

Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board

Performance Report Highlights

Quarter 2 | October - December 2024

Outcomes aligned with the 2024-25 annual business plan investment and priorities



From the General Manager

I am pleased to present the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Performance Report Highlights for the second quarter of 2024-25.

This report summarises the performance and activities over the past 3 months and tracks our progress towards delivering the investment and priorities as outlined in the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Annual Business Plan.

It provides the regular review of programs, services and projects and also highlights achievements, key partnerships and other related matters that have occurred during the period.

This report is one of the organisation's key reporting tools used to deliver performance related information to landscape board members, the organisation and the wider community.

I hope that you will find its content valuable and informative.

Andrew Meddle
General Manager

Acknowledgement of Country

The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board acknowledges Aboriginal people as the First Peoples and Nations of the lands and water that we live and work upon, and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and respect the deep spiritual connection and the relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

QUARTER AT A GLANCE



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



34,423 ha benefitted from **pest animal control**



25 land managers involved in coordinated pest animal baiting



3,322 ha benefitted from **pest weed control**



4 on-ground trial sites have been established or maintain



13,000 ha of wetlands and surrounding floodplains managed



195 communication materials published



Area surveyed

14,538 ha for land management

4,112 ha for pest invasion pathways

18,772 ha for threatened species recovery



6,610 followers on social media



4 Radio, TV and newspaper **interviews** conducted



Engaging with **1,065 people** at **96 events**



110 schools supported and **23 schools** actively involved in the education program



597 interactions with **landholders and community** members to provide support



2 WAA permits received and processed



20 referrals responded to by landscape board staff


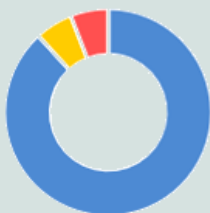



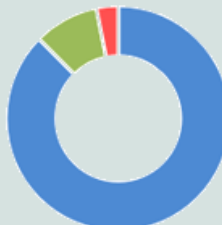


8 Compliance issues investigated

QUARTER AT A GLANCE



In quarter 2 of 2024-25, the following progress was made, and program delivery is predominantly **on track** for the financial year.

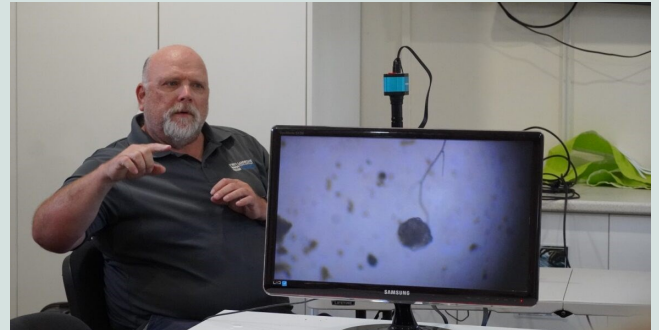
| Strategic Priority | Annual Business Plan Programs | Program Strategies |
|---|--|--|
| Sustainable agricultural and pastoral landscapes | Sustainable agriculture Carbon farming outreach program Pest plant and animal management |  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On track (9) Behind schedule (1) |
| Sustainable water use | Sustainable irrigation Water planning and management Water allocation planning Pest plant and animal management |  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On track (15) Not started (1) Behind schedule (1) |
| Healthy rivers, lakes and wetlands | Wetlands and floodplain restoration Pest plant and animal management |  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On track (8) Behind schedule (1) |
| Healthy natural landscapes | Landscape scale restoration Mallee birds TEC Restoring iron grass grasslands Pest plant and animal management |  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On track (19) Completed (3) |
| People at the heart of landscape management | Grassroots grants Education program First Nations partnership program Community partnerships and engagement Citizen science |  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On track (17) Completed (2) Behind schedule (1) |
| Foundational programs | Board leadership and governance Planning and evaluation Customer and business services Communications Council levy collection fees |  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On track (28) Completed (3) Behind schedule (1) |

QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS



Sustainable agricultural and pastoral landscapes

- Celebrating World Soils Day on 5 December provided a great opportunity to promote the importance of soil health and soil biology in a blog story about [the importance of soil microbes](#).
- Together, the landscape board, Women Together Learning (WoTL) and the Almond Board of Australia hosted an event for women involved in the almond industry at Loxton.
- A series of workshops for horticultural producers were conducted in the Riverland as part of the Carbon Farming Outreach Program.
- Murraylands district officers supported the Department of Primary Industries and Regions, South Australia (PIRSA) African lovegrass targeted assistance program, by connecting with landholders in the region who have this weed on their properties. Most landholders received assistance through property inspections to identify infestation density, location, and the best control methods.



Sustainable water use

- The National Water Grid funded 'Water Accessibility and Deliverability in the Lower Murray Reclaimed Irrigation Area' project formally concluded in December 2024, delivering great outcomes for program participants. The investment improved the efficiency and productivity of on-farm water use while increasing the capacity of water dependent businesses to manage during periods of low River Murray water levels and water availability.
- In the Riverland, demonstration sites were established in 2024 to assist the development of decision support tools for water users to adapt to future climate challenges, and data collection is ongoing.
- The Marne Saunders report card was a great success, with the launch event being very well attended and positive feedback being received from participants. The report card provides a wide range of data (including citizen science) and other evidence related to catchment health in an easy-to-read format.



QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS



Healthy rivers, lakes and wetlands

- The largest ever program of Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWO) environmental water delivery to ephemeral floodplain wetlands areas along the SA River Murray by the landscape board is now underway.
- 150 juvenile crayfish have been bred for release into the River Murray. This captive breeding project is part of the Murray crayfish reintroduction trial.
- Major water management infrastructure at Terlingie wetland has been completed and the new wetland regulator was opened in November 2024.
- Control works were undertaken following the annual inspection of a yellow iris infestation at Swanport wetland.



Healthy natural landscapes



- Two large ex-pastoral dams have been decommissioned as part of the Commonwealth funded project, *Call of the Mallee*, to reduce grazing pressure over a vast expanse of mallee bird habitat.
- A Bushcare workshop for the Ngarrindjeri community in the Raukan area was delivered in collaboration with Trees for Life.
- New Native Vegetation Heritage Agreement (NVHA) grants are available for landholders who want to apply for a heritage agreement to protect their native vegetation and improve its quality.
- A workshop was organised at Meldanda to discuss next steps for setting up one or two native seed production areas on private land.
- An inspiring and educational new childrens book "Papaltata and Pangku – An Australian Regent Parrot Story" was launched with much success.

QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS



People at the heart of landscape management

- River Murray Youth Council (RMYC) students experienced the Coorong first-hand including a kayak tour to the mouth of the River Murray.
- Young Environmental Leaders (YEL) forums were a great success, with 63 students from 11 schools experiencing the Murray River.
- The Education team were invited to Kangaroo Island to support the Kangaroo Island Landscape Board inaugural Young Environmental Leaders (YEL) forum. This initiative is based on the very successful Murraylands and Riverland YEL program.
- More than 500 students participated in education sessions and excursions delivered by the Education team, on topics including soil microbes, turtles, frogs, fish, macroinvertebrates, invasive species, and microbats.



- A Ngarrindjeri community frog yarning circle and a tour of a southern bell-frog captive breeding facility was held in Clayton.
- Local First Nations were linked in with a global Indigenous network focussing on conservation of migratory birds.
- The landscape board began engaging with two newly established First Nations groups – the Peramangk Aboriginal Corporation, and the Mid Murray and Mallee Aboriginal Corporation.

- The 2024 Soil your Undies project was a success with 149 pairs of undies unearthed and returned by farmers, home gardeners, kindy kids, and others!
- A very successful Marne Waterbug Bioblitz was held with the local community and scientific experts.



QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS



Foundational programs

- Annual Report for the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board was completed and submitted to the Deputy Premier on time.
- Two animation videos are in production to help promote development of the landscape board's climate change strategy
- The presentation on planning for climate-ready landscapes at a public forum held at the CLMM Research Centre provided an opportunity to share the board's climate strategy and highlight projects delivering climate adaptation and mitigation actions.



- A media pack was developed for the Murray-Darling carpet python to strengthen collaboration with board stakeholders.
- A comprehensive khaki weed media kit was created for the Renmark Paringa Council.
- Development of the Environmental Land Management Allocation (ELMA) watering tool.

- A new events trailer has been commissioned to support staff at events and workshops.



FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The following summary of financial performance includes total expenditure by priorities and funding source, in addition to expenditure through the disbursement of grant funds. More detail regarding revenue and planned expenditure is available in the [2024-25 Annual Business Plan](#).

Table 1. Quarter 2 expenditure by priority by funding source.

| Funding source | Annual revenue | Expenditure by priority | | | | | | Total expenditure YTD |
|------------------------|-------------------|--|-----------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | | Sustainable agricultural and pastoral landscapes | Sustainable water Use | Healthy rivers, lakes and wetlands | Healthy natural landscapes | People at the heart of landscape management | Foundational programs | |
| Levy | 13,514,622 | 661,980 | 1,487,029 | 432,481 | 455,868 | 1,060,630 | 1,017,149 | 5,115,138 |
| Commonwealth | 2,313,968 | 78,843 | 145,399 | 131,331 | 191,759 | 364,574 | 15,253 | 927,159 |
| Other SA Govt Agencies | 1,831,100 | 92,019 | 249,550 | 326,293 | 29,782 | 113,579 | 1,212 | 812,435 |
| Other** | 5,221,339 | 73,820 | 18,278 | 4,132 | 3,816 | 11,004 | 13,921 | 124,971 |
| Total | 22,881,029 | 906,661 | 1,900,256 | 894,238 | 681,225 | 1,549,787 | 1,047,535 | 6,979,703 |

* The budget and annual revenue in this table may differ to the Business Plan due to additional income being received or carry-over funds.

** Other includes \$4.553 million in working capital received due to the delay in raising water levies. This will be returned to the Landscape Administration fund prior to 30 June 2025.

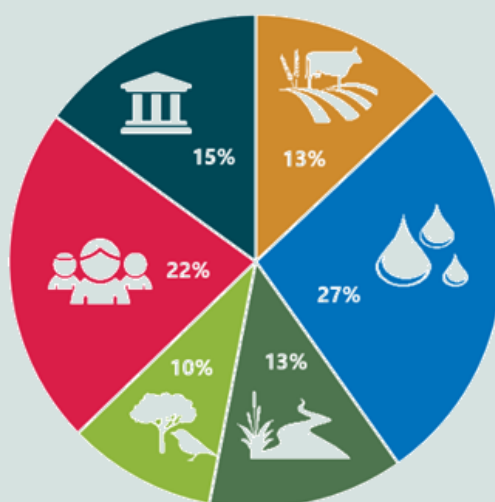


Figure 1. Percentage of expenditure for the quarter across priorities and foundational support.

The landscape board provides multiple opportunities for landholders and groups to apply for grants to undertake works that to contribute to the implementation of the Regional Landscape Plan. Table 2 and Figure 2 below provide information about the distribution of grant funds into our community.

Table 2. Grants disbursed by recipient category.

| Category | Grants disbursed |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Landholders | 566,701 |
| Volunteer Groups and NGOs | 235,610 |
| First Nations | 358,132 |
| Local government | 10,400 |
| State Government | 18,750 |
| Schools | 14,987 |
| Other | 32,587 |

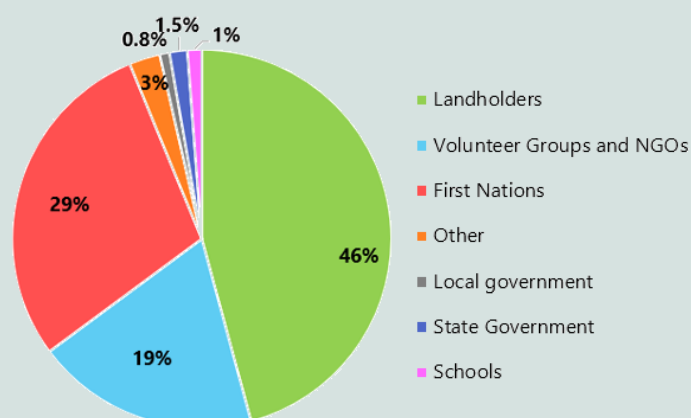


Figure 2. Percentage of grants disbursed by recipient category.

[View the full report here](#)

More information

landscape.sa.gov.au/mr

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