



Annual highlights

of the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board



Welcome to the annual highlights report for the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board.

In 2021-22, many projects and partnerships delivered great outcomes for the region that contributed to the enhancement and protection of the Murraylands and Riverland landscape. Much of this work was funded by levies paid by rate payers and water licensees, as well as considerable investment from the South Australian and Australian Governments.



This was the first year of the implementation of the 2021-2026 Regional Landscape Plan which focuses the landscape board's work on 5 priority areas: sustainable agricultural and pastoral landscapes; sustainable water use; healthy rivers, lakes and wetlands; healthy natural landscapes; and people at the heart of landscape management.

The landscape board sincerely thanks its partners for their efforts towards delivering a healthy and resilient landscape. The work that this report highlights has only been possible through strong partnerships with landholders, First Nations, industry, government and non-government organisations, and the wider community.



Working in partnership with regional communities to deliver a healthy and resilient landscape.



Highlights

- ✓ Five thousand, one hundred and four (5,104) people from the community were engaged through field days, workshops and forum events supported by various landscape board programs.
- ✓ More than 743 landholders connected with our district teams about pest animal and plant management through one-to-one technical advice, plant identification and property visits.
- ✓ The pest plant and animal management program has received \$800,000 of additional funding from the South Australian Government's Landscape Priority Fund to deliver the Weed Warriors of our Waterways project. This project will enable staff to conduct surveys and undertake control works along the river corridor and associated creeks and wetlands as well as engage and educate community groups and landholders over the next 3 years.
- ✓ Rabbit control was conducted along 410 km of roadsides with more than 9,300 rabbit warrens being destroyed.
- ✓ 1,100 km of roadsides were treated for pest weeds through the Southern Mallee Pest and Weed project.
- ✓ 29,469 baits were sold to 240 landholders to assist in managing the detrimental effects that foxes have on our agricultural sector and the environment.
- ✓ The Grassroots Grants Program funded 32 local community projects, including 13 groups that the landscape board is supporting for the first time.
- ✓ Work in the Southern Olary Plains has improved important mallee bird habitat by reducing grazing pressure across this landscape through a goat muster, aerial shooting and earthmoving to decommission 15 more dams in partnership with the South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service.
- ✓ A new 3 year project commenced to support recovery of the endangered regent parrot. The project aims to connect river habitat to patches of remnant mallee vegetation by establishing a 60 km long corridor made up of a mix of native foraging and habitat species.
- ✓ In March, 5 new rangers started in the River Murray and Mallee Aboriginal Corporation (RMMAC) ranger team. The project is a partnership between the landscape board and RMMAC with funding for 7 years secured from the National Indigenous Australians Agency and the Landscape Priority Fund.
- ✓ More than 1,400 young people participated in the education program which included education sessions, class visits, field trips, Young Environmental Leaders forums, River Murray Youth Council program and community events.
- ✓ As part of the implementation of the Water Allocation Plan in the Marne Saunders Prescribed Water Resource Area (PWRA), a 20 year review of fish data was undertaken, and from 2002-2021 a total of 21 freshwater fish species (15 native and 6 alien) have been caught across these catchments providing important insights into the condition and trend of many important species.
- ✓ The 2021-22 watering schedule delivered 7362.5ML of environmental water from the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH) to 26 wetland sites along the SA River Murray.
- ✓ Post-fire monitoring was conducted at Calperum station through the Australian Government's Monitoring, Evaluation and Research (MER) pilot network which seeks to standardise and improve data quality and evidence for natural resource management activities.



Highlights



116,872 ha benefitted from **pest animal control** for conservation



Species recovery actions occurred on more than **1,000 ha**



Engaging with the community at 104 workshops, 12 seminars, 65 field days, 9 public consultations 26 training events, and 36 other events held



115 people participated at the **volunteer recognition** events



21 priority aquatic threatened species and/or ecological communities receiving targeted support



Valued partnerships with 8 community groups, 11 Aboriginal groups, 17 industry groups, 15 land managers/farmers, 13 research institutes and universities, 7 volunteer groups, 7 local government, 18 non-government agencies and 22 other government agencies



The **Education program** supported **53 schools**, engaging 983 students and 193 teachers



Important **soil management** issues are being addressed through **43 on-ground trials/demonstration sites**



Support to 1,485 landholders and community members through conversations and technical advice



12 Water Affecting Activities permits processed and subsequently approved



1,065 farmers and advisors attended **45 field days, workshops and events** held

across the region to increase landholder awareness of best practice land management methods, including management of soil acidity, prevention of soil erosion, and increasing soil carbon



Revegetation of 254 ha for conservation



15,025 ha surveyed for **threatened species and ecosystem recovery**



Grassroots Grants Program funded **32 community groups** and another 7 community groups were financially supported through other funding sources.



474 ha benefitted from **weed control for conservation**



1,826 ha benefitted from **weed control for land management**



More than 13,070 ha of wetlands and floodplains managed to improve or maintain their condition, including three Ramsar sites



753,710 ha benefitted from **pest animal control** for land management purposes



Over 5,100 people engaged at events 1,414 youth, 291 Aboriginal people, 1,770 land managers 567 volunteers, 217 teachers, and 1,726 other people



26 priority terrestrial threatened species and/or ecological communities receiving targeted support



Water management was improved by implementing **86 treatments**



4 land and 3 water compliance issues investigated



A network of **40 automated weather stations** provided local weather condition data and important farming indicators to **5,434 users**. The regional weather station website was visited **70,476 times**.



The **Agricultural Knowledge Grants** program supported **19 community and industry groups** to undertake events and activities



240 land managers involved in coordinated **pest animal baiting**



Improved irrigation efficiency over **529 ha** of land



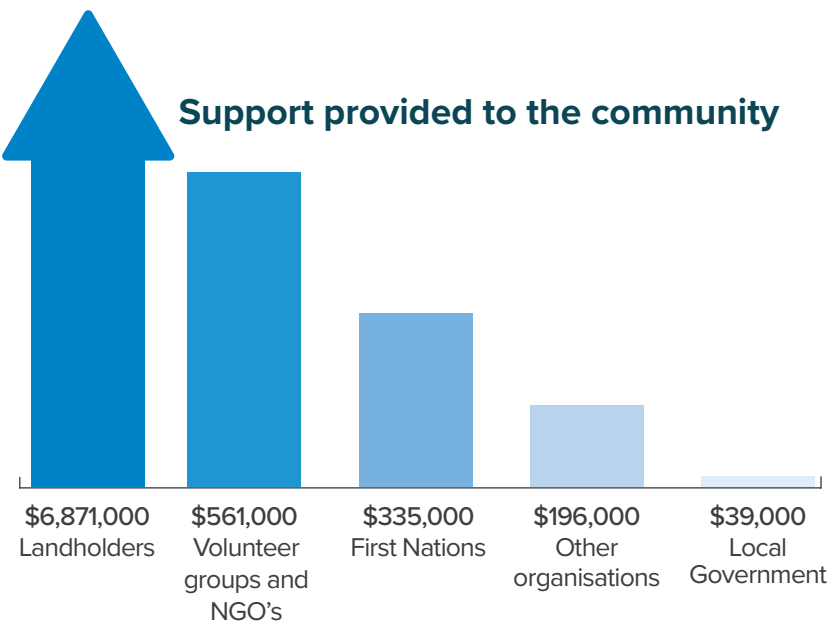
155GL water for the environment was returned from **improved irrigation efficiency**

Investment in the region

Landscape levies play an important role in helping to secure our region's vision for working in partnership with regional communities to deliver a healthy and resilient landscape. Taking care of our natural landscapes is everyone's responsibility and paying landscape levies is a way that everyone can contribute.

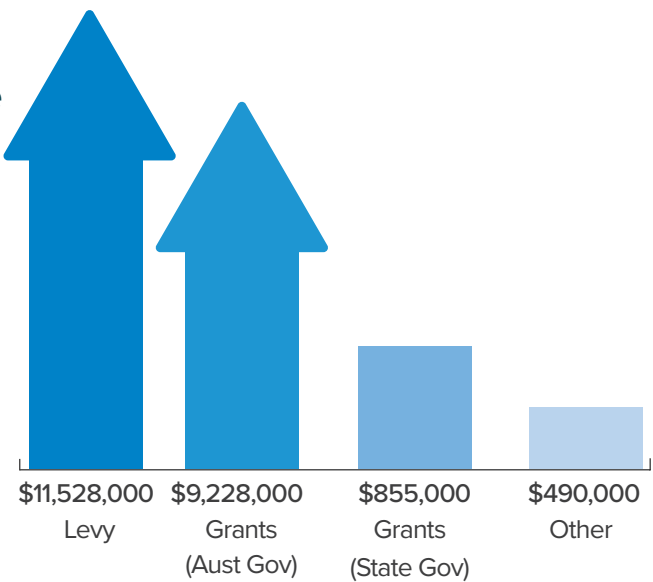
Funds raised within this landscape region remain invested here and are used for a variety of regional priorities including managing land, vegetation and water; citizen science; community education and awareness. The landscape levies are used to leverage other funding sources including the Australian Government.

In the 2021-22 financial year, the amount raised from landscape levies was \$11.5 million. \$9.2 million was committed from the Australian Government and \$1.3 million raised through other funding sources.

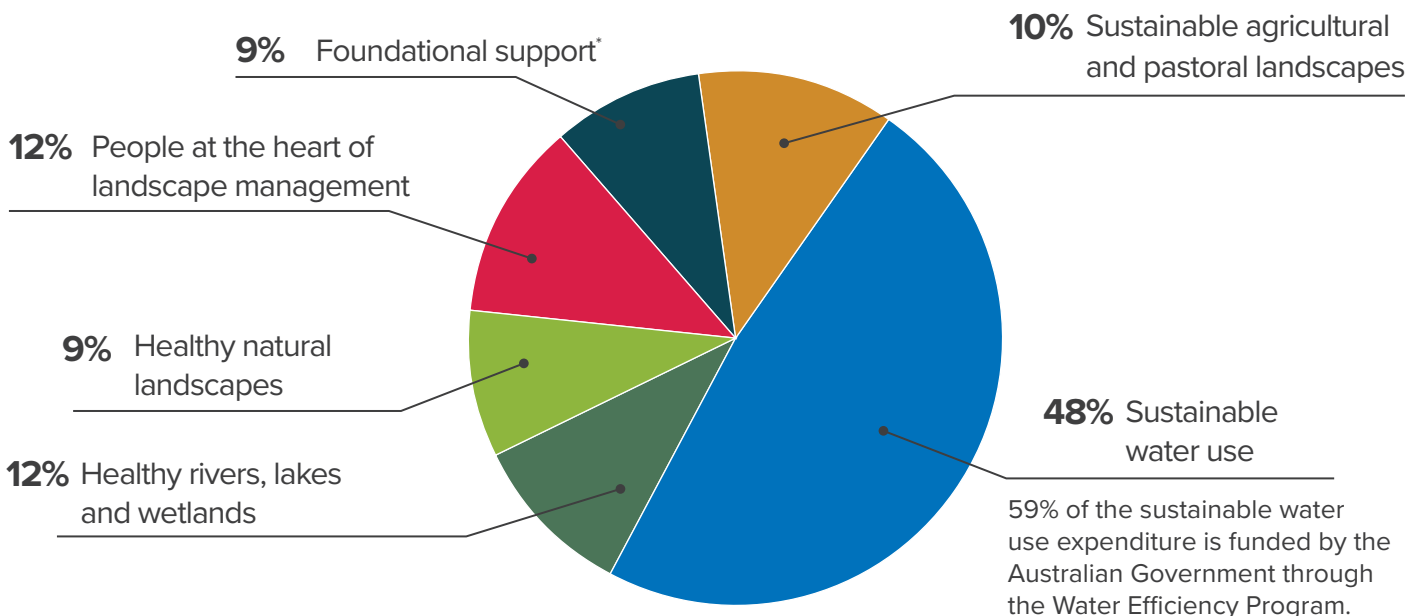


2021-22 revenue

*Note: These financial figures are yet to be formally audited for the 2021-22 financial year.



Expenditure by regional priorities



*Foundational support represents the expenditure on the internal supporting programs such as customer and business services, communications, planning and evaluation, and board leadership and governance.