line with the regional recovery plan for this species.



## Sources of funding

Table 1: Sources of funding in 2021-22

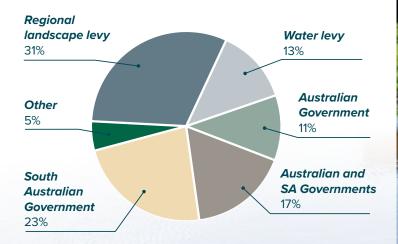
Funding source	2021-22 revenue (\$)
Landscape and water levies	
Regional landscape levy <sup>1</sup>	5,082,400
Water levy <sup>1</sup>	2,184,700
External funding	
Australian Government National Landcare Program Regional Land Partnerships <sup>2</sup>	1,059,100
Australian Government Future Drought Fund (FDF) NRM Grants Resilient Hills and Fleurieu	139,400
Australian and South Australian Government-funded Local Economic Recovery Fund (LERF) Building Back Better Agriculture and Land Management – Cudlee Creek Bushfire	2,343,400
Australian and South Australian Government-funded Woodlands Birds Resilience	400,000
Landscape Priorities Fund	292,200
Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife Bandicoot Superhighway	125,000
Service level agreement with Green Adelaide <sup>3</sup>	470,200
Service level agreement with landscape boards <sup>3</sup>	73,100
Other revenue	
South Australian Government (SG) Cudlee Creek Catchment Recovery (carry-over)	2,600,000
Landscape Priorities Fund (carry-over)	876,700
Approved push forward (levy)	125,000
Approved push forward (external)	550,000
Interest	10,000

Landscape levy income to be raised in 2021-22 is based on 1% actual CPI rate (September 2020 quarter, Adelaide) increase on the approved 2020-21 income, and water levy income is based on 1% increase on the 2020-21 water levy rates.

**TOTAL INCOME** 

- 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.
- <sup>3</sup> 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.

Figure 1. Income by funding source



16,331,200

## 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 Table 2 also indicates the Focus Areas that will be addressed by projects.

When reading the tables, note that the priorities and programs may be viewed by the board as being of equivalent importance but be allocated contrasting levels of funding due to inherent differences in operating costs. For example, water monitoring is more cost intensive than running capacity-building workshops.

Table 2: Expenditure by priorities and funding source in 2021-22

Priority	Landscape and water levies (\$)	External funding (\$)	Total (\$)
Land	1,840,300	1,173,400	3,013,700
Water	3,051,700	0	3,051,700
Nature	585,200	4,021,800	4,607,000
Climate	362,600	2,743,400	3,106,000
Community	1,562,300	990,600	2,552,900
Total expenditure	7,402,100	8,929,200	16,331,300



**Table 3:** Project expenditure by priority and focus areas in 2021-22

Priority	Primary focus areas	Projects	Levy funded expenditure (\$)	Externally funded expenditure (\$)
Land	L1. Reduce the impact and	Priority pests management	651,800	600,000
	spread of weeds	Towards eradication: 20 weeds by 2023 (LPF) <sup>1</sup>		
		Coordination of compliance activities	27,600	122,600
	L2. Reduce the impact of pest animals and impact-causing native animals	Regional grazing pressure and impacting native animals	264,300	-
	L3. Support the uptake of	Future-proofing our agriculture	386,600	139,400
	regenerative agriculture and land management	Resilient Hills and Fleurieu (FDF)		
	L4. Future-proof our agriculture	Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator (RLP)	-	142,900
		Healthy Soils, Healthy Landscapes (RLP)	41,700	168,500
		Program support <sup>2</sup>	468,300	-
Water	W1. Deliver water resource planning to meet ecological, economic, cultural and social needs	Water planning for McLaren Vale, Eastern and Western Mt Lofty Ranges	599,500	-
	W2. Improve on-ground management of our water resources	Management of watercourses and water resources	453,500	-
	W3. Build understanding of our water resources	Monitoring water resources	310,200	-
		State water planning and management contribution <sup>3</sup>	1,439,300	-
		Program support <sup>2</sup>	249,200	-
Nature 1	N1. Protect and restore our native vegetation and freshwater ecosystems	Nature stewardship	224,600	40,000
		Catchment recovery in the Cudlee Creek bushfire catchments (SG)	-	2,600,000
	N2. Conserve and rehabilitate our coastal, estuarine and marine ecosystems	Restoring coastal and marine habitats for wildlife conservation (LPF) <sup>1</sup>	-	250,000
	N3. Recover our threatened species and ecological communities	Back from the Brink (RLP)	29,700	763,500
		Bandicoot superhighway (FNPW)	43,000	125,000
		Threatened orchids recovery (RLP)	-	30,700
		Management of Australian Government partnerships for biodiversity outcomes (RLP)	-	212,600
		Program support <sup>2</sup>	287,900	-

	Priority	Primary focus areas	Projects	Levy funded expenditure (\$)	Externally funded expenditure (\$)
	Climate	C1. Transition to net zero carbon emissions	Transition to zero emissions	73,500	-
		C2. Build climate resilience of our nature	Woodland birds resilience (SG)	-	400,000
		C3. Build climate resilience of our communities and agriculture	Climate readiness of industries and communities	48,500	-
			Cudlee Creek local economic and bushfire recovery (LER DPIR)	-	2,343,400
			Program support <sup>2</sup>	240,600	-
	Community	P1. Foster a regional culture of landscape stewardship	Raising community awareness	321,000	87,000
		P2. Walk alongside First Nations in looking after Yarta / Ruwi (Country)	First Nations partnerships project	29,600	263,200
	P3. Strengthen shared understanding of landscape management challenges	Regional dialogues and partnerships	392,500	-	
	P4. Increase community capacity to manage our landscapes	capacity to manage our	Engaging community and volunteers	259,900	-
		Grassroots Grants	220,000	-	
			Building community capacity through environment centres (LPF)	34,200	640,400
			Program support <sup>2</sup>	305,100	-
	TOTAL			7,402,100	8,929,200

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This budget includes the Landscape Priorities Fund funding for two years, a portion will be carried-over for implementation of the project in 2022-23.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Included in the 'Program Support' for each priority are board and committee expenses, monitoring and business running costs.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 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.

## **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**. From 2022 three of the board members will be elected by the community.

In 2021-22, the board has the following committees to support its operations:

- · Risk and Performance Committee:
- · Water Planning Steering Committee;
- Water Allocation Planning Advisory Committees for McLaren Vale, and the Western and 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 2021-22, it is anticipated that there will be 42.4 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions (28.5 FTE funded by levies and 13.85 FTE funded by external funding). The H&F levy-funded staff salaries and on-costs will cost \$3.25M. In Table 3, these staff costs are apportioned to the projects that they will deliver.

In 2021-22, the board will contract the Department for Environment and Water to provide Corporate Services support.



#### **Measuring progress**

The board has a MERI (Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement) plan that sets out how it will monitor and evaluate the progress and impact of its programs.

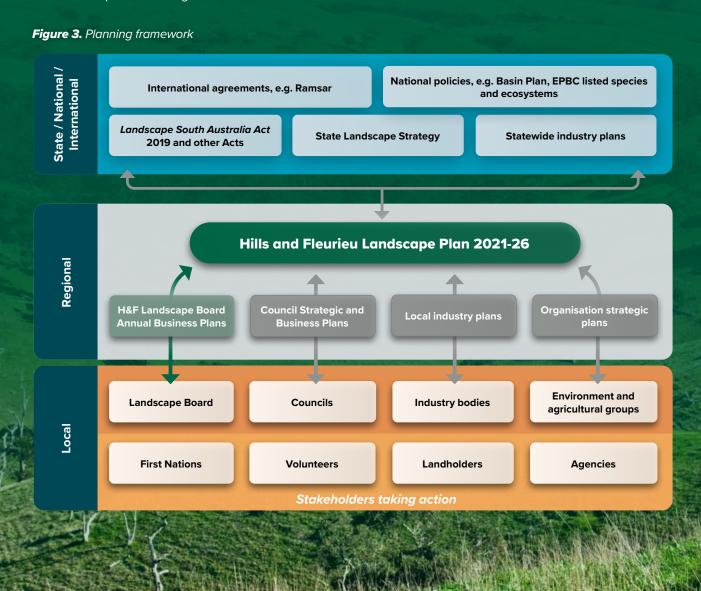
#### This includes:

- producing a community-facing 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 impact 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.

#### **Planning framework**

As shown in Figure 3, the work of the board delivered through the Business Plan contributes to the Landscape Plan alongside the work of other organisations and community in restoring and protecting the landscapes of the region.

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



## 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 2021-22 will be a CPI (Consumer Price Index) increase on the approved 2020-21 income.

In 2021-22, each council's contribution is based on a 1% increase on 2020-21 contributions. For Alexandrina and Mt Barker Councils, the landscape levies will continue to be collected based on the Natural Resource Management (NRM) region boundaries (see Table 4). This will allow time for the Board to work with these councils to implement an equalisation scheme so that in future a common levy can be collected across the region.

**Table 4:** Council contributions to regional landscape levy income, number of rateable properties and collection fees for councils for 2021/22

Local government area	Council contribution to regional landscape levy 2021-22 (\$)	No. rateable properties	Council collection fees (\$)
Adelaide Hills	968,258	18,749	7,244
Alexandrina (AMLR NRM area)	181,754	3,796	3,506
Alexandrina (SAMDB NRM area)	1,366,257	15,972	6,550
Mount Barker (AMLR NRM area)	112,998	2,160	3,097
Mount Barker (SAMDB NRM area)	1,526,804	16,430	6,665
Onkaparinga	319,717	6,593	4,205
Victor Harbor	408,808	11,262	5,373
Yankalilla	197,889	5,907	4,034
Total	5,082,485	80,869	40,673

#### **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 2021-22, 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 2021-22 (Table 5) are increased by CPI of 1% on the 2020-21 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 2021-22

Prescribed Water Resource Area (PWRA) / Prescribed Wells Area (PWA) and allocation type	2021-22 levy rate	Proportion of the PWRA's allocated water within Hills & Fleurieu
Angas Bremer PWA water taking allocation	\$6.82 per ML of water allocated or a levy of \$200, whichever is greater	100%
Eastern Mt Lofty Ranges PWRA water taking allocation	\$6.82 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)	\$1.63 / ML	100%
McLaren Vale PWA water taking allocation	\$6.34 /ML	96%
Western Mount Lofty Ranges PWRA water taking allocation	\$6.34/ML	93%
(including water levy on organisations authorised under section 105 to take water)		
Western Mount Lofty Ranges PWRA public water supply - SA Water fixed charge	\$1,268,358	100%



#### **Connect with us**

Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board

www.landscape.sa.gov.au/hf www.facebook.com/HFLandscapeSA hf.landscapeboard@sa.gov.au

#### Mt Barker

Upper level, Corner Mann & Walker Street, Mount Barker, SA, 5251 Ph: 08 8391 7500

#### Willunga

5 Aldinga Road, Willunga, SA, 5172 Ph: 08 8550 3400

Published by the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board, July 2021. The content of this document is licensed under the **Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 Licence.** All other rights are reserved. FIS 96612.