

Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Plan

2021 - 2026



The Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board is delighted to present the first Landscape Plan to guide the stewardship and restoration of our landscapes.



This plan sets out a strong vision and priorities for the Hills and Fleurieu region. We have worked hard to integrate the passion, aspirations and ideas of our community into the plan.

We hope the plan will help align and coordinate everyone's efforts to restore and protect this precious region. It will require strong partnerships between the board, landholders, volunteers, First Nations, industries,

government, not-for-profit organisations and the wider community to achieve the plan's priorities.

A heartfelt thanks to those who have contributed their ideas during the planning process. We look forward to implementing the plan with you over the next 5 years.



David Greenhough
Chair of the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board



I am pleased to approve this Landscape Plan for the Hills and Fleurieu region. It is great to see that the board have placed the community at the heart of this plan, and that the plan has a strong vision for building a more resilient, biodiverse and prosperous region.

I look forward to seeing the plan put into action.



Hon. David Speirs, MP
Minister for Environment and Water

Approved under Section 50 of the Landscape South Australia Act 2019

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First Nations of this Yarta / Ruwe (Country)

Long before there was a Hills and Fleurieu region, this Country was the traditional lands of the Kurna, Peramangk and Ngarrindjeri First Nations. We have much to learn from First Nations in their connection to and custodianship of Country. The board respects their unique understanding of the region, acknowledges their leadership and generosity, and is committed to working with First Nations to manage our landscapes.

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 pakanar 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 Kurna miyurna

We are Kurna

*Ngadluku yitpi
yartangka, karrangka*

*Our spirit within and
beyond*

*Ngadluku pukiana
miyurna tidna-arra*

*To follow in our ancestors'
footsteps*

Let's walk together in caring for Yarta/Ruwe



A special region



National Parks and other conservation areas

One of Australia's 15 biodiversity hotspots - half the state's native plant species and three quarters of its native bird species are found in the region. Much of the critical habitat for these species sits in private landholdings.



Urban and rural residential

A mosaic of small and large properties and towns nestled among agriculture and nature. A setting for an enviable lifestyle and home to strong, connected communities passionate about the region.

PRIMARY PRODUCTION



Cropping



Horticulture

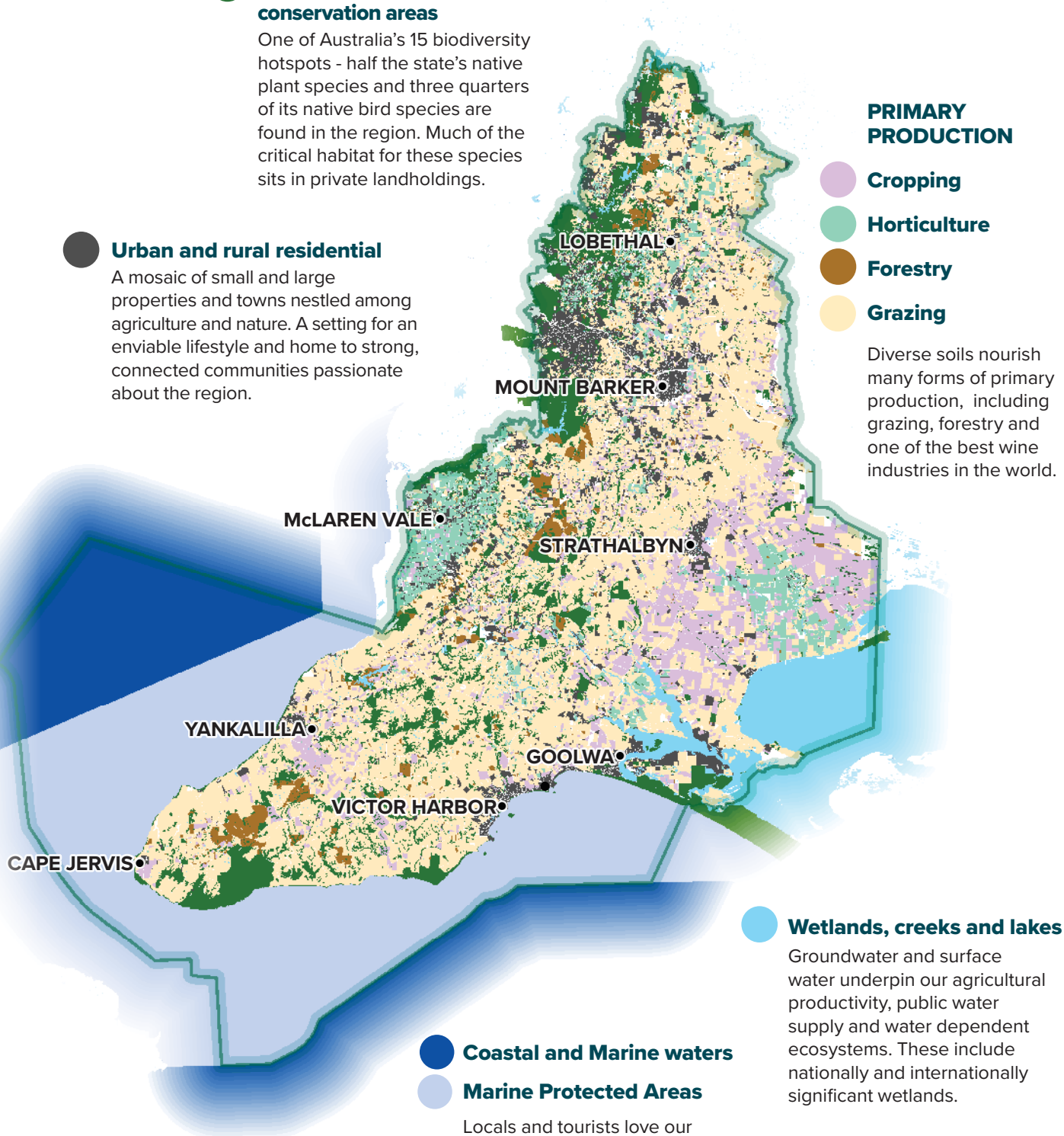


Forestry



Grazing

Diverse soils nourish many forms of primary production, including grazing, forestry and one of the best wine industries in the world.



Wetlands, creeks and lakes

Groundwater and surface water underpin our agricultural productivity, public water supply and water dependent ecosystems. These include nationally and internationally significant wetlands.

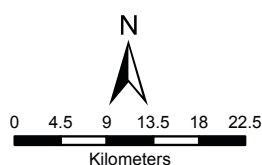


Coastal and Marine waters



Marine Protected Areas

Locals and tourists love our beaches and wild coasts. Our coasts and marine ecosystems are home to important marine biodiversity, fisheries and habitats for shore and migratory birds.



The need for action

We are at a critical juncture. What we all do over the life of this plan may well define how our landscapes will survive the challenges to come.

Our region is a beautiful and prosperous place, but many of its natural systems are in decline. Climate change will amplify existing challenges, and throw new challenges at us too. To reverse the decline, respond to climate change and build regional prosperity, we need to be courageous and creative, and act with urgency.

We can achieve incredible things if we work together with shared goals and commitment. Landholders, volunteers, First Nations, industries, government and non-government organisations and community – we all have an important part to play.

The time is now

The United Nations has identified 2021-2030 as a Decade for Restoration because this window will likely count the most in the fight against climate change. The extinction of millions of species and the collapse of food systems are on the line globally. Our region is highly exposed to these risks.

Landscape recovery is critical for building the resilience of our communities, industries and ecosystems – ensuring they can survive, adapt and thrive, no matter what happens.

This plan is needed now because the resilience of the region depends on all of us working together, smarter and more collaboratively. We can do this by drawing on First Nations' understanding of Country, on scientific knowledge, and on the land management experience of landholders and volunteers. By learning and taking action together, we can turn around the declines in our landscapes, and better prepare the region for the challenging years to come.

Building better partnerships to care for our region will develop resilience in other ways too. There are growing global markets for products and services that are sustainable, clean and carbon neutral, tell meaningful local stories and support a positive long-term future. Many local businesses are already involved, and linking to these global trends may bring many opportunities.

The overwhelming message we hear from our community is the need for urgent and ambitious action in tackling the big, complex issues that will shape our region's future.



Hailey Lane and Rohan Cleeves at Little Forest Farm, Middleton. Winners of the 2020 Willunga Farmers Market Scholarship. Supported by the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board.

Challenges facing our region

Our region faces many challenges. Some are legacy issues from damage done to our landscapes decades ago. Others are more recent issues or relate to how we prepare for future changes, stresses and opportunities.

Key challenges

- Nearly half our agricultural lands suffer from acidity and an additional 15% are at high risk of developing acidity by 2030 if not managed.
- The populations of many woodland birds and freshwater fish are in decline. Other species and ecosystems are threatened or critically endangered.
- Our industries and ecosystems are heavily impacted by a long list of weed species. Just controlling weeds at their current levels incurs significant costs to landholders, industries and ratepayers.
- Legacy pests like rabbits, deer, goats, foxes and cats are a constant threat. Native species, including kangaroos and little corellas, are now causing significant local problems for primary producers, native habitats and towns.
- Securing water for nature and primary industries will become more challenging, with rainfall significantly declining in spring and becoming more erratic.
- Catastrophic bushfires are a growing risk. Managing these without sacrificing our remaining habitats and their many benefits, will require careful changes in land management.
- Global markets are changing, with increasing demand for resources and significant market opportunities for sustainable and carbon neutral food and fibre products. Risks of tariffs and reputational impacts for producers that can't demonstrate ethical provenance are likely to increase.

By 2050



Spring Rainfall
↓ 8%














Additional days
over 35°C
↑ 3.5 to 10



Sea level rise
↑ 24 cm

CCIA projections based on High emissions [RCP8.5] scenario and relative to 1986-2005 average



Indicator		Condition	Trend in health	
	Soil acidity	 Poor	 Declining	
	Pest animals	 Poor	 <u>Variable</u>	
	Weeds	 Poor	 <u>Variable/Declining</u>	
	Groundwater	 Fair	 <u>Stable/Declining</u>	
	Surface water	 Fair	 <u>Stable</u>	
	Native vegetation	 Variable	 <u>Stable/Declining</u>	
	Terrestrial ecosystems	 Variable	 <u>Declining</u>	
	Freshwater fish & macro-invertebrates	 Fair/Poor	 <u>Declining</u>	
	Coastal & marine ecosystems	 Good	 <u>Variable</u>	
	Carbon emissions	 Poor	 <u>Unknown</u>	
	Conservation volunteering	 Unknown	 <u>Increasing</u>	
	Land manager engagement	 Fair/Good	 <u>Stable</u>	

(see [State Report Cards](#))





Vision

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

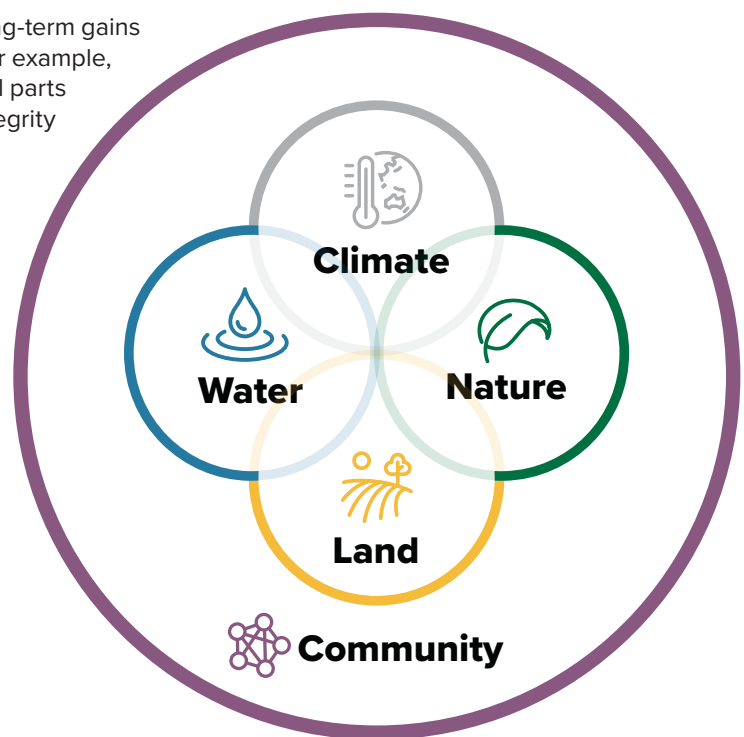
In achieving this vision, we hope that the region will be an international exemplar – recognised for its resilient and beautiful landscapes, and cared for through whole-of-community stewardship.

Five priorities

First Nations have long talked of caring for Land, Water and Community as three crucial elements. The board has built on this foundation by adding Nature and Climate to reflect our community's clear view that tackling biodiversity loss and climate change must be a critical part of our work.

These five priorities are deeply connected. Long-term gains in each priority will require action in others. For example, managing weeds, pests and soils are essential parts of the Land priority, but also critical for the integrity of nature.

Our waters, lands, nature, communities and climate are interdependent; they interact with each other at many levels and define the health of each other. The five priorities need to be understood and addressed as integrated systems. This holistic approach is reflected throughout the plan and represented here diagrammatically. The prominence given to Community marks the importance of ensuring our culture and actions support the health of Land, Water, Nature and Climate.



How to read the plan

This is a plan that will guide and coordinate the contributions of many people and organisations across the region. The Focus Areas under each Priority set out what must be done to achieve these ambitions. Under each Focus Area, there are a range of Strategies that spell out in more detail what is to be done in the next five years.

Each element of the Plan has been carefully selected based on our research and conversations with regional stakeholders. They reflect the key needs and values of the region, and address our collective challenges.

The board will partner widely and hold a stake in all of the strategies set out here. However, some strategies will be led by other organisations. The board will set out the specific programs it will lead in each of its annual business plans.

A selection of projects is also identified under each Priority, to provide a sense of the work to be done. Some are ongoing, tried and tested programs, and others are more innovative ideas yet to be developed. We encourage you to see your ideas and projects alongside those shown. More will develop over the life of the plan.



Regenerating biodiverse and highly productive landscapes

Our region produces world-class food and fibre, and the way we manage land underpins our productivity and ecosystem health. We want our region's agricultural industries to continue to support local and global food demand, and for all landholders to play a role in actively managing land and pests.

We'll know we've succeeded when:

- Productive landscapes are being managed holistically, with soil health maintained, water used wisely and native vegetation retained and restored, and providing multiple ecological and productivity benefits.
- Land use practices reflect underlying productive potential and land capability.
- Priority pest species are locally eradicated and impact-causing native species are effectively managed.
- Industries are adapting to climate change, have transitioned to low carbon farming methods, and are benefiting from carbon sequestration opportunities.

Achieved through projects like:



Wildlife for Wine

Enhancing biodiversity in vineyards by implementing Biodiversity Action Plans on individual properties.

Partners: McLaren Vale Grape, Wine and Tourism Association, Adelaide Hills Wine, Langhorne Creek Grape and Wine, Biodiversity McLaren Vale, Hills Biodiversity, grape growers, University of Adelaide, H&F and Northern & Yorke Landscape Boards



Paddock to plate market development

Building consumer demand and systems that support producers who undertake good land management and environmental stewardship practices.

Partners: Industry bodies, National Farmers Federation, Farmers Markets, farming systems groups, Open Food Network, Landscape Boards

Focus areas	Strategies 2021-26
L1. Reduce the impact and spread of weeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Develop a Hills and Fleurieu Pest Management Strategy to prioritise management and compliance efforts. b. Coordinate roadside weed and vegetation management. c. Support landholders to adopt best practice management of declared and emerging weeds. d. Locally eradicate priority weed species and prevent establishment of emerging weeds through coordinated control.
L2. Reduce the impact of pest animals and impact-causing native animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Support landholders to adopt best practice management of rabbits, foxes, cats and emerging pests. b. Reduce the grazing impacts of goats, deer and kangaroos through coordinated control across public and private lands. c. Collaborate to manage impact-causing native species, including kangaroos and little corellas.
L3. Support the uptake of regenerative agriculture and land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Build capacity in regenerative land management to increase benefits for productivity and biodiversity. b. Increase understanding of localised soil issues and how to improve soil health. c. Support landholders to understand and undertake their land management responsibilities.
L4. Future-proof our agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ensure agricultural interests are represented in land-use planning decisions. b. Explore and support carbon reduction initiatives, including uptake of carbon farming (see C1). c. Build systems and consumer demand that support local provenance foods and regenerative, climate-ready land management practices (see C3).



Managing total grazing pressure

Coordinating strategic control of feral goats and deer, and reducing populations of kangaroos across the region.

Partners: H&F Landscape Board, Parks & Wildlife Service, Forestry SA, SA Water, PIRSA, Councils, landholders



Embracing regenerative agriculture

Supporting landholders to integrate regenerative agriculture principles by developing networks, sharing learnings and applying them locally.

Partners: H&F and Murraylands & Riverland Landscape Boards, SA Regenerative Farmers, landholders, industry consultants



Strategic roadside weed control

Collaborating and information sharing to clarify responsibilities and improve control of priority weed species on roadsides.

Partners: Councils, H&F Landscape Board, Parks & Wildlife Service, Forestry SA, DIT, Crown Lands, rail authorities, landholders



Water

Managing water resources sustainably

Water is vital to our communities, industries and nature. With future declines in rainfall and seasonal reliability expected, balancing our competing water needs will become harder.

We want to be world leaders in how we manage and provide water resources for all water users. This includes being innovative in how we retain water in the landscape, optimise water efficiency and productivity from commercial use, and diversify water sources such as reusing storm and wastewater.

We'll know we've succeeded when:

- Industries and communities have equitable access to water and use it efficiently.
- First Nations' cultural values relating to water are recognised and accommodated.
- Native fish and water-dependent ecosystems are thriving.
- Freshwater outflows are supporting, not impacting, marine health.

Achieved through projects like:



McLaren Vale Water Security Planning

Planning for how native and alternative water sources can support industries in the face of projected climate change impacts.

Partners *Vignerons, McLaren Vale Grape Wine & Tourism Association, Willunga Basin Water Company, City of Onkaparinga, SA Water, DEW, PIRSA, Regional Development Australia, H&F Landscape Board*



Monitoring our water resources

Understanding our water resources through agency research and monitoring of groundwater and surface water, and citizen science projects.

Partners *SA Water, EPA, DEW, H&F Landscape Board, Green Adelaide, landholders, Bioblitz citizen scientists, Goolwa to Wellington LAP, Angus Bremer Water Management Committee, Waterwatch, Green Adelaide and Murraylands and Riverland landscape boards*

Focus areas	Strategies 2021-26
W1. Deliver water resource planning to meet ecological, economic, cultural and social needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ensure Water Allocation Plans are evidence-based, effective and climate-ready. b. Support industries to undertake water security planning where there are concerns about future availability (see C3). c. Build community trust and involvement in the science and policies underpinning water planning.
W2. Improve on-ground management of our water resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Promote efficient water use across the region, focus on optimising productive use. b. Encourage reduction in urban runoff and the reuse of storm- and wastewater in urban centres and towns. c. Support landholders to restore flows for water-dependent ecosystems (see N1). d. Improve management of erosion-, sedimentation- and pollution-causing activities that impact water resources.
W3. Build understanding of our water resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Monitor and improve scientific knowledge of water resources. b. Increase community understanding of water resources as a vital, shared and limited resource.



Mt Barker wastewater and stormwater management

Exploring how wastewater and stormwater can be reused in the region and striving to be water self-sufficient.

Partners Mount Barker and Alexandrina Councils, Regional Development Australia, Angas Bremer Water Management Committee, DEW



Water Allocation Plan reviews

Reviewing the three water allocation plans for the region by 2023 to ensure that water resources are meeting ecological, economic, cultural and social needs.

Partners H&F Landscape Board, DEW, industry groups, First Nations, SA Water, water users, community



First Nations' values for water

Including Aboriginal people's interests in water policies and delivery of water projects.

Partners Ngarrindjeri, Peramangk and Kurna Nations, H&F and Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board, Green Adelaide, DEW



Conserving natural places, ecosystems and wildlife

People have done incredible restoration work in our landscapes, and we have significant knowledge and expertise in restoring habitats.

There is a global call for 30% of land and 30% of seas to be conserved for nature. In line with this goal, we want to see a massive, collective effort to restore and conserve biodiversity in this region and to build ecosystem resilience to climate change.

We'll know we've succeeded when:

- Remnant vegetation is valued, retained and restored, and widely recognised as important for agricultural productivity.
- Large-scale revegetation has supported the recovery of threatened ecosystems and species.
- Surface water flows and watercourse restoration support healthy water-dependent ecosystems and species.
- Coastal and marine ecosystems, including fish populations are healthy and no longer negatively impacted by land-based activities.
- People are connected to nature and caring for it is part of our culture.

Achieved through projects like:



Bandicoot Superhighway

Helping reduce the extinction risk of the nationally endangered Southern Brown Bandicoot through targeted recovery actions in the Mount Lofty Ranges.

Partners: Sturt Upper Reaches Landcare Group, landholders, Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife, H&F Landscape Board, National Parks & Wildlife Service



Revitalising Private Conservation in SA

Supporting landholders to expand the extent and quality of native vegetation in Heritage Agreements.

Partners: Nature Foundation, Conservation SA, Livestock SA, Nature Conservation Society of South Australia, Trees For Life, DEW, landscape boards, landholders, NGO organisations and community groups

Focus areas	Strategies 2021-26
N1. Protect and restore our native vegetation and freshwater ecosystems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Support landholders to protect and restore native vegetation and freshwater ecosystems through weed control, fencing and reducing grazing impacts. b. Assist landholders to restore flows to sustain water-dependent ecosystems (see W2). c. Expand high-value habitat through targeted revegetation of grassy woodlands, heathland, swamps and watercourses. d. Advocate and develop collaborative strategies for the protection and restoration of native habitats.
N2. Conserve and rehabilitate our coastal, estuarine and marine ecosystems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Revegetate and control weeds and pests in coastal areas and offshore islands. b. Protect fish nurseries and marine biodiversity through restoration of reefs and seagrass, and supporting the control of marine pests. c. Support the long-term health of the Ramsar-listed Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert wetland of international significance.
N3. Recover our threatened species and ecological communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Implement recovery interventions and monitoring for threatened flora, fauna, and ecological communities. b. Undertake controlled burns to improve the health of fire-dependent ecosystems.



Back from the Brink

Reducing immediate extinction risks and improving the long-term viability of threatened species and ecological communities in the Mount Lofty Ranges, Fleurieu Peninsula and adjacent estuarine and coastal areas.

Partners: Australian Government, H&F Landscape Board, Green Adelaide, DEW, landholders, local government, South Australian Seed Conservation Centre, Birdlife Australia



Seeds for Snapper

Restoring seagrass meadows to support fish nurseries and the future of fishing through volunteers collecting, processing, and dispersing seagrass seeds.

Partners: OzFish, Green Adelaide, H&F Landscape Board



Project Coorong

Taking action to restore the health, vitality and visitor experience of the Coorong through environmental projects and initiatives.

Partners: Australian Government, DEW, Goyder Institute for Water Research, First Nations, Councils, community, BirdLife Australia, H&F and Limestone Coast and Murraylands and Riverland landscape boards



Climate

Becoming a carbon neutral and climate resilient region

Our climate is getting hotter and drier with substantial decline in spring rainfall and more extreme events, such as storms, heatwaves and fires. Our challenge is to build the resilience of our ecosystems, communities and businesses to survive and adapt to future climate changes. It is also to reduce carbon emissions so that the climate does not become even more extreme here, and around the world.

Meeting these challenges will require ways of living and producing that simultaneously restore natural systems, mitigate emissions and build long-term resilience.

We'll know we've succeeded when:

- The region is producing net zero emissions.
- Our ecosystems, communities and industries are resilient in a changing climate.
- Our communities have prepared for and navigate climate impacts well.

Achieved through projects like:



Resilient Hills & Coasts

Partnering on a range of knowledge-sharing and on-ground projects identified as priorities in the *Regional Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island*.

Partners: Adelaide Hills, Alexandrina, Kangaroo Island, Mount Barker, Victor Harbor and Yankalilla Councils, Southern & Hills LGA, RDA Adelaide Hills Fleurieu & Kangaroo Island, H&F and Kangaroo Island Landscape Boards, South Australian Government



Developing a circular economy

Supporting and maintaining circular economy opportunities in food, wine and agriculture industries to maximise economic, social and environmental benefits within the Hills and Fleurieu region.

Partners: Waste and resource recovery, agriculture and food industries, State Government (PIRSA, DEW, GISA), environment, regional and community groups, universities

Focus areas	Strategies 2021-26
C1. Transition to net zero carbon emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Transition Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board operations to net zero carbon emissions. b. Understand the region's land-related carbon footprint. c. Explore and support carbon reduction activities, including uptake of carbon farming (see L4).
C2. Build the climate resilience of our ecosystems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Support targeted action to build the resilience of vulnerable species and ecosystems. b. Ensure water resource planning is climate-ready (see W1). c. Support coastal adaptation planning and actions that build resilience to flooding and erosion in high risk areas.
C3. Build the climate resilience of our communities and agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Support primary producers to understand regional climate impacts and adaptation options. b. Support the community to prepare landscapes for, and recover from, fire and extreme weather events. c. Build systems and consumer demand that support local provenance foods and regenerative, climate-ready land management practices (see L4). d. Encourage primary producers and consumers to adopt circular economy practices.



Biodiversity fire planning tool

Developing a Biodiversity Fire Planning Tool to support the strategic use of fire to maintain biodiversity, while reducing fuel loads and the risk of bushfires to life and property.

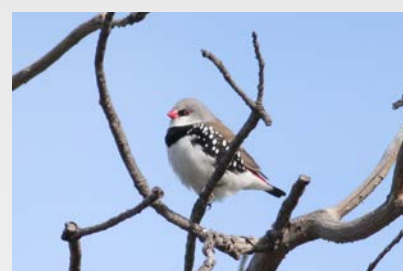
Partners: DEW, landscape boards and Country Fire Service, First Nations



Carbon Farming Roadmap

Providing pathways for uptake of emissions reduction and carbon sequestration opportunities in soils, vegetation, forestry and livestock management.

Partners: DEW, PIRSA, GISA, SA Water, landscape boards, industry bodies, landholders



Woodland Bird Resilience

Delivering targeted planting of paddock trees in the Cudlee Creek fire scar, to build the resilience of declining woodland bird species.

Partners: Trees For Life, H&F Landscape Board, Australian Government, DEW, landholders, Nature Conservation Society of SA



Community

Everyone caring for our landscapes

The health of our land, water, nature and climate all depend on people's actions. We need everyone in the region to be landscape stewards – through their close connection to nature and active involvement in landscape restoration and protection.

We are on a shared journey. This will involve being brave about exploring contentious regional issues and trusting we can develop solutions together.

We'll know we've succeeded when:

- People value the land, water and nature of our region, and are active in caring for them together.
- First Nations play an integral role in managing landscapes, and their knowledge is valued and shared.
- There is greater investment in restoring and managing our landscapes by businesses, government and community.

Achieved through projects like:



Harnessing and building capacity

Supporting people to manage land, water and nature by linking them with networks and best-practice information, training and advice, and by building awareness and knowledge where needed.

Partners: *Landscape boards, PIRSA, Australian Government, agriculture and environment groups, Volunteering SA, DEW*



Volunteering to restore nature

Volunteering by community groups, landholders and individuals to restore bushland and coastal areas.

Partners: *Landcare groups, Friends of Parks, environmental NGOs, Councils, environment centres, DEW, landscape boards, community*



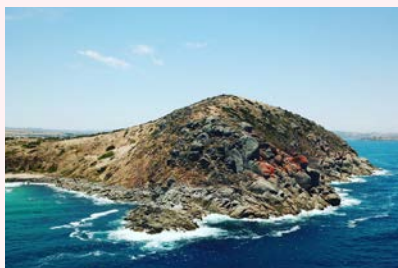
Focus areas	Strategies 2021-26
P1. Foster a regional culture of landscape stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Foster a shared responsibility for the health of our landscapes and alignment of local restoration efforts with landscape-scale priorities. b. Inspire and support young people to care for land, water and nature. c. Improve people's connection to nature. d. Promote caring for landscapes and sustainability as central to our region's identity.
P2. Walk alongside First Nations in looking after Yarta / Ruwe (Country)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Strengthen collaboration with First Nations to embed their knowledge and approaches in looking after Country. b. Protect and raise awareness of First Nations cultural and heritage assets. c. Support the interests of Aboriginal people in accessing and caring for Country. d. Involve Aboriginal businesses and organisations in landscape restoration.
P3. Strengthen shared understanding of landscape management challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Facilitate regional dialogues to build shared understanding and solutions to contentious landscape management issues. b. Build community trust and involvement in the science and policies underpinning landscape management.
P4. Increase community capacity to manage our landscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Support volunteers and land managers to protect and restore land, water and nature. b. Increase investment and partnership opportunities to restore our landscapes. c. Support peer-to-peer learning and knowledge sharing in managing landscapes.



Regional dialogue on fire and native vegetation

Facilitating regional discussions about how we restore and manage native vegetation while preparing our landscapes for more frequent bushfires.

Partners: H&F Landscape Board, DEW, environment and agricultural groups, Resilient Hills & Coasts, Councils, community



Yarluwar-Ruwe: land and water assessment

Assessing the health of culturally significant plants and animals and integrating First Nations ecological knowledge into landscape management.

Partners: Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation, H&F Landscape Board, Australian Government, DEW, landholders



Nature education

Creating opportunities for every student to be engaged in nature education through resources and the curriculum.

Partners: Green Adelaide, landscape boards, Department for Education, environmental and Nature Play organisations

The board's role

The board is a regional facilitator, catalyst and partnership builder. This means we support and align the great work being done, foster and grow local capacity, and help share knowledge between stakeholders. This approach is articulated in the following principles, which will guide what we do and how we do it over the next five years.

Principles of board leadership

1 Listening and facilitating dialogues

The board will bring stakeholders together to find solutions to complex regional issues. Dialogue is needed on challenges like managing pests and impact-causing native species, minimising bushfire risk, and restoring biodiversity.

2 Partnering, innovating and expanding investment

Restoring our landscapes requires investment. The board will work with existing partners and build more partnerships to attract new investment and ideas to multiply our collective impact.

3 Harnessing and building capacity

So much capacity already exists in our region. The board will better harness this capacity by linking landholders and community with information and best-practice, and by building awareness and knowledge where needed.

4 Connecting to nature and shifting culture towards restoration

Our communities love our landscapes. The board will support this connection and build people's active involvement in managing and restoring healthy landscapes.

5 Bringing the ambition, courage and creativity needed to succeed

We have a limited window to reverse declining landscape health, respond to climate change and build regional prosperity. Now is the time for ambition, courage and creativity in identifying and tackling our biggest challenges.



Your levy at work

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

The board raises landscape and water levies to deliver on its obligations and programs that contribute to the priorities of the Landscape Plan. The levies also enable the board to attract additional funding and support to increase the amount of work achieved in our region.

For more information about the programs that will be led and invested in by the board, go to www.landscape.sa.gov.au/hf

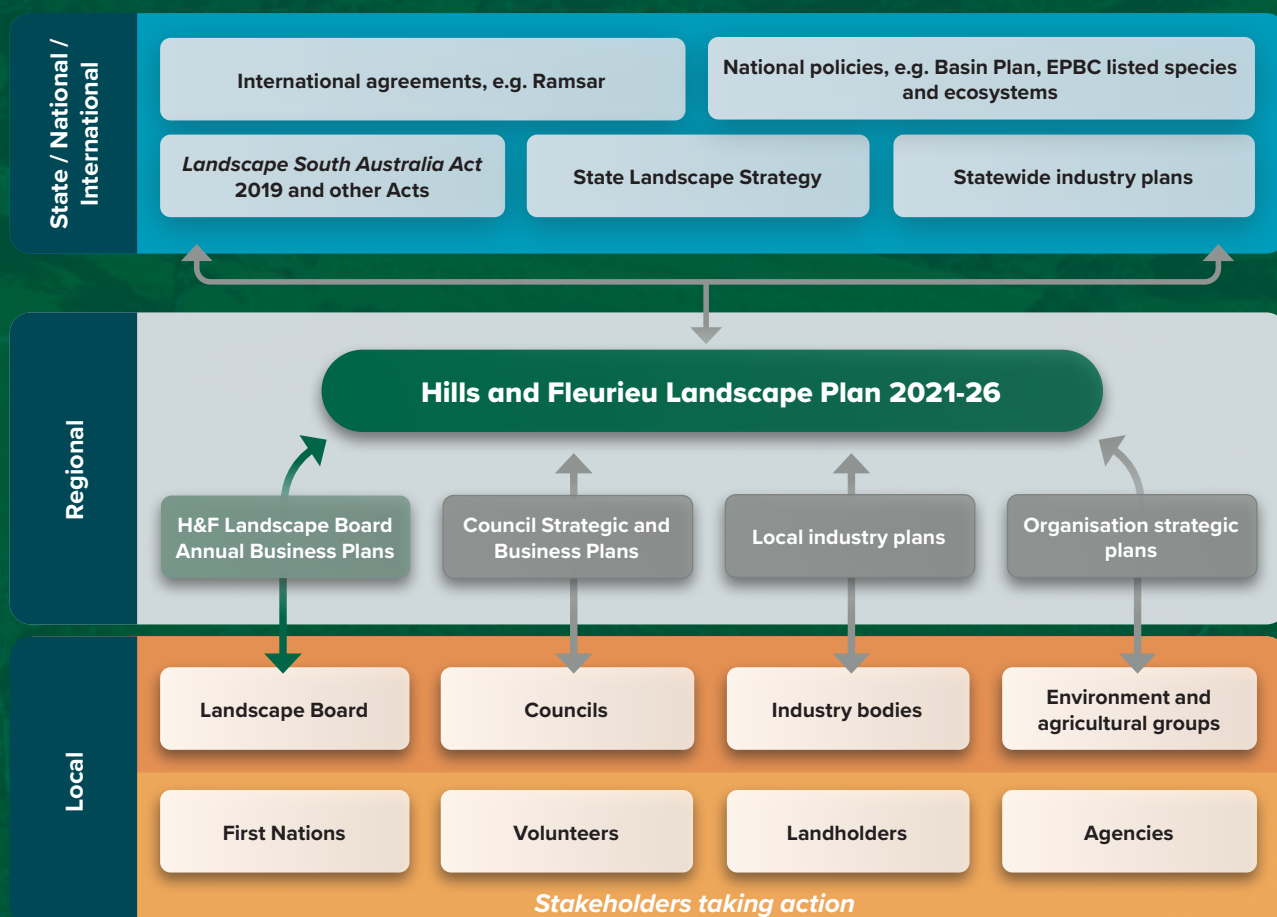
Tracking effort and measuring success

The board will conduct a five year review to assess how implementing the priorities of the plan has contributed to the condition of our landscapes. The board uses a Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) Plan to guide how it tracks, evaluates and reports on the programs it leads. Annual reports detail the board's success in achieving its business plan.

Planning framework

The Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Plan integrates sustainable landscape management aspirations at multiple scales. It brings national and international agreements, plans and strategies to life at the regional scale. It also reflects the local values and issues important to the community.

The board's contribution to the Landscape Plan is set out annually in its business plan. Other organisations that have capacity to help achieve the priorities in the plan will shape their own contributions.



Working together



Our unique region needs your help. Whether you are an industry or volunteer group, landholder or community member, business or organisation, there are many ways you can contribute.

- What role can you play in caring for our region's landscapes?
- Is there a Focus Area or Strategy you can support, partner with us, or take the lead on?
- Can you champion a related issue the plan hasn't addressed?

We hope you will work with us to implement this plan, or build on it to help achieve the regional priorities



Landholders have a critical role

Connect to information about managing pests, soils, water and habitats:

- [Pest animals](#)
- [Weed control handbook](#)
- [Water permits and licences](#)
- [Soils and pastures](#)
- [Heritage agreements](#)
- [Restoring watercourses](#)



Explore strategic partnerships

If you are an organisation with aligned interests and keen to develop new shared projects (with the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board or other regional stakeholders) – please reach out to us.



Read up

- Nature directions ([Nature of SA](#), [Nature Conservation Directions Statement 2020](#), [United Nations Decade on Restoration](#))
- Climate information ([Resilient Hills & Coasts Climate Adaptation Plan](#), [South Australian Government Climate Action Plan 2021-25](#), [climate projections](#))
- Sustainable agriculture ([National Soil Strategy](#))
- Council strategic plans ([Adelaide Hills](#), [Alexandrina](#), [Mount Barker](#), [Onkaparinga](#), [Victor Harbor](#), [Yankalilla](#))



Volunteer and connect

- Help on-ground restoration of habitats ([Friends of Parks](#), [Bush for Life](#), [Hills Biodiversity Group](#), [Biodiversity McLaren Vale](#), [Goolwa to Wellington LAP Association](#))
- Grow seedlings for revegetation ([Trees For Life](#))
- Raise awareness and support environmental action ([Conservation SA](#), environment centres: [Willunga](#), [Normanville](#), [Adelaide Hills](#), [Strathalbyn](#), [South Coast](#))
- Join a primary producer network (e.g. [Fleurieu Farming Systems Inc](#), [Fleurieu Beef Group](#), [Agricultural Bureau](#))
- Connect to nature and explore our [National Parks](#)
- Support nature research and contribute to citizen science ([Australian Citizen Science Association SA](#), [Nature Conservation Society of SA](#), [Goolwa to Wellington LAP Association](#), [Frogwatch SA](#), [Waterwatch SA](#))



Donate

Restoring habitats is resource intensive. Your financial investment in conservation will make a big difference to our region.

These groups work locally:

- [Bio-R](#)
- [Goolwa to Wellington LAP Association](#)
- [Trees For Life](#)
- [Nature Foundation SA](#)
- [Nature Conservation Society of SA](#)
- [Hills Biodiversity Group](#)
- [McLaren Vale Biodiversity Project](#)





Connect with us

Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board

www.landscape.sa.gov.au/hf

www.facebook.com/HFLandscapeSA

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Artwork on page 1 and 13: 'Spiritual Healing Waters' by Peramangk elder Ivy Campbell.

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