

An aerial photograph of a vast vineyard with rows of grapevines stretching across the landscape. In the background, there are rolling hills and a power line tower. A vibrant rainbow arches across the sky above the vineyard. A dark blue geometric shape is overlaid on the top left, and a green one is on the top right, both containing text.

Limestone Coast Landscape Board Business Plan

2022/2023

Foreword

Creating the Limestone Coast Landscape Board's second annual business plan is an excellent opportunity to reflect on our first full year as a landscape board operating under the 2021/22 – 2025/26 Regional Landscape Plan. We set some bold priorities and measures of success to aim towards, with cooperation and collaboration from our key partners and critical voices in the Limestone Coast community. We will continue to listen to and engage with the people and organisations that are also aiming towards economic and environmental sustainability in the region, through a lens of community participation.

Our Walking Together Statement of Commitment, agreed to in 2021/22, sets out our values and principles for engaging with First Nations people. Incorporating the Lartara Wirkeri Cultural Governance Framework into our planning processes, as we have done again this year, gives us a solid foundation to ensure we plan collaboratively and effectively, operate with authenticity and transparency, and share our successes with everyone involved.

Some successful tactics included:

- starting every board meeting with a session with a Limestone Coast council, updating them on our progress and hearing their feedback and concerns
- engaging with landholders in affected areas to collaboratively manage feral deer in the landscape
- attracting funding to address the wicked problem of acidic soils in partnership with other, neighbouring landscape boards
- engaging with the water user community to tackle the complex water security and sustainability issues in the Limestone Coast

Our 2020/21 Annual Community Report video ([available here](#)) shows more examples of successful collaborations.

Looking ahead, this year's plan highlights feral deer, water and Farming for the Future as key pieces of levy funded work, in addition to attracting other state and federal funding.

Our legislative responsibilities will also ensure that priority pest species are strategically approached, building on the previous years' campaigns against African Lovegrass, olives, Spiny Rush and more.

Our number one priority is to continue to listen to what you want us to focus on. You can walk with us, work with us, talk to us, and we can learn from each other.

Use our website contact form, drop us a line at landscapeboard@sa.gov.au, call on 8429 7550, follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, attend a board meeting ([link to dates/locations](#)), or write to us at PO Box 1047, Mount Gambier 5290.



Penny Schulz

Chair, Limestone Coast Landscape Board

Minister's Endorsement

I, the Honourable Susan Close, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, after taking into account and in accordance with the requirements of the Section 50 of the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, acknowledge the Business Plan for the Limestone Coast region for 2022/23.

Susan Close MP

Minister for Climate, Environment and Water



Limestone Coast Landscape Board Members



Penny Schulz
Chair



Mark Bachmann



Peter Bissell



Robbie Davis



Ben Hood



Fiona Rasheed



Bruce Wood

Acknowledgement of Country

The Limestone Coast Landscape Board acknowledges Aboriginal people as the First People and Nations of the ancestral lands and waters of the Limestone Coast. We acknowledge the elders past, present and future and we respect the deep feelings of attachment and relationships of Aboriginal People to Country including the language groups: Meintangk, Potaruwutij, Bunganditj, Tatiara/Ngarkat, Tanganekald (Southern Clans) and Ngarrindjeri, and we commit to working together to look after our landscapes.



Cultural Governance

Lartara-Wirkeri Cultural Governance was developed with the South East Aboriginal Focus Group to create transparency, improve communication and foster ownership of First Nations project outcomes.

Lartara-Wirkeri Cultural Governance is a contemporary application of a historic First Nations governance process. It has three distinct steps that are uniquely individual but operate in a continual cycle of communication and improvement. The three steps are:



People come together out of respect to talk about whom, how and what. This is a time for acknowledging ancestors, recognising differences and developing agreed pathways that can be progressed.



People have agreed expectations and responsibilities from Ceremony and Talk. Everyone knows and undertakes what they have agreed on.



People can only achieve this stage once they have been successful with the first two stages. Song and Dance is about celebrating the success of working together as a community to achieve the desired and agreed upon outcome. It is a time for learning from successes and paying cultural/spiritual respect.

Cultural Governance

Through consultation the Limestone Coast Landscape Board (LC Landscape Board) has incorporated Lartara-Wirkeri Cultural Governance in its regional landscape plan as a visual statement of its commitment to First Nations and how we will walk together to manage our landscapes. The LC Landscape Board seeks to have shared learning, shared outcomes, transparency and evaluation of the effectiveness of its First Nations inclusion in our work. The LC Landscape Board respects, honours and acknowledges the origins of the Lartara-Wirkeri Cultural Governance and its importance to the South East Aboriginal Focus Group and First Nations People across Australia.

**The Limestone Coast Landscape Board
is committed to walking with
First Nations to manage our landscape.**

The LC Landscape Board demonstrates this commitment through adoption of the contemporary application of the cultural governance framework in its regional landscape plan and annual business plan, procurement of services from First Nations groups and through an overarching Statement of Commitment that articulates our values of authenticity, transparency, accountability and collaboration.

The 'Weaving the South East Seasons' calendar was developed by the South East Aboriginal Focus Group in collaboration with the LC Landscape Board to promote a shared understanding of First Nations' connection to country and to the seasonal ebb and flow that dictated cultural practices and lifestyle for the region's first inhabitants and their continuing significance today.

The calendar is divided into six seasons that represent what is happening in the landscape – is it wet or dry? Hot or cold? Are plants and animals plentiful or scarce? Are things flowering or setting seed? Is it time for action or time to pause our busy hunting and gathering to reflect on the past, learn from our activities, and tell the stories that concentrate our learnings and teach those that will come after us?

This cycle reflects the Limestone Coast landscape and can also be used to help us in our planning. We already know that winter is the best time for tree planting and that rabbits and foxes should be controlled in the spring and autumn. But we can refine this timing further to find the most responsive season for action, and use the quieter months or the times that don't benefit from our intervention for the reflection, evaluation and reporting phases of our work.

Our Vision

To have a healthy, productive and biodiverse Limestone Coast landscape.

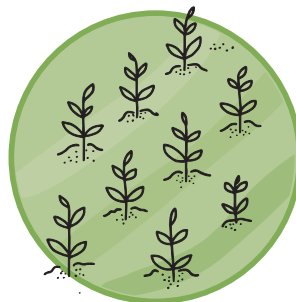
To be at the heart of the community, inclusive of First Nations and resilient to a changing climate.



Our Priorities



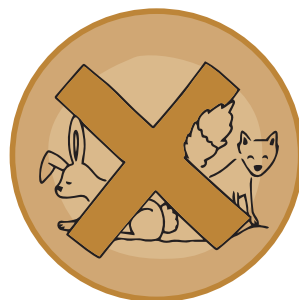
Educating and partnering to sustainably manage our landscapes



Growing sustainable primary production



Protecting and balancing our region's water resources



Working collaboratively to manage pest plants and animals



Conserving and enhancing our region's biodiversity

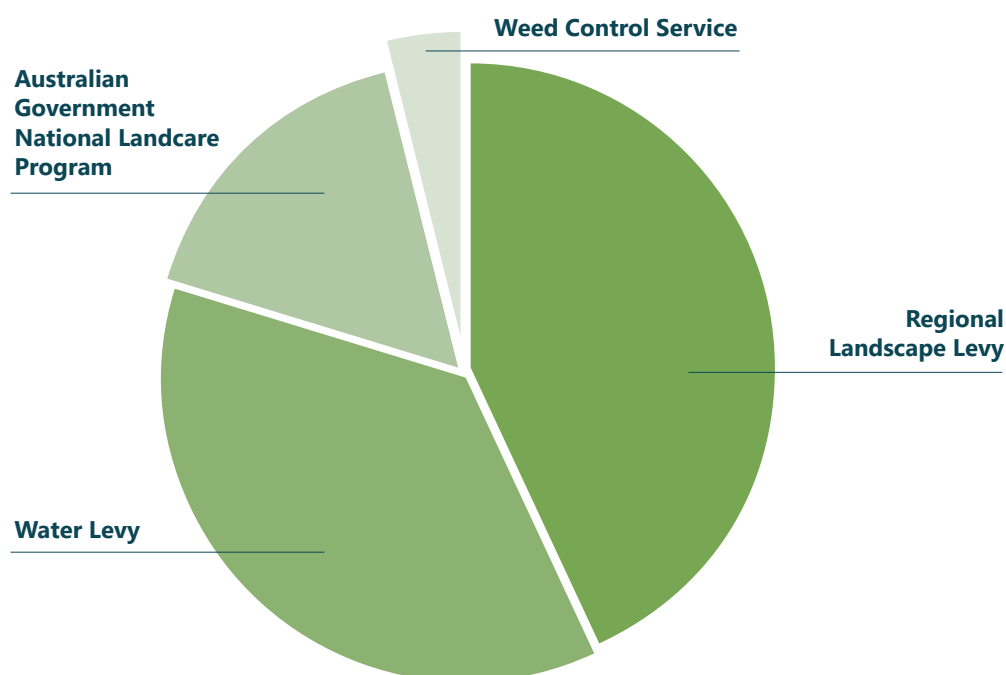
Our focus areas for action across all priorities are:

- **Water planning** - Water resource planning and management that addresses sustainable water use, while supporting environmental, industry, social and cultural water needs
- **Improved biodiversity** - Protection and restoration of native vegetation, soils, wetlands, watercourses, and coastal habitats
- **Sustainable primary production** - Supporting primary producers to increase production in balance with sustainable management of resources and our landscape
- **Compliance, technical advice and services** - Strategies and partnerships to mitigate the impacts of invasive species on the productivity, social fabric and biodiversity of the landscape
- **First Nations engagement** - Walking together with First Nations people to manage our landscapes
- **Communication, engagement and education** - Accessible education and capacity building programs to increase knowledge of, and involvement in landscape management. Fostering a sense of connectedness to the natural landscape
- **Partnerships** - Identifying and establishing partnerships to broaden the work and reach of the LC Landscape Board
- **Climate change** - Building resilience in communities, landscapes and natural resources to the impacts of a changing climate.

Sources of Funding (Income)

Funding Source	2022/2023 income (\$)
Landscape and water levies	
Regional landscape levy ¹	4,782,191
Water levy ²	4,033,916
External funding	
Australian Government National Landcare Program ³	1,822,555
Other sources of income	
Weed Control Service ⁴	400,000
Total Revenue	11,038,662

Proportion of funding to be received from each source in 2022/2023



1. Landscape levy income to be raised in 2022/23 is based on 2.5% CPI increase on the approved 2021/22 income.
2. 2022/23 water levy income may change, depending on the outcome of reductions to allocations in Coles.
3. The LC Landscape Board is delivering Australian Government funding. Additional funding will be sought from other sources.
4. The LC Landscape Board provides a Weed Control Service to landholders that operates on a cost recovery basis.



Landscape levy rates and collection from Local Government

The landscape levy will be raised and collected on our behalf by local councils. Councils pay quarterly contributions to the LC Landscape Board. Under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, new arrangements apply for councils to be reimbursed for unpaid levies.

In this Business Plan, the LC Landscape Board has retained the basis of the landscape levy as a fixed charge of an amount that depends on the purpose for which rateable land is used. A landscape levy based on land use purpose is viewed to align with a 'beneficiary pays' principle (e.g. primary production landholders pay a higher rate for the landscape levy as they use natural resources to generate an income and they are more likely to receive benefit from LC Landscape Board programs). The LC Landscape Board is continuing to use the purpose of use categories of commercial, industrial, primary production, and residential/vacant land/other uses.

Landscape levy rates have been increased by Consumer Price Index (CPI) of 2.5% (September 2021 quarter, Adelaide).

Estimated council contributions to Landscape levy income and collection costs for 2022/23

Council Area	Number of rateable properties ¹	Indicative council area contribution (\$)	Indicative council area share of levy (%)	Council area collection fee (\$)
Coorong District Council	822	182,566	4	2,847
District Council of Grant	4,412	626,708	13	3,780
Kingston District Council	2,024	246,170	5	3,159
City of Mount Gambier	14,326	1,240,568	26	6,358
Naracoorte Lucindale Council	4,284	665,447	14	3,747
District Council of Robe	2,136	238,813	5	3,188
Tatiara District Council	3,470	539,714	11	3,535
Wattle Range Council	7,150	1,042,205	22	4,492
Total	38,624	4,782,191	100	31,106

¹ Source: Number of rateable properties by council area, as reported by councils in January 2022.

Levy rate per land use purpose 2022/23

Purpose of Use Category	Percentage of levy income raised (%)	Total no. of properties per land use (January 2022)	Landscape levy rate per rateable property (\$) 2022/2023
Residential, Vacant & Other	52.20%	30,642	81.47
Commercial	5.26%	2,060	122.21
Industrial	2.23%	545	195.53
Primary Producers	40.31%	5,377	358.47
Total	100%	38,624	

Regional Water Levy

Water levies will be collected by the Department for Environment and Water on behalf of the Minister and paid to the relevant landscape board.

Water levy rates have been increased by Consumer Price Index (CPI) of 2.5% (September 2021 quarter, Adelaide).

Indicative water levy rates

Charge Type	2022/2023
Charge per licence	\$208.90
Tintinara Coonalpyn, Tatiara, Padthaway and Lower Limestone Coast PWAs	
Public water supply	\$16.91/ML
Water holding allocations	\$2.67/ML
Water taking allocations	\$2.67/ML
Specialised Production Requirement (SPR) allocations	\$2.67/ML
Delivery supplement allocations for confined aquifer	\$2.67/ML
Delivery supplement allocations for unconfined aquifer ¹	\$0.27/ML
Water taking allocations for industrial, aquaculture, industrial-dairy, intensive animal keeping, environmental and recreational uses ²	\$3.52/ML
Lower Limestone Coast Prescribed Wells Area (PWA) only	
Forest water allocation	\$2.67/ML
Specialised Production Requirements (SPR) frost allocations ³	\$0.89/ML
Morambro Creek watercourse (including Cockatoo Lake and Nyroca Channel) and its surface water area	
Water taking allocations	\$23.26 per share

¹ The levy rate for extraction from the unconfined aquifer is 10% of the regional volumetric levy rate based on the rationale that this water is returned as recharge to the source aquifer.

² Water taking allocations for industrial, aquaculture, industrial-dairy, intensive animal keeping, environmental and recreational uses (formerly referred to as existing volumetric allocations) have a higher levy rate because they are currently exempt from reductions to allocations.

³ Specialised Production Requirements (SPR) are allocations used for frost protection of vines, and other crop benefits. In recognition that some years will require higher SPR water use than others, a three-year-rolling-average scheme has been developed for frost control in all Limestone Coast Water Allocation Plans. In Tatiara and Padthaway PWAs only, an annual allocation of 1/3 of their total frost SPR allocation is issued on the licence. This is currently under review in the Water Allocations Plans for these two PWAs. In the Lower Limestone Coast (LLC) PWA, the full 3 years of allocation for SPR frost protection has been issued on the licence, therefore the levy rate for SPR frost in the LLC PWA is 1/3 of the rate in the other PWAs to ensure equity between users.

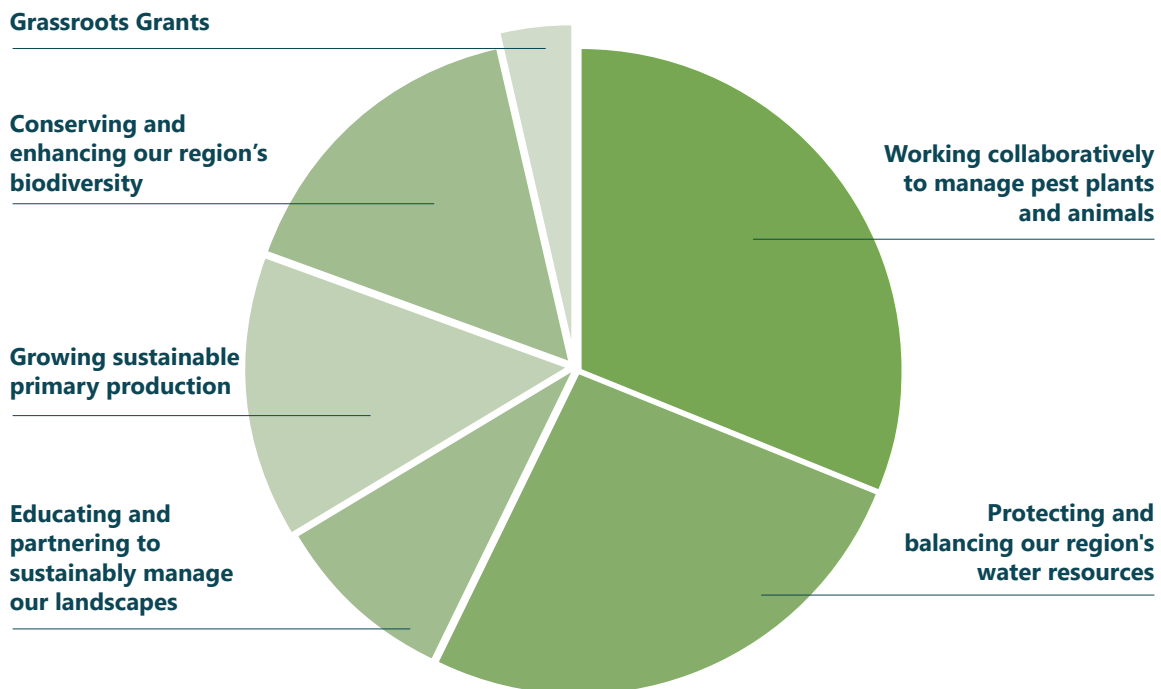


Priority Investment (Expenditure)

Priority Investment	Landscape and water levies (\$)	External funding (\$)	Total (\$)
Educating and partnering to sustainably manage our landscapes	683,478		683,478
Protecting and balancing our region's water resources ¹	1,861,210	586,529	2,447,739
Growing sustainable primary production	1,020,031	409,158	1,429,189
Working collaboratively to manage pest plants and animals	2,467,502		2,467,502
Conserving and enhancing our region's biodiversity	1,150,110	1,413,397	2,563,507
Grassroots Grants	255,000		255,000
Total Expenditure	7,437,331*	2,409,084	9,846,415

* Under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* (Part 5 - Landscape and water levies, Section 68) the LC Landscape Board is accessing levies not spent from the 2021/22 financial year for expenditure in subsequent years. Levies not spent may have resulted from work not undertaken due to COVID or may be strategic savings.

Proportion of levy expenditure contributing to investment in priorities in 2022/23



¹ Does not include State Water Planning and Management charge of \$2,622,975. This encompasses 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 of Environment and Water, including Departmental staff based regionally.

Limestone Coast Landscape Board Project Expenditure 2022/23







Staffing arrangements

For the 2022/23 financial year, it is anticipated there will be 46 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions (37.2 FTE funded by levies and 6.9 FTE funded by the Australian Government and two FTE through fee for service) that deliver services for the LC Landscape Board. This means in 2022/23, approximately \$4.1m in salaries and on costs will be paid from levies.

Expenditure by project in 2022/23¹

Water Security and Sustainability

Strategic works to manage the region's groundwater resources and its dependent ecosystems		
   	Key Activities	Landscape and water levies (\$)
	National Water Grid Authority groundwater science*	100,000
	Water Allocation Planning - Padthaway, Tatiara and Lower Limestone Coast*	198,000
	Making Every Drop Count*	185,000
	Program support	1,415,210
Total		1,898,210

¹ This expenditure plan shows the levy investment by activity. Under section 30 of the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, a board must describe specific on ground works in the Business Plan. Activities that include applicable works are marked with an asterisk (*).






Limestone Coast Landscape Board Project Expenditure 2022/23





Farming for the Future

Supporting the adoption of best-practice and innovative management by Limestone Coast primary producers to improve and support environmental stewardship across the region

Priorities	Key Activities	Landscape and water levies (\$)
    	Toolkit platform	10,000
	Engage with industry	10,000
	Develop extension modules	60,000
	Community engagement	15,000
	Program support	417,456
Total		512,456

Weather Stations



Firmware and software upgrade of the weather station network

Priorities	Key Activities	Landscape and water levies (\$)
 	Hardware and software upgrade or replacement	110,000
	Annual maintenance*	50,000
	Program support	355,400
Total		515,400

Limestone Coast Landscape Board Project Expenditure 2022/23

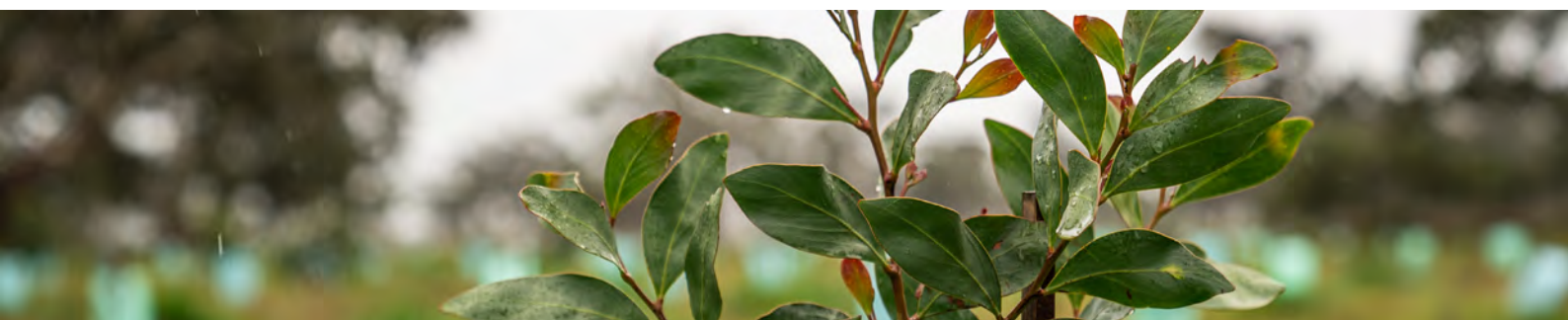


Priority Pest Plants and Animals

Strategic and targeted priority pest control enabling management by the community at low cost		
Priorities	Key Activities	Landscape and water levies (\$)
 	Feral deer eradication	230,000
	Pest campaigns, including priority weed species	95,000
	Spiny Rush landholder incentives	5,000
	Program support	2,147,502
Total		2,447,502

First Nations Partnerships

Walking together with First Nations to manage our landscape		
Priorities	Key Activities	Landscape and water levies (\$)
	South East Aboriginal Focus Group meetings	24,000
	Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation meetings	24,000
	Partnerships and Cultural Awareness workshops	9,500
	Support provided (including Aboriginal managed lands)	30,000
	Program support	312,301
Total		399,801



Limestone Coast Landscape Board Project Expenditure 2022/23





Landscape Education

Creating generational change through immersion opportunities that connect our youth with their local landscape

Priorities	Key Activities	Landscape and water levies (\$)
	Young Environmental Leaders Program	14,700
	Walking the Seasons	1,800
	Secondary school career opportunities	500
	Landscape Connections - program development and implementation	10,300
	Program support	219,376
Total		246,676

Habitat Conservation


Focussing on providing advice in relation to management of vegetation and wetlands and addressing loss of habitat connectivity

Priorities	Key Activities	Landscape and water levies (\$)
 	Mosquito Creek and other targeted locations*	48,000
	Biodiversity incentives	50,000
	Targeted wetland incentives	30,000
	Community engagement activities	9,000
	Program support	583,847
Total		720,847

Limestone Coast Landscape Board Project Expenditure 2022/23



Paddock Trees

Through education, technical support and financial assistance to landholders this project will assist in both preventing the loss and increasing recruitment of paddock trees in the Limestone Coast		
Priorities	Key Activities	Landscape and water levies (\$)
	Paddock tree materials and replacement seedlings	69,600
	Community planting days	18,000
	Contractor	37,360
	Program support	286,129
Total		411,089





Grassroots Grants

The third annual Limestone Coast Grassroots Grants program will allocate \$255,000 to be awarded to community-based projects with local on-ground action, environmental benefits and tangible results, seeking to work across all five of the LC Landscape Board's priorities. The second year of projects ranged from wine grape rootstock trials to school pest plant and animal control activities, native vegetation restoration and karst rising spring monitoring. The third year of the grants program seeks to continue the successful addition of a second winter planting season and multi-year projects.

The *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* Section 28 - Grassroots Grants Program calls for the establishment of a community based grants program to a value determined by the Minister.



Australian Government funded projects

The Limestone Coast Landscape Board will deliver the following services and projects for the Australian Government's Regional Land Partnerships program. The projects meet the following primary Regional Land Partnership outcomes of the program:

- **Outcome 1** - By 2023, there is restoration of, and reduction in threats to, the ecological character of Ramsar sites, through implementation of priority actions.
- **Outcome 2** - By 2023, the trajectory of species targeted under the Threatened Species Strategy, and other EPBC Act priority species is stabilised or improved.
- **Outcome 5** - By 2023, there is an increase in the awareness and adoption of land management practices that improve and protect the condition of soil, biodiversity and revegetation.
- **Outcome 6** - By 2023, there is an increase in the capacity of agriculture systems to adapt to significant changes in climate and market demands for information on provenance and sustainable production.

Project	Deliverables	2022/23 (\$)
Projects contributing to LC Landscape Board priority: Growing Sustainable Primary Production		
Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator	Facilitating partnerships across the region’s primary production sector	139,568
	Conduit for Australian Government grants and funding programs	
Limestone Coast Adaptive Agriculture	Advice on industry adaptation to climate change	200,000
	Facilitate cross-sector collaboration on climate change and markets	
	Capacity building of regional primary production industries to be climate-change ready	
Core Services	Partnering, coordination and communications	69,590
	Monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement	
Projects contributing to LC Landscape Board priority: Conserving and enhancing our region’s biodiversity		
Communities Helping Cockies: Improving the trajectory of the nationally endangered South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo	Working with landholders to restore and revegetate feeding habitats	610,542
	Raising community and school awareness and participation in population monitoring and on-ground activities	
Our Coorong Our Coast: enhancing and managing Ramsar values along the Limestone Coast	Managing threats to coastal habitats and shorebirds, including fox, deer and boxthorn control	604,594
	Working with the community to promote Coorong Ramsar values and reduce threats to shorebirds	
Core Services	Partnering, coordination and communications	198,261
	Monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement	
Total		1,822,555

Photo credits

Pages 2,3 and 9: Danielle White, John Kalaitzis, Cathy Ashby

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The Limestone Coast Landscape Board supports projects through funding from the Australian Government.



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