

Annual highlights

Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board

2025-26



Welcome

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

In 2025-26, many projects and partnerships delivered great outcomes for the region and contributed to the enhancement and protection of the Murraylands and Riverland landscape. Much of this work was funded by landscape levies, paid by rate payers and water licensees, with local councils playing an important role in collecting the levy on behalf of the landscape board. This funding, along with considerable investment from the South Australian and Australian Governments, supports the delivery of projects across our region.

This was the fifth and final year of the implementation of the 2021-2026 Regional Landscape Plan which focuses the landscape board's work on 5 priority areas:



sustainable agricultural landscapes



sustainable water use



healthy rivers, lakes and wetlands



healthy natural landscapes



people at the heart of landscape management

The landscape board sincerely thanks everyone who has been involved in delivering a healthy and resilient landscape, as the landscape board's achievements have only been possible through strong partnerships with landholders, First Nations, industry, government and non-government organisations, and the wider community.

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 people have to Country.

[View 2026-2031 Regional Landscape Plan](#)

[Watch Regional Landscape Plan video](#)

2025-26 Snapshot



The **Grassroots Grants Program** funded **40 projects** from 35 organisations or individuals



16,529 ha benefitted from **weed control** for **land management** purposes



2,118 interactions with **landholders** and **community members** to provide support and technical advice



27 priority terrestrial and aquatic **threatened species** and/or ecological communities received **targeted support**



The **Education program** supported **56 schools**, engaging **4,668 students** and **577 teachers**



239,520 ha benefitted from **pest animal control** for **conservation**



Organised and/or participated in **493 events** to **engage** with and **support** the region's **community**



More than **12,000 ha** of **pest invasion pathways** were inspected and surveyed



1,510,187 ha benefitted from **pest animal control** for **land management** purposes



98 volunteers recognised at celebration events



7,816 individuals **engaged** at **events** to increase knowledge, awareness, skills and participation in natural resource management



The landscape board **collaborated** with **216 partner organisations**



24,665 fox baits were **sold** to assist in controlling foxes



More than **220 land managers** were involved in **coordinated pest animal baiting**



Revegetation of **130 ha** for conservation



23 on-ground trial sites were established to increase land managers' knowledge of improved land management practices



Highlights



Nearly **40,000 ML** of **environmental water** was delivered to support **3,773 ha** of **wetlands** and **floodplains**, helping maintain healthy habitats for native plants and wildlife across the region. Much of this water was delivered in partnership with the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder.



Tolderol Game Reserve Wetlands became a **haven for waterbirds** following infrastructure upgrades and environmental watering, supporting **2,500 to 3,000 migratory shorebirds** and up to **10,000 waterbirds** recorded across the reserve. The rare migratory **Siberian ruff** (*Calidris pugnax*) was also recorded, highlighting the success of wetland management.

Wetland rehabilitation delivered significant **environmental benefits** across the region, resulting in better water quality, recovery of aquatic vegetation and enhanced habitat for birds, fish, frogs and turtles. These outcomes were achieved through **innovative wetland management techniques**, including complete wetting and drying cycles and carp exclusion.



The **National Soil Monitoring Program** was completed across the region, with **60 sites sampled** through strong landholder engagement and coordination. The program provides valuable information on soil condition, health and trends, supporting sustainable land management across the state.



The comprehensive **Marne Saunders Water Allocation Plan review** was delivered through strong collaboration between landscape board staff, community members, First Nations and Department of Environment and Water technical experts.

The **Carbon Farming Outreach Program** concluded this year, with **11 workshops** delivered across the region to increase awareness of carbon farming opportunities. The program generated **strong industry engagement** around sustainability and emissions reduction, while highlighting how on-farm practices can deliver both environmental and productivity benefits.



Landholders gained practical tools and knowledge to respond to changing climate conditions through the **Climate Smart Agriculture program**, which delivered new demonstration sites, industry partnerships and practical climate adaptation trials, including initiatives focused on optimising cooling irrigation, soil health and sustainability.

More than **230 groundwater salinity samples** were collected across key prescribed water resource areas, improving the understanding of groundwater salinity trends, supporting informed water management decisions and providing landholders with information to track groundwater conditions on their properties.



Significant progress was made in the **Murray-Darling carpet python project**, including a tracked adult python, additional juvenile captures, expansion of community reporting through iSpython and more than **130 records** contributed by the community. The information collected is improving understanding of the species' habitat requirements and distribution.



The **Building the Resilience of Ngarrindjeri Yarluwar-Ruwe project** was completed through a partnership between the Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation and landscape boards across 4 regions. The project supported environmental monitoring programs, cultural assessments, threatened species conservation and on-ground landscape management.

More than **5,500 ha** of **Iron-grass Natural Temperate Grassland (INTG)** were mapped across the region, improving understanding of the extent and condition of this threatened ecological community. The information will help guide future conservation, restoration and land management efforts.



Habitat restoration activities for threatened **regent parrots** were achieved through 20 ha of direct seeding, and over 50 km of revegetation rows established to improve connectivity between feeding and nesting habitat.



The **River Murray Youth Council** represented the region's voice at the **River Reflections Conference**, sharing their perspectives on the importance of the River Murray, biodiversity conservation, native species protection and sustainable land use, and ensuring young people's voices contributed to conversations about the future of the region's landscapes.



The **Riverland Feral Pig project** removed **263 feral pigs** through coordinated control efforts across the region, reducing impacts on the environment and agriculture. The project improved landholder skills and provided greater access to effective trapping technology to support ongoing control efforts.



South Australia's first **Woody Meadow trial** was established in Murray Bridge, showcasing **climate resilient native plantings** that support biodiversity, reduce maintenance needs and provide a model for future urban greening projects across the region.



The **River to Recovery project** delivered a coordinated post-flood response along the River Murray corridor, undertaking large-scale weed surveys and control activities to protect native vegetation and habitat.

The **TURTLE project** progressed well, engaging stakeholders from across the community, research, government and conservation sectors. The project is fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing to support **coordinated turtle conservation** and recovery efforts across South Australia.



Investment in the region

Landscape levies play an important role in helping to secure our vision for “*working in partnership with regional communities to deliver a healthy and resilient landscape.*”

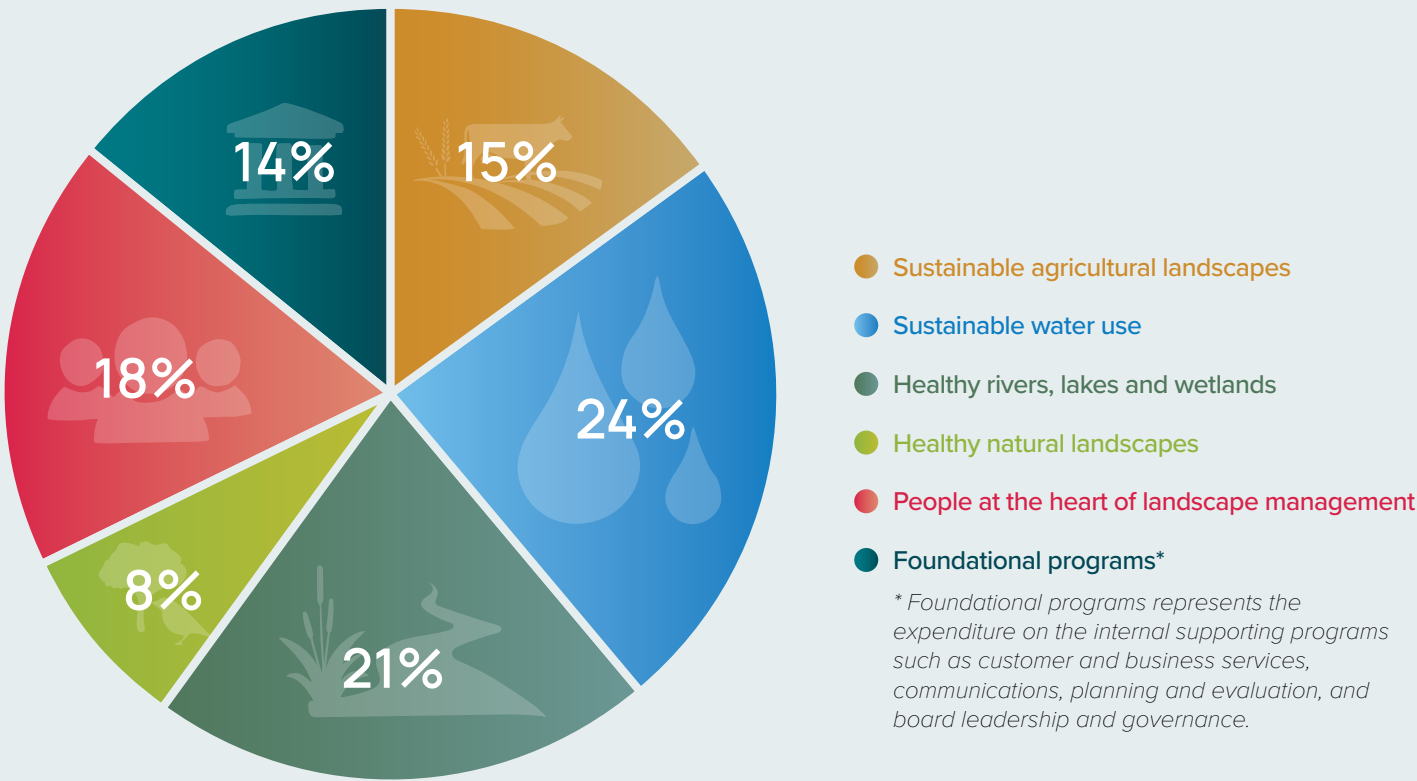
Taking care of our natural landscapes is everyone’s responsibility and paying landscape levies is a way that everyone can contribute.

Funds raised within this landscape region remain invested here and are used for a variety of regional

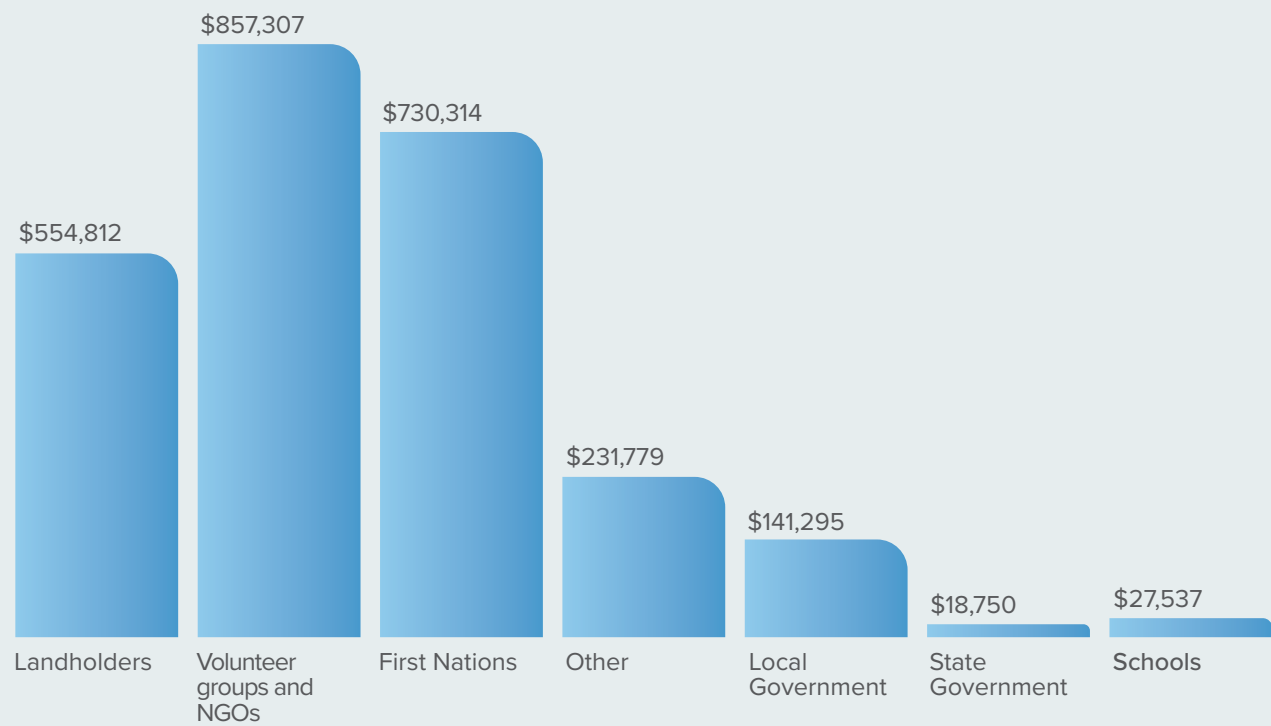
priorities including managing land, vegetation and water; citizen science; and community education and awareness. The landscape levies are used to leverage other funding sources including from the Australian Government.

In the 2025-26 financial year, the amount raised from landscape levies was \$13.8 million. \$4 million was committed from the Australian Government and \$2.2 million raised through other funding sources.

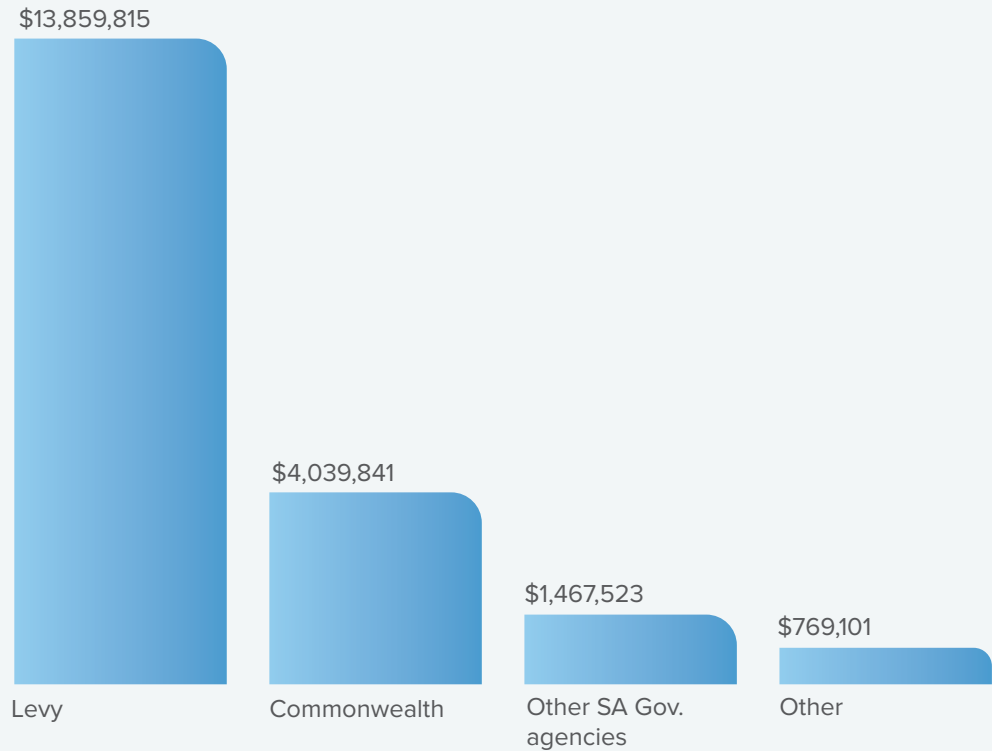
Expenditure by regional priorities



Support provided to the community



2025-26 revenue



Note: These financial figures are yet to be formally audited for the 2025-26 Financial Year.

More information

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