

# Annual Business Plan 2025-2026

Northern and Yorke Landscape Board







## **Acknowledgement of Country**

The Narungga, Nukunu, Kurna, Ngadjuri and Peramangk people are the traditional custodians of the Northern and Yorke region.

The Board acknowledges and respects elders past and present, and we respect and value the relationship that Aboriginal people have to Country.

*The Board is committed to strengthening partnerships with First Nations, as outlined in our Statement of Commitment.*

# Introduction



**On behalf of the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board, I am pleased to present the 2025-2026 Annual Business Plan.**

This Plan outlines the key programs and projects that the Board will deliver during the 2025-2026 financial year. It builds on the priorities outlined in the Northern and Yorke Landscape Plan 2021-2026, focusing on five priority areas; Communities, Biodiversity, Water management, Sustainable agriculture and Pest plant and animal control.

In late December 2024, we were saddened by the passing of one of our valued members, Mr Russell Johnstone. Russell had a wealth of knowledge and made a strong contribution to natural resource management in our region over many years. He is dearly missed. Early 2025 also saw a change to the composition of the Board. The Board and the region bid a fond farewell to Ms Jenny Loftes, Mr Sam Germein, Mr Bruce Michael and Mr Adrian Shackley whose terms were completed. Their contributions, advocacy and commitment to the Board and its priorities will be missed.

We formally welcome newly-appointed members Ms Holly Cowan, Ms Nicki Robins and Mr Leo Redden to the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board and region and acknowledge continuing members Mr Peter Angus, Ms Erika Lawley and Ms Sue Scarman.

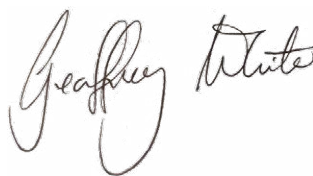
I encourage you to learn more about these members through visiting the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board [website](#), where you will find a short biography on each member.

The Board remains committed to its vision of “A resilient and productive landscape that sustains a thriving community, environment and economy”, understanding that for our work to be truly achievable, it needs to be undertaken in partnership with our project partners, First Nations peoples and organisations, stakeholders, and communities.

We are proud and grateful to be part of a dynamic network of organisations and individuals who share a collective vision and work together towards a sustainable future.

In the 2025-2026 year, the Board will continue to provide expertise across the priority areas and will bolster its sustainable agriculture team with an additional sustainable agriculture/soils specialist. The existing workforce will continue to deliver a combination of on-ground works, policy and strategy development, extension activities and landholder support. The key programs and projects are outlined in this Plan, with more information available on the website or via our monthly newsletter, social media account or at our six regional offices.

I urge you to consider how you can engage with the Board and become involved in the programs or projects outlined in this Plan. The Northern and Yorke Landscape Board greatly appreciates your support and looks forward to continued success in 2025-2026 and beyond.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Geoffrey White". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Geoffrey White**

Presiding Member (Chair)  
Northern and Yorke Landscape Board

# Our vision, mission and values

The Northern and Yorke region boasts an abundance of natural treasures, from breathtaking ranges and unspoiled coastlines to fertile agricultural land and culturally significant sites — all of which require careful stewardship to flourish. The Board remains dedicated to collaborating with individuals, communities, stakeholders, First Nations people and organisations across the region to foster a sustainable, resilient, and thriving future for all.

This Plan details the funding investments proposed for the 2025-2026 financial year, made possible through landholder levy contributions and the invaluable support of our project partners.

## VISION

A resilient and productive landscape that sustains a thriving community, environment and economy

## MISSION

Our mission is to inspire, educate, and work with our community to sustainably manage the Northern and Yorke landscape region. From the hills and plains to the sea, we are committed to the protection and productivity of our natural resources to ensure resilient ecosystems, vibrant communities and a healthy economy into the future.

## VALUES



### Passionate and Committed

The natural world excites us. We work hard to ensure it continues to thrive.



### Excellence

We strive to excel in the delivery of our services, starting with well-considered plans and following through on our promises.



### Approachable & Collaborative

We work alongside landholders and the community, listening to their needs and providing a helping hand.



### Practical

We aim to balance the conservation of our natural resources with a commitment to supporting agriculture and enterprise.



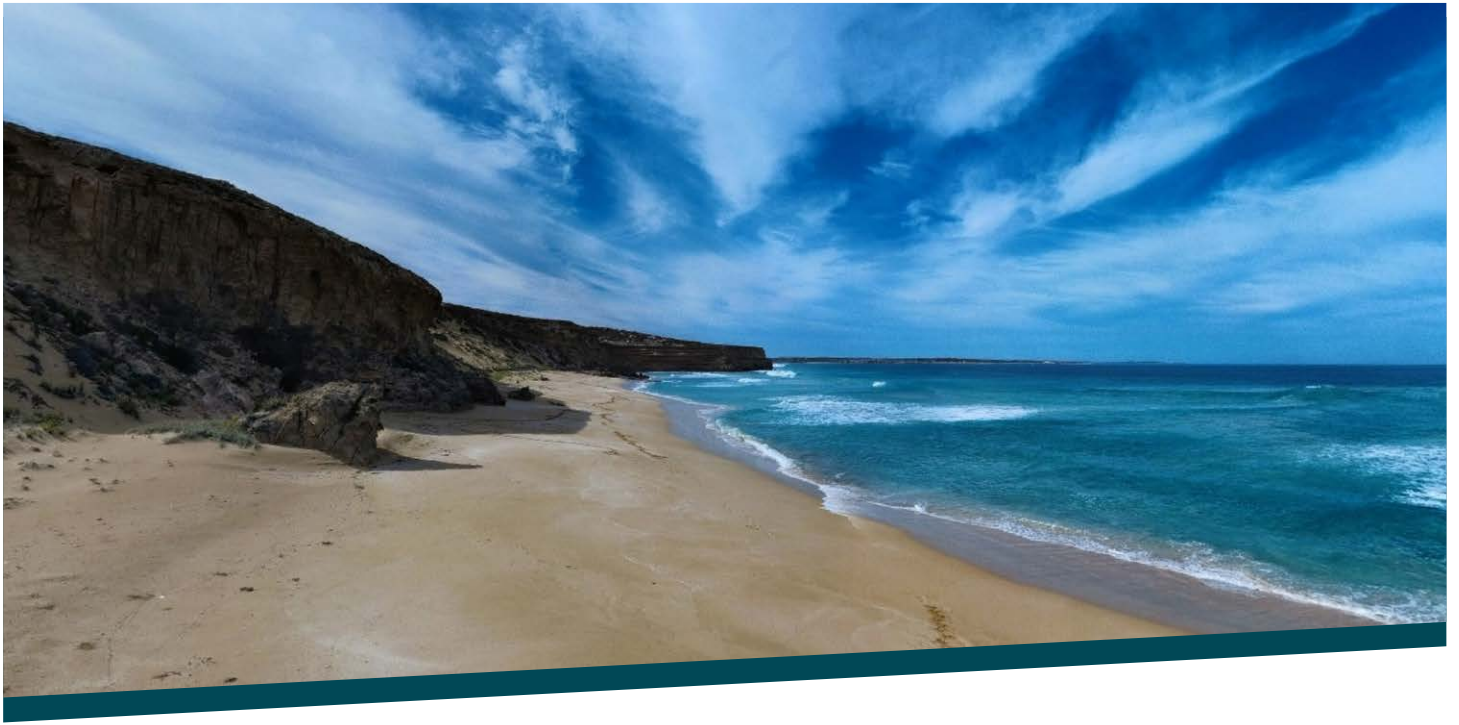
### Change

We test and adopt progressive ideas to evolve with the changing climate and ensure our region's resilience.









# Our region

**The Northern and Yorke region spans 38,500 square kilometres, encompassing a diverse and productive part of South Australia. It features 1,300 kilometres of coastline along adjacent marine areas, contributing to its rich environmental and economic landscape.**

This vast region includes Yorke Peninsula, extensive areas of Spencer Gulf and Gulf St Vincent, the Southern Flinders Ranges, sections of the Rangelands, the Mid North, the Northern Mount Lofty Ranges, the Barossa, and the Northern Adelaide Plains. Home to approximately 150,000 residents, the region supports thriving agricultural, coastal, and urban communities while welcoming countless visitors to iconic destinations such as Dhillba Guuranda-Innes National Park, the Barossa Valley, the Clare Valley, and the Southern Flinders Ranges.

The Northern and Yorke region is also the traditional land of the Narungga, Nukunu, Ngadjuri, Kurna, and Peramangk peoples, whose deep cultural heritage remains a vital part of the landscape.

Key urban centres include Port Pirie, Gawler, Nuriootpa, Clare, Burra, Peterborough, Kadina, Moonta, and Wallaroo.

Natural resources fuel a wide range of industries, with approximately 80% of the land dedicated to agricultural cropping and grazing — contributing a quarter of South Australia's agricultural earnings. The region is renowned for its Barossa Valley and Clare Valley wine production and supports vital sectors such as mining and mineral processing, fishing, aquaculture, forestry, horticulture, renewable energy, and tourism.



# Northern and Yorke management region

WAKEFIELD

Council name and boundary

NARUNGA

First Nation community



0 25 50 100 km





Geoff White



Erika Lawley



Leo Redden



Holly Cowan



Sue Scarman



Peter Angus



Nicki Robins

# Our Board

The Board is a statutory body established under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* tasked with helping manage the region's landscapes and natural resources. It has a range of legislated obligations, in the areas of management and protection of land, management of and protection of water resources and control of 'declared' pest plants and animals.

The Board does this through:

- development and implementation of Water Allocation Plans
- issue of Water Affecting Activities permits
- supporting landholders to sustainably manage land through provision of specialist advice
- supporting Traditional Custodians First Nations peoples and organisations; involved in the management of lands, seas and waters
- advice on management of declared pest plants and animals and impact-causing native species, including an extensive roadside weed management program
- ensuring compliance with the Act, where necessary.

The Board is funded through landscape and water levies to deliver its obligations and programs that contribute to the priorities of the Regional Landscape Plan 2021-2026. The levies also help the Board attract additional funding and support to increase what is achieved in our region.

The Board consists of a Presiding Member (Chair) and six community members appointed as board members. They are appointed by the Minister on the basis of the skills and experience that the member can provide to the Board. The Board meets regularly, holding meetings at towns throughout the region. Visitors are welcome to attend board meetings which are advertised on the website.

## In 2025-2026 the following committees will support the Board's operations:

- Governance and Finance Committee
- Five First Nations Landscape Committee

## Select board members also attend the following water planning committees:

- Water Planning Steering Committee
- Water Allocation Planning Advisory Groups for the Barossa and Baroota Prescribed Water Resources Areas



# Our priorities

## Communities

Active. Informed. Knowledgeable.



### FOCUS AREAS:

- Make decisions based on best available science, cultural knowledge and local experience
- Actively engaged community at the centre of landscape management
- Foster partnerships that increase communication, expertise and collaboration in landscape management

## Biodiversity

Protected. Improved. Restored.



### FOCUS AREAS:

- Support the protection and restoration of coastal habitats
- Coordinate programs to improve climate change resilience and adaptive capacity
- Improve ecosystems through restoration of habitat

## Sustainable agriculture

Adaptive. Resilient. Healthy.



### FOCUS AREAS:

- Building land managers' capacity in adaptive agriculture and best practice land management
- Support innovation and adoption of practices for resilience and adaptation
- Protect and improve the condition of soil, groundcover and vegetation

## Water management

Efficient. Sustainable. Monitored.



### FOCUS AREAS:

- Sustainably manage the region's prescribed water resources
- Protect and rehabilitate watercourses and wetlands
- Promote the sustainable use of water for environmental, cultural, social and industry outcomes

## Pest plants and animals

Targeted. Coordinated. Collaborative.



### FOCUS AREAS:

- Deliver programs that control priority weeds and feral animals to reduce their effects on agriculture and biodiversity
- Develop land manager networks and facilitate collaboration for pest control and management



# Investment by priority

This Plan outlines the projected revenue and expenditure for the financial year, ensuring transparency in how resources are allocated to achieve the Board's priorities.

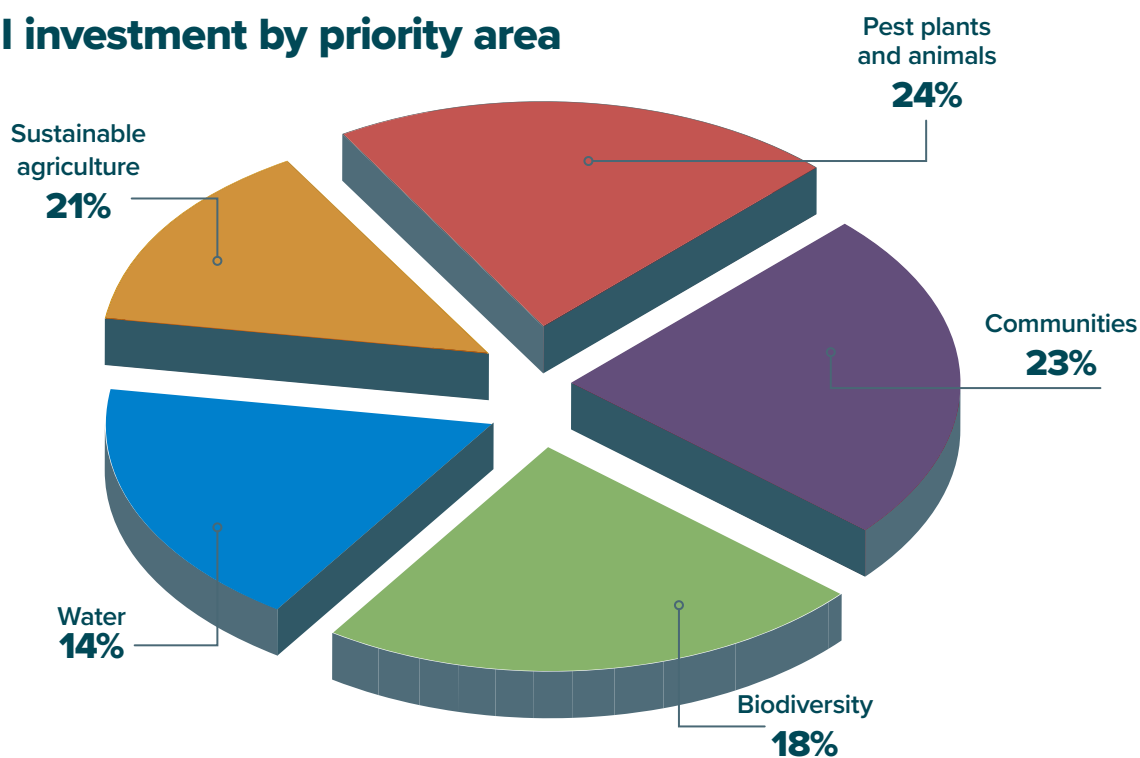
The Board's investment will be implemented through a variety of approaches, including direct funding, contracts for works and services, and grants to support targeted initiatives.

The table below and the accompanying chart provide a breakdown of funding by priority across all planned activities for the 2025-2026 financial year. This includes not only program-related expenditure but also essential operational costs such as administrative support, fleet management, office accommodation, and other necessary operating expenses.

The following pages outline the programs and projects in greater detail.

Priority	Board investment	External funding	Total investment 25-26
Communities	2,042,308	334,779	2,377,087
Biodiversity	1,153,851	688,394	1,842,245
Water management	1,446,104	0	1,396,104
Sustainable agriculture	1,107,336	1,193,383	2,300,719
Pest Plants and animals	2,033,483	456,000	2,489,482
<b>Total investment</b>	<b>7,783,082</b>	<b>2,672,556</b>	<b>10,405,637</b>

## Total investment by priority area





# Communities



**Active. Informed. Knowledgeable.**

Strong community engagement is vital to the success of the Northern and Yorke Landscape region. From bustling town centres to remote farming districts and vibrant viticulture hubs, the region thrives on the contributions of people who cherish its environment and natural assets.

The Board is committed to fostering education, awareness, and collaboration across all priority areas,

ensuring that programs and projects empower communities to protect and sustain their landscapes.

The Board is a member of the Regional Alliance, a collaborative arrangement which includes the Board, the Northern and Yorke Local Government Association, Regional Development Australia Yorke and Mid North and Regional Development Australia, Barossa, Light and Gawler.

Focus area	Program / Project	Board investment	External funding
Make decisions based on best available science, cultural knowledge, and local experience	<b>First Nations engagement</b> <i>Working with First Nations People to care for Country</i>	50,000	
	<b>Natural capital approach</b> <i>Developing a Biodiversity Scorecard to underpin investment in our region</i>	100,000	
	<b>Community and stakeholder engagement</b> <i>Working with our communities and stakeholders to enhance mutual outcomes</i>	70,000	
	<b>Five Nations Landscape Committee</b> <i>Support for the Five Nations Landscape Committee</i>	20,000	6,000 <sup>^</sup>
Actively engaged community at the centre of landscape management	<b>Citizen Science in water monitoring and landscape management</b> <i>Opportunities via the Waterwatch &amp; Bioblitz programs, and threatened species monitoring, coastal protection and pest species management</i>	23,650	31,379
	<b>Nature education program</b> <i>A primary school based nature education program</i>	10,000	
	<b>Nature education program</b> <i>A primary school based nature education program</i>	30,000	
	<b>Volunteer support program</b> <i>Provision of support, materials and insurance for volunteer community groups</i>	15,000	
	<b>Natural resource centre project support</b> <i>Support for aligned projects coordinated by the regions Natural Resource Centres</i>	30,000	
	<b>Grants and sponsorship programs</b> <i>Grassroots Grants, Bite-sized Grants and sponsorship programs</i>	336,318	
	<b>Communications and engagement program (RDP Capacity Services)</b> <i>Stakeholder engagement in regional planning, project co-design and media assets; ie newsletters, publications, media and advertising</i>	30,000	303,400
Foster partnerships	<b>Partnerships with regional alliance, local councils, NGOs, community groups</b> <i>Support for collaborative projects run by the Regional Alliance or Alliance members<sup>^</sup>.</i>	25,000	
<b>Staff and corporate costs</b>		<b>1,302,340</b>	
<b>TOTAL investment</b>		<b>2,042,308</b>	<b>334,779</b>

<sup>^</sup>contributions received from Regional Alliance Members in support of the Five Nations Landscape Committee



# Biodiversity



**Protected. Improved. Restored.**

The Northern and Yorke region is a rich ecological landscape, home to nationally threatened peppermint box grassy woodlands and iron-grass natural temperate grasslands. With 1,300 native plant species, 33 terrestrial mammals, over 300 bird species, and more than 90 reptile species, its biodiversity is both remarkable and fragile.

Protecting these threatened ecosystems requires collaboration between the Board, its partners and the community. By restoring degraded vegetation and safeguarding key habitats, we can strengthen biodiversity and ensure the region's natural heritage thrives for generations to come.

Focus area	Program / project	Board investment	External funding
Support the protection and restoration of coastal habitats	<b>Coastal access strategy implementation</b> <i>Supporting the resilience of the Yorke Peninsula coastal ecosystem</i>	30,000	
	<b>Coastal priority weed projects</b> <i>Addressing gazanias &amp; beach daisy, promotion of native coastal gardens</i>	Refer Pest Program	
	<b>Marine environments and Blue Carbon</b> <i>Support for Blue Carbon and seagrass projects</i>	Staff Support <sup>1</sup>	
Coordinate programs to improve climate change resilience and adaptive capacity	<b>Stronger Country</b> <i>On-ground support for landowners with agricultural land containing threatened ecological communities</i>		208,394
	<b>Regional alliance climate sector agreement and action plan</b> <i>Development of a regional climate sector change agreement, and action plan</i>	5,000	
	<b>Urban NRM</b> <i>Partnership with Green Adelaide to extend current Urban NRM programs</i>	Staff Support	
Improve ecosystems through restoration of habitat	<b>Marna Banggara</b> <i>Reintroduction of locally extinct species to improve soil and ecosystem health on the Southern Yorke Peninsula</i>	209,776 <sup>^</sup>	480,000
	<b>Threatened Species Monitoring programs</b> <i>Orchids on Southern Yorke Peninsula; Hooded Plover, Osprey &amp; Malleefowl monitoring inc. in Marna Banggara</i>	17,500	
	<b>Revegetation works – Mid North rivers catchments</b> <i>Supplementary plantings along rivers in the Mid North</i>	10,000	
	<b>Pygmy Blue-tongue Project</b> <i>Continuing research into pygmy blue-tongues in the NY Region</i>	35,000	
	<b>Rail and Road Asset Native Vegetation protection program</b> <i>Contribution to mapping, protecting and enhancing areas of intact native vegetation on unused road and rail corridors</i>	10,000	
	<b>Improving woodland bird habitat</b> <i>Improving habitat for declining woodland birds in the Mt Lofty Ranges</i>	3,000	
	<b>Staff and Corporate Costs</b>	<b>1,043,351</b>	
<b>TOTAL Investment</b>		<b>1,363,327<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>688,394</b>

<sup>^</sup> \$209,776 budget carried over from 2022/2023 as outlined in Forward Estimates. <sup>1</sup> These projects and programs are supported through commitment of staff time rather than financial commitment

# Water management



**Efficient. Sustainable. Monitored.**

Water is essential for life and plays a crucial role in the environmental and economic prosperity of communities. The health of our water resources is monitored through monitoring flow, permanent pools, wetlands, and the ecosystems that rely on them.

The Board has a legislative responsibility for managing prescribed water resource areas, including the development and implementation of Water Allocation Plans. These plans establish clear guidelines for

sustainable water management, ensuring a balance between environmental, social, and economic needs.

To safeguard water sustainability, the Board monitors the effectiveness of these plans, assessing their impact and ensuring equitable access for all stakeholders. Additionally, the Board oversees water-affecting activities through a permit and compliance system, working to preserve natural water flows and enforcing restoration efforts when necessary.

Focus area	Program / project	Board investment	External funding
Sustainably manage the region's prescribed water resources areas (PWRA)	<b>Investment in water science</b> <i>Provision of water resource monitoring and data from DEW</i>	508,874	
	<b>Water Allocation Plan development and implementation</b> <i>Finalisation of Barossa and Baroota Water Allocation Plans</i> <i>Commencement of Clare WAP review</i>	70,000	
	<b>Monitor ecological changes in Prescribed Water Resource Areas (PWRAs)</b> <i>Fish, frog, macroinvertebrates and tree health monitoring</i>	45,000	
Protect and rehabilitate watercourses and wetlands	<b>Water Affecting Activity permits</b> <i>Processing application for permits and hydrologist, engineering advice</i>	5,000	
	<b>High performing dam and dam safety projects<sup>1</sup></b> <i>Collaboration with Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board and DEW on improving dam safety, efficiency and ecological outcomes</i>	Staff Support <sup>1</sup>	
	<b>Environmental and cultural flows project with PHD sponsorship</b> <i>Enhancing environmental and cultural flows in ephemeral river systems</i>	35,000	
	<b>E-Flows and catchment restoration projects</b> <i>Promotion of environmental flows in the Baroota, Crystal Brook Creek and Barossa</i>	50,000	
Promote the sustainable use of water for environmental, cultural, social and industry outcomes	<b>Flow and flood meters in Barossa, Clare and Burra Creek</b> <i>Installation and maintenance of meters to monitor permanent pools, flow and floods</i>	25,000	
	<b>Water, flood and drought resilience planning<sup>1</sup></b> <i>Staff involvement in flood, water management and drought planning at local and state level</i> <i>Includes participation in Flows for the Future, Gawler River Flood Plain Management Authority and water security planning.</i>	Staff Support <sup>1</sup>	
	<b>Water Affecting Activity compliance</b> <i>Compliance actions, including education, awareness and formal actions if required</i>	10,000	
<b>Staff and Corporate Costs</b>		<b>697,230</b>	
<b>Total Investment</b>		<b>1,446,104</b>	

<sup>1</sup> These projects and programs are supported through commitment of staff time rather than financial commitment



# Sustainable agriculture



**Adaptive. Resilient. Healthy.**

Agriculture is the backbone of the region's economy, accounting for the largest employment sector and utilising approximately 80% of the land, supporting over 7,000 jobs. The remaining 20% is dedicated to viticulture, market gardening, mining, small farms, and residential areas, all contributing to the region's diverse landscape and economy. Given agriculture's vital role in both

economic and social stability, maintaining soil health, sustainability, adaptability, and drought resilience is essential for long-term regional prosperity. The Board is committed to enhancing both environmental and economic outcomes for agricultural communities, ensuring they are well-equipped to navigate shifting climate conditions and evolving market demands.

Focus area	Program / project	Board investment	External funding
Support innovation and adoption of practices for resilience and adaptation	<b>Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator</b> <i>Dedicated specialist providing advice, education and support to land managers</i>		129,430 <sup>^</sup>
	<b>ACE Farmers: Adapting to Climate and Emissions</b> <i>Promotion and acceleration of sustainable NRM practices</i>		561,117
	<b>Carbon Outreach Officer</b> <i>Deliver training and education to empower participation in carbon markets and low emission land management practices</i>		94,443
	<b>Weather station and soil moisture sensors</b> <i>Provision of free data from 5 weather stations and soil moisture sensors</i>	10,000	
	<b>Waterwise Farming project</b> <i>Delivers targeted support through educational events, practical tools and financial incentives to improve on farm water efficiency</i>		200,000*
	<b>Stronger Country (Agricultural outcomes)</b> <i>Property Management Planning and on ground works to support agricultural outcomes on properties with threatened ecological communities</i>		208,394
	<b>Field days, events and workshops</b> <i>Sustainable Agriculture focussed events and workshops throughout the region</i>	20,000	
Protect and improve the condition of the soil, groundcover and vegetation	<b>Managing impact causing native species (including kangaroo management)<sup>1</sup></b> <i>Collaboration with the state level Steering Committee to address increasing impacts from overabundant species</i>	Staff Support <sup>1</sup>	
	<b>Reducing impact of overgrazing by pest herbivores</b> <i>Control and management of goats, rabbits and deer in the landscape</i>	See Pest Priority	
	<b>Pollinators and Beneficial Bugs project</b> <i>Investigating the benefits of insects and pollinators on threatened ecological communities, and native pastures</i>	25,000	
<b>Staff and Corporate Costs</b>		<b>1,052,336</b>	
<b>Total Investment</b>		<b>1,107,336</b>	<b>1,193,383</b>

<sup>1</sup> These projects and programs are supported through commitment of staff time rather than financial commitment. <sup>^</sup>Sustainable Agriculture Facilitators are supported by the Australian Government through funding from the Natural Heritage Trust under the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program

\*Waterwise Farming Project will be funded by Landscape Priority Fund, signed agreement not received as at preparation of the business plan.

# Pest plant and animal control



**Targeted. Coordinated. Collaborative.**

Invasive pest plants and animals pose serious risks to agricultural productivity, biodiversity, and human health. Under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, landowners are responsible for managing declared pests on their properties.

The Board plays a crucial role in supporting landowners by providing guidance and assistance to effectively control existing pest species while working to prevent new infestations. By fostering proactive management strategies, we aim to protect the region's landscapes and ensure long-term environmental sustainability.

Focus Area	Program / Project	Board Investment	External Funding
Deliver programs that control priority weeds and feral animals to reduce their effects on agriculture and biodiversity	<b>Pest Animal Control program</b> <i>Support for Wild Dog Program, provision of cat traps, goat yards, and discounted baiting program and bait injection days.</i>	80,000	
	<b>Now or Never Deer and Goat Control project</b> <i>Project to eradicate deer and reduce goat numbers throughout the region</i>	5,000	233,000
	<b>Pest Plant Management program</b> <i>Roadside weed control in conjunction with Councils</i>	225,000	
	<b>New and emerging pest plants and animals</b> <i>Detection and monitoring of new incursions, species and treatment options</i>	30,000	
	<b>Marna Banggara – predator management fence</b> <i>Maintenance of 25km predator management fence</i>	40,000	
	<b>Extension and Education Activities program</b>	20,000	
	<b>District priority pest plants and animals</b> <i>Targeting priority species in each district to address agricultural or environmental threats</i>	120,000	
	<b>Buffel grass management</b> <i>Controlling the spread of Buffel Grass in the Northern and Yorke Region</i>	50,000	100,000*
Develop land manager networks and facilitate collaboration for pest control and management	<b>Community Collaborative Weed projects</b> <i>Support for small community focussed projects addressing local priority areas</i>	60,000	
	<b>Arterial Road and Rail Weed Management program with SA Government and industry partners</b> <i>Collaborative project with road and rail managers to address declared weeds.</i>		45,000^
	<b>Property clusters for fox baiting<sup>1</sup></b> <i>Promotion of seasonal coordinated fox baiting across large areas to increase effectiveness.</i>	Staff support <sup>1</sup>	
	<b>Pest Plant and Animal Control Compliance program</b> <i>Compliance actions, including education, awareness and formal actions if required</i>	10,000	
<b>Staff and Corporate Costs</b>		<b>1,383,483</b>	
<b>Total Investment</b>		<b>2,033,483</b>	<b>456,000</b>

\*Agreement in draft as at date of Business plan development. Estimate only. ^ Funding with road and rail partners is subject to change. Estimate only. <sup>1</sup> These projects and programs are supported through commitment of staff time rather than financial commitment



# Our projects



## ACE Farmers: Adapting to Climate and Emissions

***\$2.05m investment from 2025 to 2028***

This project aims to revolutionise agricultural practices, driving significant carbon emissions reduction while promoting long-term sustainability across the agricultural industry in our region.

Through supporting on-farm understanding, practices and actions to help sequester carbon, minimise emissions, and enhance biodiversity incentives, it will help land managers adopt cutting-edge sustainability practices that will see them meet the challenges of continually evolving environmental and market needs.

An engaging communication strategy will ensure widespread knowledge-sharing, utilising workshops, conferences, podcasts, videos, fact sheets, and one-on-one advisory support to equip land managers with the skills needed for meaningful change.

Engaging a diverse range of agricultural sectors—including livestock, cropping, horticulture, and viticulture—this initiative will deliver impact at a regional scale, fostering resilience across industries.

Collaboration is the key to success with this project. The project will partner with farming system groups and other organisations to maximise reach, share technical expertise, and drive practical, on-the-ground solutions for a more sustainable agricultural future.

This project is supported by the Australian Government through funding from the Natural Heritage Trust under the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program.





## Marna Banggara

***\$8.5m investment from 2019 to 2028***

**Marna Banggara is an ambitious project that aims to restore southern Yorke Peninsula's spectacular landscape.**

By returning locally extinct species to the area, we hope to reinvigorate the ecological processes that ensure the bushland's health and provide flow-on benefits to agriculture and the local economy. Local landholders, farmers, the Narungga community, small businesses, NGO's and government are collaborating to ensure Yorke Peninsula thrives for years to come.

The project reached a significant milestone in 2021, with 40 brush-tailed bettongs translocated to Dhillba Guuranda-Innes National Park. One of Australia's rarest marsupials, the brush-tailed bettong was reintroduced to mainland South Australia after being locally extinct for more than a century. Another three translocations from Wedge Island and Western Australia took place in June and July 2022 and June 2023, taking the translocation total to 193 yalgi, as they're known to Narungga people.

The biggest threat for the returned native species is exotic and feral predators, including foxes and feral cats. Landscape-scale fox control work began about 15 years ago to prepare for the return of Tammar Wallabies to Dhillba Guuranda-Innes National Park and continues across the project area today.

A 25-kilometre fence across the foot of the Peninsula helps to limit predators re-entering the project area and together with continued predator management, is expected to support agricultural

productivity, by improving lamb survival rates, and has shown to increase survival rates for Hooded Plovers within the project area.

The project name originates from Narungga dialect with marna meaning 'healthy or prosperous' and banggara signifying 'Country', reflecting the project's aim to achieve improved economic and agricultural outcomes by enhancing biodiversity and the health of the district's natural systems.

Now entering its 7th year on-ground, the project has achieved many significant milestones and continues to thank its project partners:

This project is jointly funded by the Australian Government and the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board, a member of the Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partners panel. The project acknowledges support provided by the South Australian Department for Environment and Water, WWF-Australia, Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife, Regional Development Australia, South Australian Tourism Commission, Zoos SA, FAUNA Research Alliance, BirdLife Australia, Nature Conservation Society of SA, Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation, Primary Producers SA, Primary Industries and Regions SA, Conservation Volunteers Australia, Yorke Peninsula Council, Yorke Peninsula Tourism and the Scientific Expedition Group.







## Stronger Country

**\$2m investment from 2024 to 2028**

### Reconnecting communities to restore Country

The Stronger Country project seeks to protect and enhance three threatened ecological communities; peppermint box (*Eucalyptus odorata*) grassy woodlands, grey box (*Eucalyptus macrocarpa*) grassy woodlands, iron-grass (*Lomandra spp.*) natural temperate grasslands occurring through the Southern Flinders and Rangelands areas. The project will seek to reduce the rate of decline, and maintain existing numbers of two threatened species, the pygmy blue-tongue lizard and the plains-wanderer.

Using First Nations land management practices, and allowing access to private lands for First Nations to educate and assist landowners in managing lands for the benefit of Country will be a focus of the project.

The project will use a combination of existing land management and protection techniques, revegetation and asset protection to enhance existing stands of threatened communities, but will also provide innovative opportunities for landholders to manage production and threatened communities in unison. It is hoped that through this project, First Nations peoples will have increased business and economic opportunities.

The project will seek to deliver:

- 60,000ha of land managed under a plan to facilitate 'Best Practice' management for threatened ecological communities and species
- 50,000 ha of land protected over summer through improved grazing management strategies
- Build expertise of First Nations to provide environmental monitoring and augmentation services on their Country
- Reducing the threat to priority threatened communities/species through a strategic pest plant and animal management program
- The protection of a 1,500 hectares of Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) through on-ground works and conservation agreements
- Continuation of trial and demonstrations sites, including monitoring of beneficial insects within the TECs
- Collaborating with communities to manage and control pest animals and plants that are impacting on productivity and the environment.

This project is jointly funded by the Australian Government Natural Heritage Trust and Northern and Yorke Landscape Board, a member of the Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partners panel.





## Now or Never – Deer and Goat Control

**\$3.148m total investment and in-kind support from 2024 to 2027**

### Reconnecting communities to restore Country

The 'Now or Never- controlling feral deer and goats' project aims to significantly reduce deer and goat numbers across South Australia through targeted aerial and ground management and community education activities. This project will build on the feral deer and goat state and regional eradication programs.

Both species negatively affect biodiversity, water quality, public safety, agricultural assets and Aboriginal cultural heritage. These landscape scale impacts have driven Northern and Yorke, Hills and Fleurieu and Green Adelaide regions to collaborate with key industry groups and landholders to significantly reduce deer and goat numbers.

With the current dry times, this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to reverse the projections of both these species by eradicating feral deer in all regions and pushing back on feral goats.

This project will employ state of the art surveillance and control tools including thermal imaging, and thermal drones to support ground shooting operations and complement the thermal technology already in use in aerial control programs. At least one key monitoring site will be set up in each region using a consistent set of assessment protocols, to determine the success of the control program in managing impacts of deer and goats at assessment sites.

In addition, the project has a strong focus on extension and engagement. Landholders that directly participate in the program will be surveyed annually to assess their perceptions of the control program and the number of feral deer and goats present in the area. Landholders will continue to be encouraged to use Feralscan to report sightings and the number of reports will be assessed each year. This continuous engagement with project staff will build landholders knowledge and understanding of the importance of deer and goat control in the landscape.

#### Project partners:

- Hills and Fleurieu and Green Adelaide Landscape Boards
- PIRSA
- Department for Environment and Water
- Forestry SA
- SA Water
- National Feral Deer Program.

This project is part funded through the Landscape Priorities Fund.





# Our partners

The Board extends its sincere appreciation to the project partners, stakeholders, First Nations people and organisations, community groups, and individuals who collaborate with us to advance our priorities.

Their ongoing support and commitment are invaluable, enabling the Board to deliver the objectives outlined in this Plan, the Regional Landscape Plan, and the State Landscape Strategy. Without these vital partnerships, our ability to create meaningful change would be significantly limited.

Looking ahead, the Board remains dedicated to strengthening existing relationships and exploring new opportunities to collaborate, ensuring a collective and lasting impact across the region.



National  
Landcare  
Program



Australian Government  
Department of Agriculture,  
Water and the Environment



Future  
Drought  
Fund



Government of South Australia  
Department for Environment  
and Water



Government of South Australia  
Primary Industries and Resources SA



Foundation for  
National Parks  
& Wildlife



AUSTRALIA



Nature Conservation Society  
of South Australia



FAUNA  
RESEARCH ALLIANCE



NORTHERN & YORKE  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION





## Our First Nations partners

Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation

Ndgadjuri Nation Aboriginal Corporation

Kaurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation

Nukunu Wapma Thura Aboriginal Corporation

Peramangk Aboriginal Corporation

Point Pearce Aboriginal Corporation

Aboriginal Lands Trust

## Our council partners

Adelaide Plains Council

Barunga West Council

Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council

Copper Coast Council

Light Regional Council

Northern Areas Council

Port Pirie Regional Council

Regional Council of Goyder

District Council  
of Mount Remarkable

District Council of Orroroo  
Carrieton

District Council  
of Peterborough

The Barossa Council

Town of Gawler

Wakefield Regional Council

Yorke Peninsula Council



# Our income

The Board receives income through the collection of levies (landscape land levy and water levies) and through agreements with the Federal Government or other partners. The table below provides the estimated income for the 2025/2026 financial year.

Income	\$
Regional Landscape Levy	6,773,691
Water Levy	442,867
Sale of Goods and Services	100,000
Interest	210,000
<b>TOTAL Levy Income</b>	<b>7,526,558</b>
Australian Government	1,890,735
Landscape Priorities Fund	433,000
DEW Citizen Science Grant	31,379
Other External Funding	244,443
<b>TOTAL External Income</b>	<b>2,599,556</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>10,126,114</b>
<i>Carryover of unspent external funding *</i>	<i>360,000</i>
<i>Total Anticipated Expenditure Authority<sup>#</sup></i>	<i>10,485,000</i>

*\*Carryover of unspent funds is estimated at as 20 May 2025 year to date figures and may alter prior to carryover requests are submitted to the Department of Treasury and Finance. All carryovers are subject to approval by the Department for Treasury and Finance, with advice on carryover requests likely received in late 2025.*

*<sup>#</sup>The total anticipated expenditure authority reflects the total income, plus unspent budget from 2024/2025, anticipated to be expended in 2025/2026.*

# Our landscape levy

The regional landscape levy, outlined in the *Landscape (South Australia) Act 2019*, is the primary source of income for the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board. The regional landscape levy provides the funds to enable the Board to undertake its legislatively required functions, including administration of the requirements of the Act and to invest in programs and projects to address the priority areas outlined in the Regional Landscape Plan.

The levy is paid by councils on a quarterly basis, with councils re-couping their costs through the council rates process. Councils may claim costs associated with collecting the levy on behalf of the Board. The table below provides the landscape levy apportioned to each council on the basis of total capital value and the estimated collection fees that will be paid to councils by the Board.

Local Government Area	Levy distributed by capital value	25-26 Collection Costs
Adelaide Plains	371,545.92	5,032.28
Barossa	828,505.16	7,412.46
Barunga West	289,302.42	4,068.18
Clare & Gilbert Valleys	501,125.80	5,472.17
Copper Coast	585,723.46	7,122.92
Gawler	638,047.84	7,158.26
Goyder	266,924.44	4,701.51
Light	577,807.65	5,889.43
Mount Remarkable	143,078.13	4,271.23
Northern Areas	348,571.86	4,603.55
Orroroo Carrieton	43,664.47	3,635.73
Peterborough	35,092.15	3,718.19
Port Pirie	364,122.91	6,636.84
Wakefield	439,470.86	5,001.90
Yorke Peninsula	1,340,707.58	7,905.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,773,690.64</b>	<b>82,630.32</b>

## Council collection fees

The Councils within the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board region provide the valuable service of collecting the Landscape Levy from ratepayers, and forwarding the revenue to the Landscape Board quarterly. The Councils collect the levy through applying a rate per dollar of capital value and including the landscape levy on council rate notices. For this service, in the 2025/2026 financial year, Councils will be paid \$3,114.00 plus 31 cents per assessment (rateable property), totalling approximately \$82,630 across the 15 Council areas.





# Our water levies

The Northern and Yorke Landscape Board region contains 5 prescribed water resource areas (PWRA) and 2 prescribed wells areas (PWA). These include the entirety of Baroota, the Clare Valley and the Barossa Valley PWRA's and sections of the Marne Saunders, Western Mount Lofty PWRA's and Northern Adelaide and Central Adelaide Prescribed Well Areas.

Water levies are paid by all water licence holders on the basis of the water access entitlement held. The levy is collected by the Department for Environment and Water and forwarded to the Northern and Yorke Landscape

Board. The table below provides the rates at which levies will be charged in the 2025/2026 financial year, and includes an increase of 3.2%, being the September Quarter Consumer Price Index (CPI).

The Northern and Yorke Landscape Board is responsible for water planning for the Barossa Valley, Clare Valley and Baroota^ PWRA's. Where a PWRA is shared with a neighbouring landscape region, the water levy is shared between the boards, with the Northern and Yorke proportion shown as per the table below. The Board works collaboratively with Green Adelaide, Hills and Fleurieu and Murraylands and Riverland Boards to ensure water planning and levies are applied consistently across prescribed water resources and wells areas.

Prescribed Water Resources Area (PWRA) or Prescribed Wells Area (PWA)	24-25 Rates and Basis of Levy	Proportion within Northern and Yorke
Barossa Valley	.771 cents per kilolitre (c/kl) of water allocated	100%
Clare Valley	\$124.98 as a fixed amount per water license, and 4.459 cents per kilolitre (c/kl) of water allocated	100%
Marne Saunders	.829 c/kl of water allocated or a levy of \$200, which-ever is greater	40%
Western Mount Lofty Ranges	.771 cents per kilolitre (c/kl) of water allocated	3%
Central Adelaide	.771 cents per kilolitre (c/kl) of water allocated	1%
Northern Adelaide Plains Prescribed Wells Area	.771 cents per kilolitre (c/kl) of water allocated	33%

<sup>^</sup>The Water Allocation Plan for the Baroota Prescribed Water Resources Area is currently under development, therefore water levy rates are not yet included in the table.



# Our operations

## The Northern and Yorke Landscape Board is a Ministerial-appointed board with members and a Presiding Member.

The Board, supported through the Department for Environment and Water employs a General Manager, who provides management of the day-to-day operations of the region, and is the employing authority for the region's staff. The Northern and Yorke Landscape Regional Team includes 44.5 public sector employees, employed in on-going, term and casual positions. Approximately 15 full time equivalent positions are funded by the Australian Government through the Regional Delivery Partnership Program or through State Landscape Priority Funding.

The Landscape Board staff work across three districts, Rangelands, Yorke Peninsula and Mid North, with six offices located throughout the region.

A number of corporate and water science services are provided to the Board through service level agreements with the Department for Environment and Water and the Department of Treasury and Finance, Shared Services SA.

The estimated cost of Board operations (levy funded) for the 2025/2026 financial year is outlined in the table below:

Cost Category	2025-2026
Staff Salaries and Wages ^	\$3,440,603
Operating Costs	\$1,130,610
Corporate Services Costs	\$824,897
Levy Collection Costs paid to Council	\$82,630
Project Delivery across All Priorities *	\$2,304,342
<b>Total Levy Estimated Expenditure</b>	<b>\$7,783,082</b>
2025/2026 Forecast End of Year Position (Levy Funding)	(\$256,523)

*^Salaries and Wages are budgeted at 100% occupancy, however an average vacancy rate of 3% indicates savings will be achieved against salaries. \*Project delivery budgets are reviewed and amended as required at mid-year (30 December) and third quarter (30 March).*





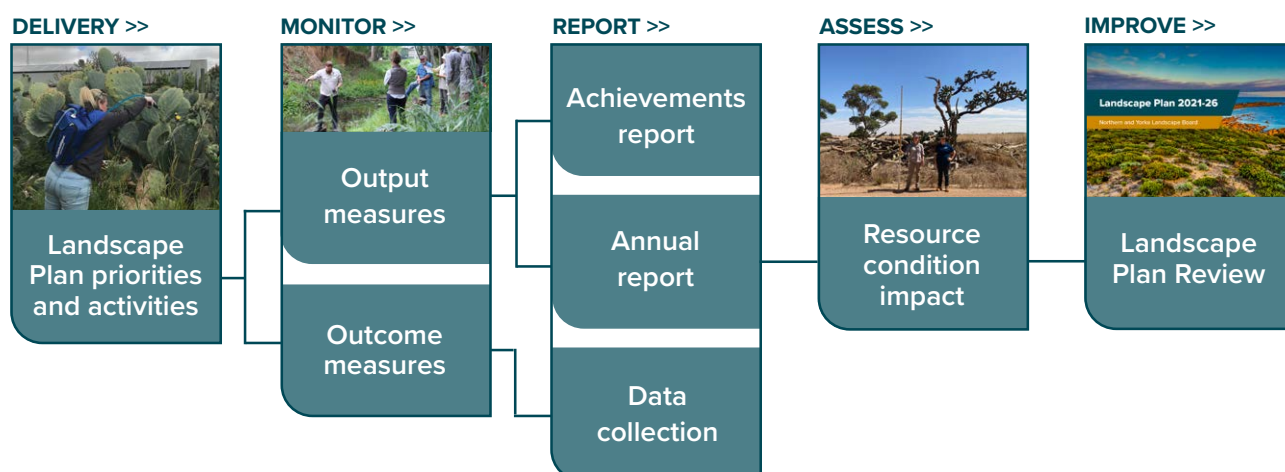
# Monitoring our progress

The Northern and Yorke Landscape Plan 2021-2026 sets the strategic direction for programs and projects designed to enhance the region's landscapes. Guided by this plan, the Board is committed to delivering initiatives that create lasting, positive, and sustainable impacts on our environment, cultural heritage and communities.

To ensure accountability and effectiveness, every project includes monitoring, reporting, and assessment processes that track measurable outputs and long-term outcomes. Deliverables required in projects funded by the Australian Government National Landcare Program are reported quarterly through the MERIT system and reflected on the Atlas of Living Australia, the national biodiversity data register, accessible at [www.ala.org.au](http://www.ala.org.au)

As part of our ongoing commitment to transparency and improvement, the Board will:

- Publish an Annual Achievements Report and a statutory Annual Report, detailing levy fund allocations and accomplishments
- Conduct a comprehensive evaluation as part of the review of Landscape Plan 2021-2026
- Monitor native vegetation changes through programs such as Bush Condition Monitoring, or the Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network (TERN) which provides methodology to track plant diversity, weed intrusion, tree health, regeneration, and habitat structure
- Contribute vital data to the SA Biodiversity Data Register and State of the Environment Reports to inform broader conservation efforts
- Report quarterly against its Indigenous Participation Plan
- By continually measuring progress and sharing insights, the Board ensures that every initiative strengthens the health and resilience of the Northern and Yorke landscape.





# Helping our regional communities

## Head office

**CLARE**  
318 Main North Road, Clare

## Regional offices

**BURRA**  
2 Kingston Street, Burra

**GAWLER**  
Unit 1 - 4 Seventh Street, Gawler South

**KADINA**  
PO Box 660, 35 Frances Terrace, Kadina

**MINLATON**  
PO Box 330, 18 Main Street, Minlaton

**ORROROO**  
PO Box 3, 17 Second Street, Orroroo

## Stay informed

Here are some of the ways you can keep up-to-date with the latest news from the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board:



[landscape.sa.gov.au/ny](https://landscape.sa.gov.au/ny)



[NYLandscapeSA](https://www.facebook.com/NYLandscapeSA)



**Yakka News**  
[landscape.sa.gov.au/ny/subscribe](https://landscape.sa.gov.au/ny/subscribe)



Scan QR code  
to view our  
Services Guide



Published by the:  
Northern and Yorke Landscape Board 2025  
(08) 8841 3444  
[ny.landscapeboard@sa.gov.au](mailto:ny.landscapeboard@sa.gov.au)  
[www.landscape.sa.gov.au/ny](http://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/ny)



With the exception of the Piping Shrike emblem, other material or devices protected by Aboriginal rights or a trademark, and subject to review by the Government of South Australia at all times, the content of this document is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 Licence. All other rights are reserved.