DRAFT

Regional Landscape Plan 2026 - 2031

Northern and Yorke Landscape Board

A resilient and thriving region, where communities work together to care for land, biodiversity, water and coasts

image credit: South Australian Tourism Commission

LANDSCAPE SOUTH AUSTRALIA NORTHERN AND YORKE

Acknowledgement of Country

The Kaurna, Narungga, Ngadjuri, Nukunu, and Peramangk people are the Traditional custodians of the Northern and Yorke region and have been for thousands of years.

The Board acknowledges and respects the Traditional Owners of Northern and Yorke region. We acknowledge elders past and present, and we respect the relationship Aboriginal people have to Country.

Aboriginal peoples' oral histories and creation stories traverse the length and breadth of Australia's lands and waters. These stories interconnect lands and waters with complex meaning and values and hold great cultural significance.

We recognise and respect Aboriginal people's ownership of their stories and that they hold rights and obligations to care for Country. The Board is committed to supporting Traditional Owners, Aboriginal people and Aboriginal organisations' involvement in the management of lands, seas and waters.

This includes recognising the relationship between Aboriginal culture and natural resources and incorporating Aboriginal knowledge of natural resources into decision-making.

Foreword

On behalf of the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board I am proud to present the *Northern and Yorke Landscape Plan 2026–2031*, a roadmap for safeguarding the natural assets that underpin our region's prosperity, identity, and wellbeing.

This plan reflects the sentiments of our communities, partners, and stakeholders, and sets a clear vision for a resilient and thriving Northern and Yorke region.

Our region faces complex challenges — from climate change and habitat loss to invasive species and water security. This plan responds with five interconnected strategic outcomes:

Climate-ready communities caring for nature
Empowering people to adapt, connect, and lead in environmental stewardship.

Thriving native species and habitats
Restoring ecosystems and reversing the decline of threatened species.

Healthy waters and coasts
Protecting rivers, wetlands, and marine environments
for ecological and cultural values.

Resilient, sustainable agriculture
Supporting primary producers to sustainably manage
their agribusinesses.

Managed pest plants and feral animals
Reducing the impact of invasive species on biodiversity and agriculture.

These outcomes are supported by priorities and focus areas that guide collaborative action across the areas of biodiversity, water, coasts, sustainable agriculture and community partnerships.

They align with state and national targets, including the Australian Government's *Threatened Species Action Plan* and *Australia's Strategy for Nature*. We gratefully acknowledge the Australian Government for its support through the Natural Heritage Trust and Regional Delivery Partner Program, which enables us to deliver on-ground actions that protect biodiversity, enhance sustainable agriculture, and strengthen community stewardship of our landscapes.

We invite all partners — community groups, landholders, councils, First Nations organisations, industry, and volunteers — to join us in delivering this vision. Together, we can ensure that the Northern and Yorke region remains a place of rich biodiversity, productive landscapes, and vibrant communities for generations to come.

Geoffrey White

Geoffrey White
Presiding Member (Chair)
Northern and Yorke Landscape Board

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I, Honourable xxxxxxxxx, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, after taking into account and in accordance with the requirements of Section 50 of the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, hereby approve the regional landscape plan for the Northern and Yorke Region for 2026-2031.

Xxxxxx MP
Minister for Climate, Environment and Water
Date:

Our role

The Northern and Yorke Landscape Board is a statutory landscape board established under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019.*

The *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* supports healthy Country outcomes by enabling regional decision-making, partnerships, and investment in natural resource management.

We work with communities to look after land, water, plants and animals across our region, so people and nature thrive. Our work is guided by this five-year regional landscape plan. We set priorities by listening to communities and balancing their aspirations against our statutory responsibilities under the Act.

Our vision

A resilient and thriving region where communities work together to care for land, biodiversity, water and coasts.

Our mission

To inspire, educate, support and collaborate with communities to foster healthy ecosystems, manage land sustainably and support vibrant regional life for generations to come.

Our values

Passionate and committed

The natural world inspires and 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 commitments.

Approachable and collaborative

We work alongside land managers and our communities, 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 our economy.

Adaptive

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

image credit: South Australian Tourism Commission

Strategic objectives

The Board's strategic objectives reflect the five outcomes needed to secure the environmental, social and economic future for the Northern and Yorke Region.

These strategic objectives extend beyond the remit of the Board, seeking everyone to contribute through their planning, actions and behaviours. These objectives help to focus the programs and projects that the Board will deliver over the life of this Plan and beyond. They are anchored in a 20-year aspirational vision for the region, reviewed every five years through the development of this Plan and refined annually through the *Annual Business Plan.*

Developed in consultation with stakeholders, these strategic objectives reflect a future that the region strives for, and one which we can work together to achieve.

To achieve these strategic objectives, the Board recognises that a shared understanding of the issues, actions and objectives is required, along with strong partnerships.

The Board commits to building these partnerships through:

- Transparency, trusted sharing of science, First Nations knowledge, and local evidence.
- Skills and tools for critical thinking and tackling misinformation.
- Annual forums and networks connecting councils, industries, and communities.
- Strong, enduring partnerships between government, industry, First Nations, and community.
- Clear roles and expectations for all partners.
- Seeking innovative investment models and collaborative resourcing.

Priorities

These priorities reflect where the Board will focus its efforts over the next five years. But they are deeply connected.

The work we do, and the work our partners, landholders and communities do alongside us, creates ripple effects across the landscape. A focus on water health supports biodiversity. Sustainable agriculture protects soils and native habitat. By working at scale, we aim to advance all five priorities together.

Biodiversity

Protected. Improved. Restored.

Sustainable agriculture

Adaptive. Resilient. Productive.

Communities and partners

Active. Informed. Engaged.

Pest plants and animals

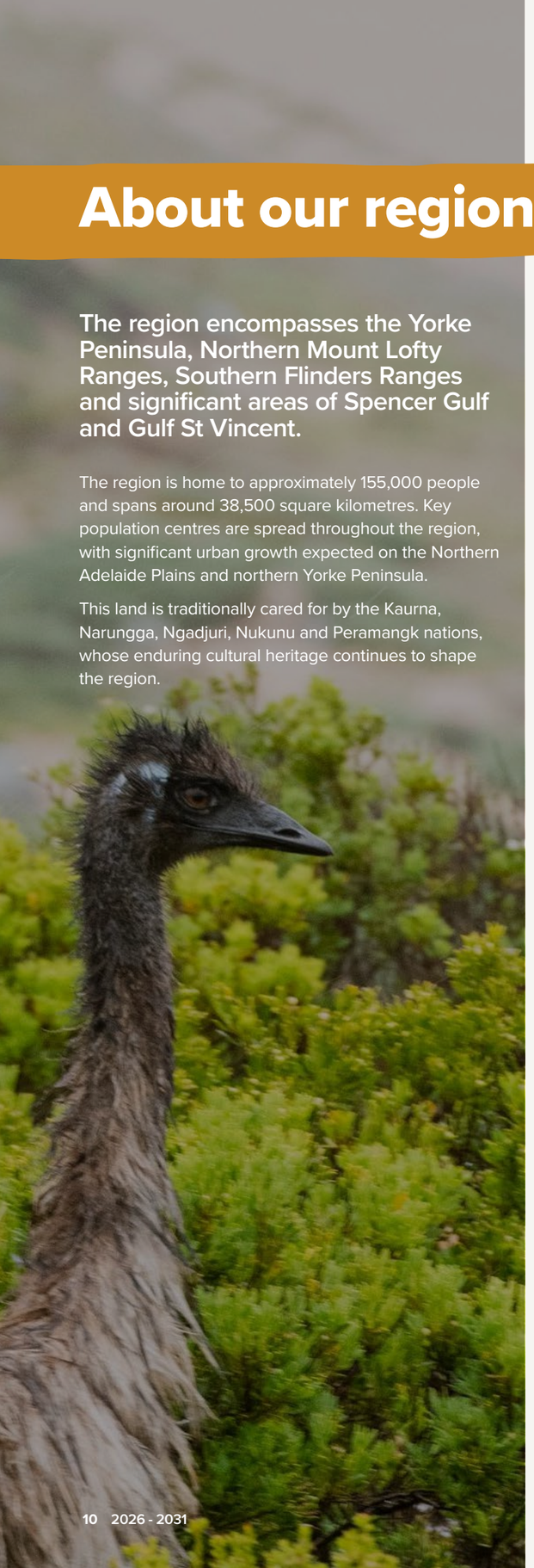
Targeted. Coordinated. Integrated.

Waters and coasts

Efficient. Sustainable. Monitored.

image credit: Josh Geelen

About our region



The region encompasses the Yorke Peninsula, Northern Mount Lofty Ranges, Southern Flinders Ranges and significant areas of Spencer Gulf and Gulf St Vincent.

The region is home to approximately 155,000 people and spans around 38,500 square kilometres. Key population centres are spread throughout the region, with significant urban growth expected on the Northern Adelaide Plains and northern Yorke Peninsula.

This land is traditionally cared for by the Kaurna, Narungga, Ngadjuri, Nukunu and Peramangk nations, whose enduring cultural heritage continues to shape the region.

Agriculture dominates the landscape, with roughly 80% of the land used for dryland cropping and grazing — contributing about 25% of South Australia's total agricultural output. The region also boasts renowned wine-producing areas such as the Clare, Eden and Barossa Valleys. Other significant industries include mining and mineral processing, fishing, aquaculture, forestry, horticulture, and tourism.

The region features over 1,300 kilometres of coastline and 15,500 square kilometres of marine environments. Coasts comprise a variety of environments including high energy cliffed coasts with pocket beaches, low energy gulf shorelines of low cliffs, narrow beaches and extensive saltmarsh and mangrove supra-tidal plains. Across the Spencer Gulf and Gulf St Vincent, significant habitats include seabeds, algal dominated reefs and sponge gardens.

The region is rich in biodiversity, with numerous protected areas preserving native vegetation and wildlife across varied ecosystems. Annual rainfall ranges from 250mm in the north to 600mm in the south, supporting both natural habitats and agricultural productivity.

Significant geological assets include evidence of Ediacaran and Cambrian life in the Flinders Ranges, and ancient fossils of soft-bodied biota from Precambrian time. Near Burra, fossil megafauna have been discovered and there are numerous geological assets, such as glacial erratics, at Port Vincent.

Water and soil are critical assets for the people and natural biodiversity of the region. Rich soils, along with surface water and groundwater resources sustain the region's economic production and the environment. Most watercourses in the region are ephemeral in flow, but many have permanent pools and springs which provide critical refuges for biodiversity. The soil provides habitat for a range of flora and fauna: burrowing mammals, marsupials and reptiles, invertebrates and microbial organisms, as well as underpinning our agricultural industries.

Our region is home to a number of threatened flora and fauna species, with areas of remanent native vegetation providing a critical habitat and protection for the future of these plants and animals.

Ecosystems

The Northern and Yorke region is particularly diverse, with several threatened ecological communities and bioregions.

Since European settlement, native vegetation in the Northern and Yorke region has experienced extensive clearing for agriculture, with as little as 13% of remnant vegetation remaining (Neagle, 2008). This has had a catastrophic impact for native fauna in the region, with 75+ species now listed as nationally threatened under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999*. Clearance of native vegetation through land use change is still considered one of the principal threats to biodiversity in the region, primarily relating to clearing for renewable energy infrastructure.

The region is home to the following EPBC threatened or vulnerable Ecological Communities:

- Iron-grass Natural Temperate Grassland of South Australia (Critically Endangered)
- Grey Box (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia (Endangered)
- Peppermint Box (*Eucalyptus odorata*) Grassy Woodland of South Australia (Critically Endangered)
- Drooping Sheoak Grassy Woodland on Calcrete of the Eyre Yorke Block Bioregion (Critically Endangered)
- Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh (Vulnerable)
- Mallee Birds Ecological Community (Priority Place)

Agricultural systems

The Northern and Yorke region supports a wide range of highly valued agricultural systems including intensive horticulture, viticulture, grazing and cropping. These agricultural systems are part of, and operate within the natural systems, which support agricultural production through;

- Insects providing pollination of crops and pest management
- Soil carbon and soil biota influencing soil health
- Vegetation influencing micro-climates, providing shelter and maintaining water quality
- Integrated pest management
- Fire management

Many agricultural land parcels in the region contain remanent vegetation, including those threatened ecosystems listed above. It is critical that this Plan reflects the intent to work together with sustainable agricultural practices that provide mutual outcomes, both improved agricultural profitability and ecosystem protection.

Marine ecosystems

The Northern and Yorke Region is home to 47% of the State's blue carbon ecosystems. Blue carbon ecosystems are coastal vegetated areas that capture and store carbon. They are accumulating sediments, which are an effective sink for carbon. The sediment, below-ground biomass (roots) and above ground biomass (shoots and leaves) of blue carbon ecosystems, provide more effective carbon sequestration than many terrestrial ecosystems. Protecting these ecosystems including mangroves, seagrasses and tidal marshes will be particularly pertinent as our climate changes.

Flora and fauna

The Northern and Yorke region and its marine waters are home to a wide variety of plants and animal species, some thriving and others struggling.

Of these species, Appendix 1 outlines those that are declared as threatened under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity (EPBC) Conservation Act 1999* or rare under the *South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*. The Northern and Yorke Emergency Response and Preparedness Plan outlines our threatened species, and the actions needed to protect them in the event of emergencies and natural disasters.

The following fauna species are identified in the Australian Government T*hreatened Species Action Plan 2022-2032*:

- Hooded Plover (eastern) *Thinornis cucullatus*
- Malleefowl *Leipoa ocellata*
- Plains-wanderer *Pedionomus torquatus*
- Pygmy Blue-tongue Lizard *Tiliqua adelaidensis*

This plan delivers upon and complements the actions outlined in the Australian Government *Threatened Species Action Plan 2022-2032, Emergency Response and Preparedness Plan* and EPBC Recovery Plans.

Primary threats

- Natural disasters
- Habitat loss
- Climate change
- Invasive species

Our region is home to

1299 Native terrestrial plants

304 Recorded native bird species

33 Native terrestrial mammals

91 Native reptile species

10 Amphibian species

First Nations culture

First Nations people have cared for this region for millennia. The values held by the **Kaurna**, **Narungga**, **Ngadjuri**, **Nukunu** and **Peramangk** people are as important today as ever.

We are committed to supporting Traditional Owners, Aboriginal people and Aboriginal organisations' involvement in the management of lands, seas and waters. This includes recognising the relationship between Aboriginal culture and natural resources and incorporating Aboriginal knowledge of natural resources into decision-making.

The Northern and Yorke Landscape Board support the Healthy Country Planning process in the region, and commits to engaging First Nations in Board planning, business and delivery.

This plan builds on these by bringing natural resource management priorities together at a regional scale, adding value where there are gaps, and helping advocate for resources, partnerships and support.

We understand and respect that First Nations people aspire to have:

Strong cultural identity and continuity
Through revitalising language, stories, and practices.

Healthy Country and healthy people
Recognising that the wellbeing of Country and community are inseparable, and access to Country for healing and connection is paramount.

Intergenerational knowledge transfer
Teaching younger generations cultural responsibilities, practices and values.

Self-determination and the ability to prosper
Using cultural knowledge to guide economic development and governance.

Respect and reconciliation
Building understanding with non-Indigenous communities about the spiritual and cultural significance of land and water.

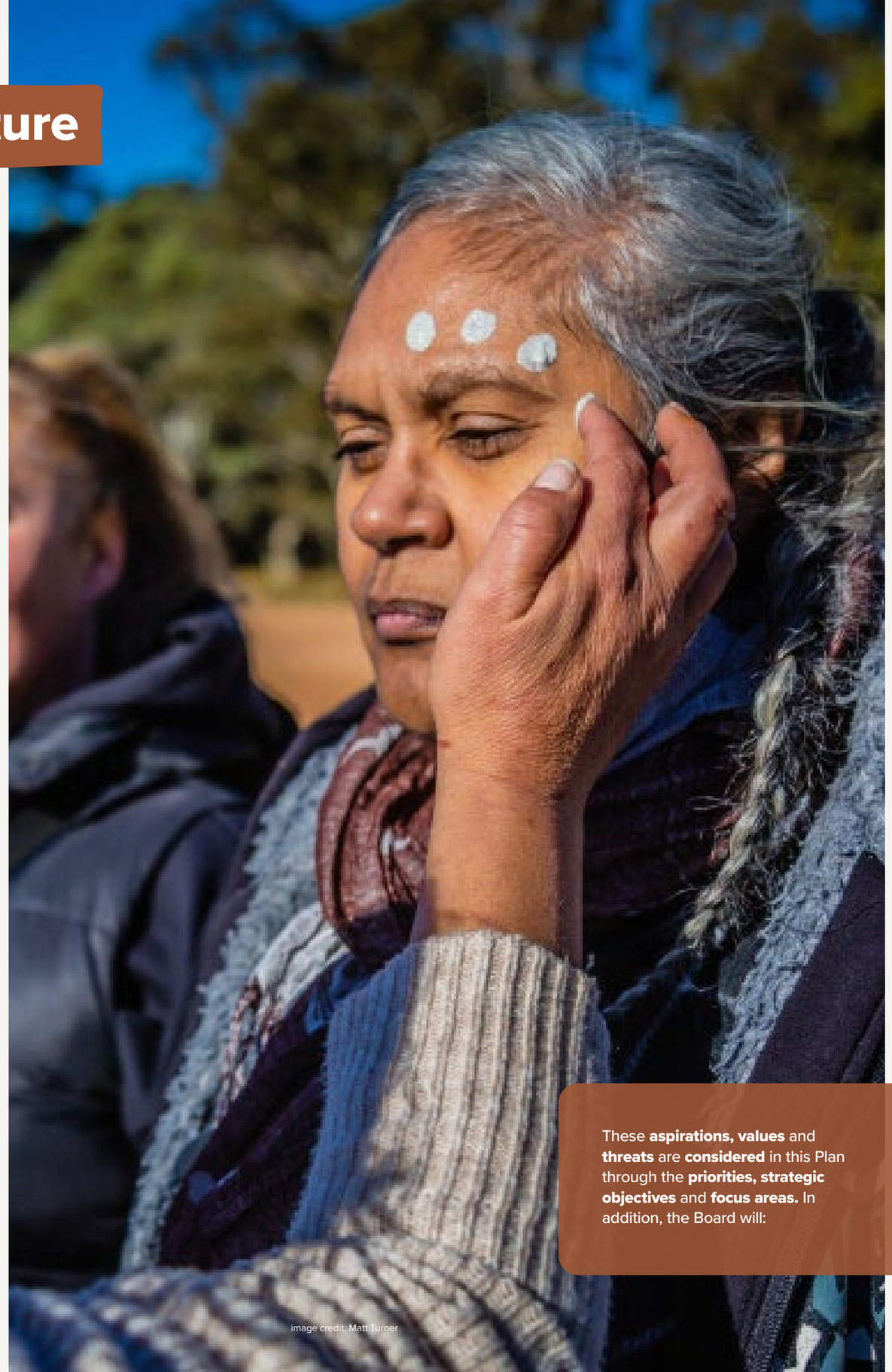


image credit: Matt Turner

We understand and respect that all First Nations peoples value and want to protect:

- **Cultural knowledge and language** – Stories, songlines, ceremonies, and language.
- **Cultural sites** – Sacred places, burial grounds, rock art, waterholes and ceremonial sites.
- **Water** – The coast, sea, rivers, creeks, springs, and cultural water flows.
- **Native plants and bushfoods** – Food, medicinal and culturally important plants.
- **Native animals** – Protection and recovery of significant and totemic species.
- **Community wellbeing and kinship** – Strong families, cultural identity, and healing.
- **Economic opportunities** – Jobs on Country, ranger programs, cultural tourism, and enterprises.

The common threats to these aspirations and values are:

- **Loss of culture and knowledge** – Language decline, limited opportunities for on-Country learning.
- **Restricted access to Country** – Private land and lack of recognition of cultural rights.
- **Insufficient resources and funding** – Limited capacity to implement plans and manage Country.
- **Unsustainable development and land use** – Mining, agriculture, and infrastructure impacting cultural and ecological values.
- **Water mismanagement** – Over-extraction and lack of cultural water allocations.
- **Climate change and extreme events** – Droughts, floods, and bushfires.
- **Invasive species** – Cats, foxes, goats, deer, and weeds degrading ecosystems.
- **Inappropriate visitation and recreation** – Damage to cultural sites and sensitive habitats.

These **aspirations, values** and **threats** are **considered** in this Plan through the **priorities, strategic objectives** and **focus areas.** In addition, the Board will:

Strengthen cultural awareness and partnerships with Prescribed Body Corporates

Seek opportunities for on-Country work including collaborating on threat management (feral species, weeds, water, climate)

Embed cultural values in regional planning, policy and projects

Heritage connections

The landscape, communities and cultural connections of the Northern and Yorke region have changed significantly since European settlement in the early 1840s.

With the discovery of good pastoral lands in the mid north and northern Yorke Peninsula, and the planting of vines in Barossa and Clare in the 1840s, the region is known as one of the oldest wine and pastoral regions in Australia. In the 1840s copper was found at Burra and Kapunda, following in the 1850s with copper discovered in Moonta and Wallaroo leading to a mining boom through to the 1870s.

Mining at Moonta and Wallaroo continued until the early 20th century. With these discoveries came German, Polish and Cornish settlers, bringing with them their heritage, cultural practices, religion and connections with other countries.

Peterborough and Port Pirie grew in the late 1800s through the connection of the railways, being major freight ports for silver and lead, leading to the development of one of the world's largest lead smelters and refineries at Port Pirie. Originally hosting a high Russian population, Port Pirie attracted significant Greek and Italian migrants post-World War II.

The Rangelands and Southern Flinders areas were settled under pastoral leases and saw an influx of settlers to work the farms during the late 1800s, primarily of English and Scottish heritage.

Much of this early settler heritage still exists throughout the region and is seen in the names of roads, properties and public spaces. There are significant state and local historic buildings and places throughout the region that celebrate the tenacity, resilience and ingenuity of the region's early European residents.

Our connection to the rest of the world remains critically important from both a social and economic perspective, noting that the region exports products to key markets in Asia, Europe and the Middle East.

image credit: Heidi who photos

Economy

The Northern and Yorke Region has a diverse economy and is home to an array of vibrant communities across its footprint, underpinned by the natural assets and beauty of the region.

Approximately 80% of the region is under agricultural cropping and grazing production contributing a quarter of South Australia's agricultural earnings.

The region is home to the major Barossa Valley and Clare Valley wine growing regions, and supports significant mining and mineral processing activities, fishing, aquaculture, forestry, horticulture and tourism.

Region snapshot

Agriculture is the region's largest employer supporting **20% of 54,903 people employed**

Over $1 billion in current and proposed **renewable energy projects**

SA's greatest areas of urban growth in Northern Adelaide, Yorke Peninsula and Copper Coast

5 Sea Ports and **Australia's largest inland port**

50% of SA's chickens for egg production

30% of SA's pig production

Tourism industry provides **$1 billion in income** per annum

Total **gross regional product** is estimated over **$7.5 billion** (2023)

Statistics provided by Regional Development Australia, Yorke and Mid North, and Barossa, Gawler, Light and Adelaide Plains. Regional Development Australia Barossa Gawler Light Adelaide Plains Regional Development Australia Yorke and Mid North

image credit: Chantelle Renee

Communities

The region is home to 155,000 people, with approximately half living in the Adelaide Plains, Barossa, Gawler and Light Regional council areas.

The remaining 50% of the population reside throughout the remaining 11 council areas, with over 30,000 people living in communities of less than 1000 people.

The population of the region is older than the state's average, with more people aged 55 to 84 and has a higher socio-economic disadvantage and has fewer tertiary or secondary (year 12) education qualifications. The level of volunteering in the region greatly exceeds the state average (+10%), with one in every three people volunteering (31%).

The region consists of small regional towns, larger regional centres, and urban and peri-urban developments. This Plan recognises that the needs of residents vary depending on their location, land use, land management experience and interest. The Plan acknowledges that urban natural resource management issues are not relevant to small regional towns, or farming enterprises, but may have relevance to larger regional centres which are experiencing growth such as Kadina, Moonta, Pt Hughes and Wallaroo and new urban developments such as Concordia and Roseworthy.

Conversely, landscape-scale programs that encompass planning over hundreds or thousands of hectares will be relevant to those large land managers who have a greater practical understanding of threat abatement and sustainable land management practices.

Key drivers

The region and its residents are influenced by external factors at global, national and local levels.

The impact of climate change and movements in policy, societal and economic drivers will affect the region. The Board is committed to working with our community to support adaptation and increase regional resilience. The overarching key drivers are categorised under five headings: environmental, social, economic, technological and political.

Category indicators

- **Environment (ENV)**
- **Social (SOC)**
- **Economic (ECON)**
- **Technological (TECH)**
- **Political (POL)**

Climate change and environmental pressures

ENV SOC ECON TECH POL

Rising temperatures, extreme weather, water stress reshaping ecosystems and land use across the region.

Market demands

ENV SOC ECON TECH POL

Market forces and supply chain requirements requiring demonstrated sustainability through animal ethics, carbon management, environmental protection, soil health and water efficiencies.

Agricultural shifts

ENV SOC ECON TECH

Farming practices evolve through climate adaptation, advances in technology and changing demands.

Biodiversity and ecological restoration

ENV SOC ECON

Ecosystem recovery and connectivity become priorities (including investment priority) amid threats from pests and habitat loss.

Biosecurity threats

ENV SOC ECON

Hazardous Algal Bloom, Varroa mite, Avian Flu and invasive animals and plants.

Policy and governance shifts

SOC ECON TECH POL

Landscape governance is shaped by evolving environmental laws, policy directions and co-management models.

First Nation co-leadership

SOC ECON

Traditional owners help lead land management and decision making.

Community demographics and social change

SOC ECON

Population shifts and generational values influence regional engagement and resilience.

Economic shifts

ECON

Carbon Markets, natural capital and green finance reshape rural economies and incentives.

Technological innovation

TECH

Artificial intelligence, remote sensing and tools enable smarter efficient monitoring and protection.

Changing climate

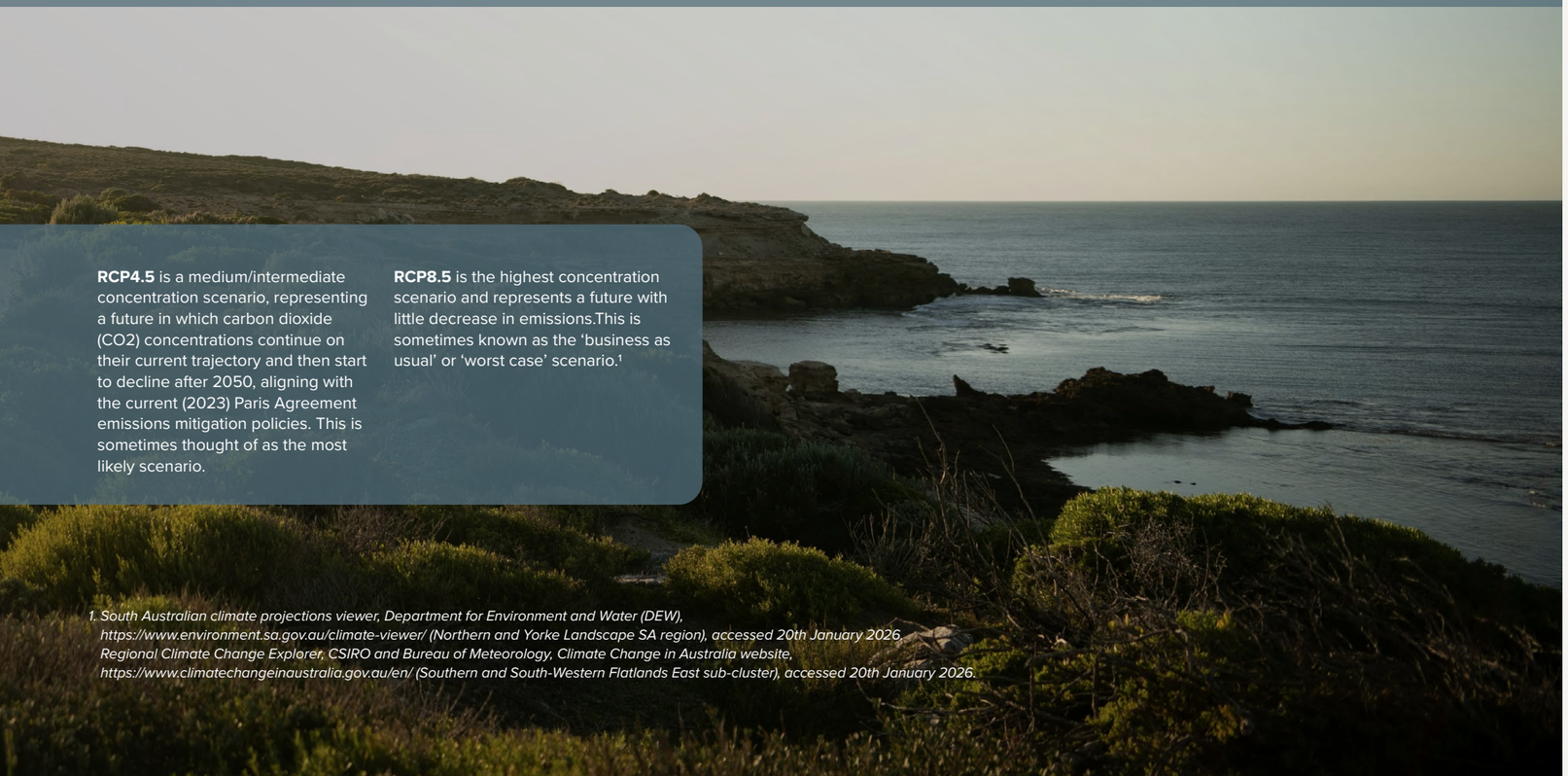
Our climate is changing, and we need to consider how we prepare, respond and adapt.

Rainfall

Our region has experienced a gradual decline in average annual rainfall since the 1990s, particularly between March and June each year. Under both medium and high emissions scenarios, average annual rainfall is expected to continue decreasing across the Northern and Yorke region:

	Medium emissions scenario (RCP 4.5)	High emissions scenario (RCP 8.5)
Baseline (1986-2005)	378mm	378mm
2020 - 2039	336mm (-11%)	367mm (-3%)
2080 - 2099	321mm (-15%)	261mm (-31%)

This trend is likely to be particularly strong in the growing season of many broadacre crops (April – October), with winter rainfall projected to decrease by 15% by 2030 even under the best-case scenario. By the end of the century, rainfall is projected to decline by 25% under a medium emissions scenario or 45% under a high emissions scenario by 2100. Corresponding with this overall decline in rainfall, the time that our region spends in drought is projected (with high confidence) to increase over the coming decades.



RCP4.5 is a medium/intermediate concentration scenario, representing a future in which carbon dioxide (CO_2) concentrations continue on their current trajectory and then start to decline after 2050, aligning with the current (2023) Paris Agreement emissions mitigation policies. This is sometimes thought of as the most likely scenario.

RCP8.5 is the highest concentration scenario and represents a future with little decrease in emissions.This is sometimes known as the 'business as usual' or 'worst case' scenario.[1]

1. South Australian climate projections viewer, Department for Environment and Water (DEW), https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/climate-viewer/ (Northern and Yorke Landscape SA region), accessed 20th January 2026. Regional Climate Change Explorer, CSIRO and Bureau of Meteorology. Climate Change in Australia website, https://www.climatechangeinaustralia.gov.au/en/ (Southern and South-Western Flatlands East sub-cluster), accessed 20th January 2026.

Temperature

Over the past century, average temperatures across our region have increased. In 2013, the mean temperature was 0.7°C higher than it was in 1910, contributing in-part to the decline in average rainfall already experienced.

The annual mean daily temperature will continue to rise under both medium and high emissions scenarios:

	Medium emissions scenario (RCP 4.5)	High emissions scenario (RCP 8.5)
Baseline (1986-2005)	15.2°C	15.2°C
2020 - 2039	16.2°C	16.0°C
2080 - 2099	17.2°C	19.0°C

The average number of hot days (>35°C) is projected to increase from 22 days per year during the baseline period (1986 – 2005) to 30 days by 2039 under both medium and high emissions scenarios. The number of hot nights (>20°C) per year is also expected to increase significantly and while this would mean fewer frost events, an increase in average overnight temperatures could cause impacts to agriculture, horticulture and natural ecosystems.

With this overall trend of warmer days and nights, we can expect a drier and more volatile climate including more frequent heatwaves, worsening bushfire conditions and intensified storm events.

Sea level rise and sea surface temperature

With extensive coastlines across our region, we are likely to be significantly impacted by sea level rise and increasing sea surface temperatures. By 2030, sea level is predicted to be up to 0.17m higher than the 1986-2005 level and could reach up to 0.83m higher by 2090 under a high emissions scenario. This severely increases the likelihood of shoreline erosion and coastal inundation, posing a serious risk for coastal communities and ecosystems. Sea surface temperature is projected to increase by up to 3.5°C by 2090 under high emissions, which would likely have devastating impacts on our marine ecosystems including more frequent occurrence of harmful algal blooms.

Foundations of the plan

This Plan integrates requirements of various legislative documents at State and National level, as well as reflecting commitment to international agreements including the UN Sustainable Development Goals and agreements on climate change.

Although influenced by overarching guidance, the Plan informs and is also informed by the *State Landscape Strategy*, a requirement under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*.

Over many years the community assisted the region with strategic planning through the development of nine *Community Action Plans* (CAP). The CAP documents provided the background material to develop the *Northern and Yorke Natural Resource Management Plan 2019-2029*, and subsequently the Northern and Yorke Landscape Plan 2021-2026. The priorities, project ideas and threat identification work undertaken in the development of the CAP plans has been incorporated into this Plan through the Priorities (key areas of business), Strategic Objectives (vision for the future), and Focus Areas (areas for action).

To ensure continued reflection of the communities' priorities, in the development of this Plan, key stakeholders were invited to provide input at two intensive planning workshops held in July and September 2025. The input gathered at these events has informed a long-term vision and strategy for the region, including a detailed *20-year aspirational plan*.

Data has also been gathered from the 2021 South Australians and the Environment Survey, the 2023 Northern and Yorke Community Survey and the 2025 Land Management Survey. The results of these surveys have helped to inform the priorities, focus areas and key outcomes as desired by the community.

For this Plan and the 20-year aspirational plan to be as effective as possible, some change is required. It is recognised that to be successful the following enablers of change will be needed:

This Plan is supported by several separate but complementary instruments, including the region's water allocation plans, water affecting activities control policy, annual business plan and district plans. These documents outline how the Board will invest and deliver against the vision, priorities, strategic objectives and focus areas of this Plan.

This Plan includes direct actions against the six national targets outlined in Australia's Strategy for Nature 2024-2030.

Alignment with the matters of National Environment Significance (MNES)

This Plan, including the priorities, strategic objectives and focus areas align with environmental outcome one of the Australian Government's five-year outcomes.

Species and landscapes - to mitigate new and established threats (such as feral pests and weeds) and restore habitat to support our internal and domestic priorities, including the *Threatened Species Action Plan 2022-2032*.

Focus areas

These focus areas provide the framework for the development and delivery of Northern and Yorke Landscape Board programs and projects for the period 2026-2031. Programs and projects will deliver against one or more of these focus areas, with success determined by evaluation against the measures for success.

OUR PRIORITIES

✓ **Biodiversity** ✓ **Communities and partners** ✓ **Pest plants and animals** ✓ **Sustainable agriculture** ✓ **Water and coasts**

Climate ready communities caring for nature

Learn from on Country experiences and First Nations partnerships that grow local custodianship and shared stewardship.	✓	✓	✓		✓
Educate and inspire communities and visitors through ambassadorships, school programs, events, media and citizen science to build community care for nature.	✓	✓	✓		✓
Support community groups and volunteers with grants, mentoring, internships and work experience so they can lead and deliver local action.		✓			
Partner with councils and community groups and Natural Resource Centres to embed nature actions and outcomes in towns and coastal spaces.	✓	✓	✓		✓
Facilitate community led biodiversity, threat management and catchment health projects that strengthens climate resilience and environmental, economic and social outcomes.	✓	✓	✓		✓
Support primary producers through providing timely land management advice, decision-ready information and connections.		✓	✓	✓	✓
Embrace First Nations land management practices as a legitimate component of improving landscape health.	✓	✓	✓		✓

Thriving native species and habitats

Lead change in threatened species recovery to secure populations and improve their threat status.	✓				
Partner on translocations, reintroductions and flora conservation to rebuild connected habitats, threatened species populations and increase genetic diversity.	✓			✓	
Use the natural capital approach and technology to monitor our natural assets and detect change and guide our work.	✓		✓	✓	✓
Facilitate landscape-scale revegetation and urban biodiversity projects that restore habitat mosaics, improving climate resilience and production outcomes.	✓		✓	✓	
Promote the protection, conservation and restoration of remanent vegetation across all land tenures.	✓		✓		

Healthy waters and coasts

Lead improvements in catchment health through restoring rivers and watercourses at scale to improve flows, ecosystem health and water quality.	✓		✓	✓	✓
Partner on delivering the coastal management plan and access strategies that protect the coast while enabling responsible use.		✓		✓	✓
Collaborate on blue carbon and coastal restoration to store carbon and safeguard coastal ecosystems against climate change.	✓				✓
Facilitate and use technology in water allocation planning and promoting the value of water initiatives to inform wise allocation and efficient water use.		✓		✓	✓

Resilient sustainable agriculture

Support practice change and on-farm learning for primary producers in sustainable land and water management to build soil health, native ground cover and improve drought resilience.	✓			✓	✓
Collaborate with agricultural groups and provide on farm grants to deliver natural capital improvements at landscape scale.	✓			✓	
Partner with primary producers to develop property plans for production and environmental benefit.	✓		✓	✓	
Facilitate climate adaptation planning and support adaptive practices with a focus on managing a hotter, drier future.		✓		✓	
Inspire continuous improvement and industry uptake of innovative practices through events, field days and demonstrations.		✓		✓	
Facilitate information for primary producers to consider future nature-based investment opportunities.	✓			✓	

Pest plants and animals managed

Lead change with multi-faceted, coordinated pest animal programs — harnessing technology and innovation to tackle the threats.			✓	✓	
Advocate and deliver programs for cat management as a significant priority to reduce predation pressure on native fauna.	✓		✓		
Partner with councils and landholders on roadside weed control and declared plant compliance to reduce and control spread.		✓	✓	✓	
Actively support the development and promote the distribution of biocontrols to aid the management of priority weed species.	✓		✓	✓	
Facilitate and utilise technology enabled detection, mapping, and treatment that targets priority weeds efficiently.			✓	✓	
Inspire community uptake of pest plant and animal control through subsidies, integrated programs, information and support to create landscape scale impact.		✓	✓	✓	

Biodiversity

Protected. Improved. Restored.

Why biodiversity matters

Biodiversity underpins our regional economy, our climate, connection to Country and our own health and wellbeing. Providing the building blocks of life, such as clean air, water and connections to nature, biodiversity is also critical for our industries, from agriculture and fisheries to tourism and manufacturing.

Biodiversity provides ecosystem services such as biomass provisioning (food, fibre, grazing), regulation of key systems (water, soil, climate) and opportunity for recreation, wellbeing and cultural engagement. This priority recognises the importance of biodiversity in protecting our native species now and into the future.

Maintaining a high level of biodiversity can protect against climate change, support adaptation and resilience and provide insurance against the impacts of threats, disasters and external pressures.

Our threatened species

In the development of this Plan, all current EPBC listed species were considered and included as potential target species for this plan's delivery over the coming five years. Higher priority has been placed on the species listed in the Australian Government *Threatened Species Action Plan 2022-2032* and those listed in the Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES), along with state listed species.[2]

Measuring what we have

The Board is developing a Biodiversity Scorecard using a natural capital approach, in accordance with the international standard for natural capital accounting - the *UN System of Environmental - Economic Accounting Framework*. This scorecard will provide a snapshot of the current extent and condition of the region's biodiversity assets, accessing data from national and state datasets, along with local data and intelligence.

The threats we face

The threats to our biodiversity are broad and complex, including habitat loss, climate change and climate variability, urban and peri-urban development, natural disasters, invasive predators and environmental weeds.

Addressing these threats is vital to bolster nature's own resilience and adaption to ensure long-term security for our regional flora and fauna, and in turn our own health, through the natural services and benefits that we rely on. *The Northern and Yorke Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan*, which identifies the key natural disaster threats and mitigation strategies has been reviewed and actions are captured in this Plan.

[2] *The Board ensures all works and advice align with relevant legislation including the Biodiversity Act 2025 and Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

Strategic objectives

- Large scale restoration, rewilding and biodiversity corridors to improve habitat and support restoration of the natural environment
- Renewable energy projects strategically sited with biodiversity and community consent
- Increased urban biodiversity providing habitat for native fauna
- Reintroduction of regionally extinct species
- Technology and data to support decision making and investment priorities

Communities and partners

Active. Informed. Engaged.

Why partnerships matter

The Board works in partnership with communities and other key stakeholders to achieve the objectives of this Plan and to deliver the programs and projects on-ground. Our partnerships bring together people, networks and resources which provides access to a broad range of knowledge, skills, and technical and financial assistance.

Through consistently increasing the number of individuals and organisations involved in managing our landscapes, it means we can reach and work with a wider range of people in the region and make a difference over a larger footprint.

Who we work with

The Board maintains relationships with over 100 partner organisations, including Councils, First Nation Prescribed Body Corporates, Landcare groups, progress associations, farming system groups, volunteer organisations and landholder groups. These relationships, and those with individuals, are vital to the success of the Board's work.

Working for our communities

The strategic objectives outlined in this Plan are for the benefit of the region's community, delivered through responsible stewardship of our environment. Regional, rural and urban communities all rely on the environment for work, recreation, food, fibre and health, so by working with communities we ensure we are working for the good of the residents of the region. Our agricultural communities are the stewards of our region and therefore are critical partners in achieving the outcomes of this Plan. The Board acknowledges the efforts of the agricultural sector in their environmental protection, conservation and restoration, and seeks to continue working closely with these communities into the future.

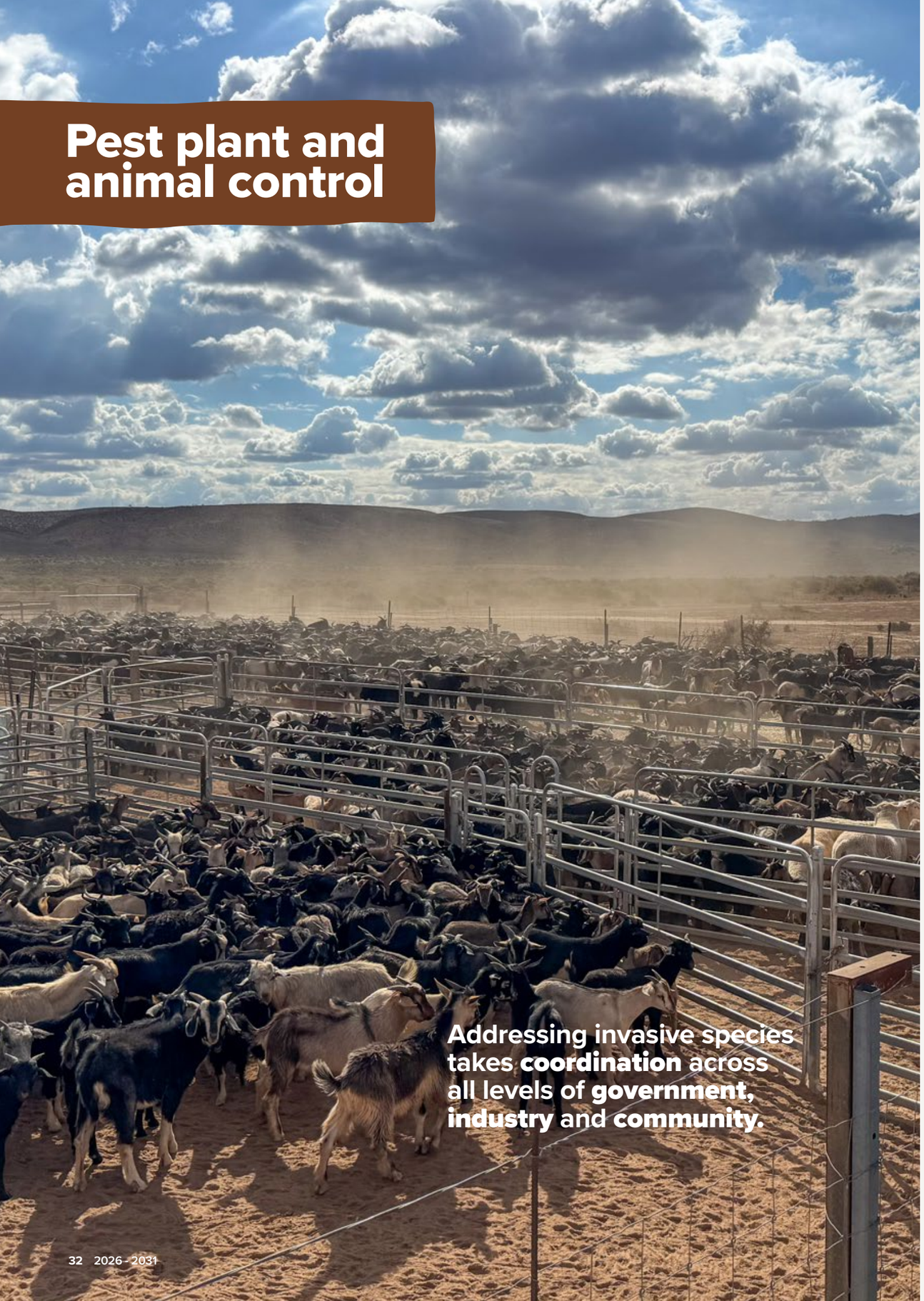
First Nations partnerships

The Board recognises that First Nations communities are integral to the health and resilience of the region's landscapes. Their aspirations, cultural values, and perspectives are embedded throughout the Board's priorities, strategic objectives, and focus areas. To honour this connection, the Board is committed to strengthening cultural awareness and building enduring partnerships. It will actively seek opportunities for on-Country work and will embed cultural values in regional projects and policy, creating a framework that respects traditional knowledge and supports shared stewardship of land and water for future generations.

Strategic objectives

- Urban greening, cooling and nature-centred design in towns and suburbs
- Climate resilient housing and infrastructure, avoiding inappropriate development
- Circular economy hubs including advanced recycling facilities, renewable energy, water and waste systems, reinvesting back into local community priorities
- Arts, culture, storytelling and festivals central to community identity, connecting people across generations and cultures
- First Nations led caring for Country projects and integration of First Nations knowledge in planning and practice
- Nature education in schools and community programs, empowering youth leadership, mentoring and empowerment as change makers

Pest plant and animal control



Targeted. Coordinated. Integrated.

Why control matters

Pest plants and animals are one of the greatest threats to our ecosystems and agricultural production, and the flow of ecosystem services on which we rely. Invasive species are those that occur beyond their natural range and threaten valued environmental, agricultural, marine and social resources.

Whilst the Board maintains a focus on pest plants and animals that impact on the environment, the Board works alongside Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA) to support management of agricultural pest plants and animals. Integrated, landscape-scale management is needed to address the risks posed to the environment, primary production and society.

Pest plants

There are various classes of pest plant, with Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) being particularly invasive, high impact pest plants that are difficult to manage. WoNS and their management is coordinated nationally between all levels of government.

Declared plants are those that present a significant threat to agriculture, the environment and/or public health and safety. They are declared in accordance with the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*. Alert weeds are declared plants not yet established in South Australia but pose a serious threat. Landowners must report alert weeds found on their property. The Board maintains a priority weed listing for each district, focusing investment and control efforts on these weeds.

Pest animals

Feral predators, e.g. foxes and cats are some of the leading causes of biodiversity loss in Australia. The Board is committed to ongoing management and control programs in conjunction with landholders. Increased collaboration, coordination and investment in the management of invasive species is a target under *Australia's Strategy for Nature 2024-2030*, and the *Global Biodiversity Framework* targets.

How we can help

The Board works closely with land managers to implement integrated pest management practices, which in turn helps to restore native biodiversity and mitigate losses in the agricultural industry and beyond. Although landowners hold the obligation to manage declared pests on their property, the Board provides advice and can assist in planning a weed or animal control program, including the provision of biocontrols or other control methods.[3]

Strategic objectives

- Pest plants and animals controlled to protect biodiversity and agricultural production
- No new pest plant or animal incursions
- Livestock and farm produce protected from contaminating weed species
- Feral predators removed from protected areas and reduced to manageable numbers across the landscape
- Pest animal impacts on farms, horticulture and viticulture reduced
- Technology, research and innovation harnessed to develop new methods for pest plant and animal control in a changing climate.

[3] *The Board ensures all works and advice align with the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (South Australia) Act 1994, Agricultural and Veterinary Products (Control of Use) Act 2002, Biodiversity Act 2025, Biosecurity Act 2025, Animal Welfare Act 2025 and Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.*

Sustainable agriculture

Adaptive. Resilient. Productive.

Why sustainable agriculture matters

Sustainable land management is critically important in the Northern and Yorke region, with over 80% of the land used for agricultural enterprises. Our varied landscape contains a wide range of soil types, climates, challenges, and commodities. Managing natural resources sustainably, including soil, biodiversity and water, ensures agricultural productivity and profitability now and into the future.

The Board strives to support agribusinesses' continual improvement to adapt to the current climate, while preparing and building resilience for a changing climate.

Managing our soils

Understanding how to manage soil types and constraints is vital for success and long-term sustainability. Key constraints in our region include wind and water erosion, acidity, salinity, and nutrient and water holding capacity. Managing these constraints will benefit both profitability outcomes and the environment. The Board delivers, and supports farming groups to deliver, extension activities focused on these key constraints.[4]

In addition to soils, the sustainable agriculture priority includes consideration of all nature-based solutions in agriculture, including increasing biodiversity through cover crops, shelter belts and green fire breaks.

New opportunities

Understanding environmental markets including the Australian Carbon Credit Unit Scheme and Nature Repair Market, market incentives for sustainable practices and reduced emissions, and environmental and emission reporting, are growing areas of importance. The Board provides extension services and supports landholders to develop carbon and nature repair projects which have positive agricultural and biodiversity outcomes.

Water security

Water security, supply and efficient use is an area of increasing concern for the agricultural community and will continue to be a focus area of the Board throughout the life of this Plan. The Board will continue to work closely with land managers to meet their legislative requirements[5] including requirements under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, relating to land degradation and pest plant and animal control.

The Board strives to provide advice, assistance and guidance to ensure agribusinesses remain sustainable and resilient, and able to take on the challenges of a changing and variable climate.

Strategic objectives

- Integrated mosaic landscapes of native vegetation and productive agriculture
- A proportion of every farm dedicated to biodiversity
- Healthy soils supporting production and sequestering carbon
- Sustainable farming practices supported by market incentives and spatial planning
- Stable resourcing for conservation and farming transitions, equitable sharing of biodiversity and carbon credit benefits
- Technology and data for real time monitoring and decision making
- Secure, reliable and economically viable food and fibre production throughout the region, supporting regional communities

[4] *This Plan provides objectives and focus areas that align with the National Soils Action Plan 2023-2028, and the three goals of the National Soil Strategy, along with the Australian Agricultural Sustainability Framework (AASF), the PIRSA Carbon Farming Roadmap and the Northern and Yorke Drought Resilience Plan.*

[5] *The Board ensures its activities align with and support primary producers to meet other legislative requirements, for example those under the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (South Australia) Act 1994, Agricultural and Veterinary Products (Control of Use) Act 2002, Animal Welfare Act 2025, Biodiversity Act 2025, Biosecurity Act 2025, and Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.*

Water and coasts

Our rivers, wetlands and coastline support biodiversity, agriculture and community life.

Strategic objectives

- Healthy, flowing waterways, water dependent ecosystems and riparian vegetation
- Coast and marine ecosystems able to naturally regenerate through managed visitation, investment and community ownership
- Restored waterways and oceans free from invasive pests, waste and pollutants
- Cultural flows embedded in law and water co governance with First Nations
- Sustainable and climate independent alternative supplies
- Water efficiency embedded across agriculture, industry and households
- Community education on catchment health and water conservation
- Investment in resilient water infrastructure, fair benefit sharing from water projects

Efficient. Sustainable. Monitored.

Why water matters

Water is life, it enables all the lives and economies that exist in the region. This priority encompasses the breadth of the water cycle, including rivers, creeks, pools, springs, wetlands, swamps, groundwater and surface water, extending to the coastal ecosystem and marine environment. The region's rainfall varies significantly across the region, from below 250mm per annum in the north, to over 600mm per annum in the south, however the region has, and will continue to, experience extended periods of low rainfall, rainfall variability and drought.

Our coastline

The region has over 1300km of coastline with 47% of the State's blue carbon ecosystems. The coast of Yorke Peninsula is a particularly diverse environment of beaches, dune systems, coastal heathlands, intertidal areas, samphire shrublands and flats, mangroves and salt marshes but is subjected to heavy visitation and unmanaged access. The region also encompasses part of the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary located along the northern Adelaide beaches and the terminal feeding grounds of the East Asia – Australasian Flyway around the coast of Gulf St Vincent. These critically important habitats provide breeding grounds, food and shelter for thousands of migratory birds.

Our river systems

Our river systems are mostly ephemeral with five main catchment areas, the Broughton, Gawler, Light, Wakefield, and Willochra catchments. Although intermittent in flow, these systems and watercourses act as refuges for water-dependent animal and plant species, with surveys indicating each holds important habitat for macroinvertebrates, frogs, birds and reptiles. Watercourses and riparian areas are at threat from livestock, pesticides, weed infestations, native vegetation clearance, modification or damming of watercourses, climate change impacts, reducing rainfall, changing seasonal patterns and increased extreme events.

How we manage it

The *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* charges the Board with the development of Water Allocation Plans for Prescribed Water Resource Areas (PWRAs) in the region. The Northern and Yorke region has three PWRA areas wholly within its boundaries, with another four PWRA's in part shared with other landscape boards. The water allocation plan is a legislative document detailing the management rules for surface water and/or groundwater use within the PWRA.

The Act also requires the Board manage Water Affecting Activities, which include most works within a watercourse, including installation of water crossings, dams, weirs, culverts and any diversion structure, as well as clearance of native vegetation within a watercourse. The Board maintains a Water Control Policy and a Water Affecting Activities permit system to manage these activities.

This priority seeks to capture the importance of water and the coast to the region's environmental, social and economic sustainability, noting that these natural resources are vital to the people and environments of the region now and in the longer term.

Monitoring our progress

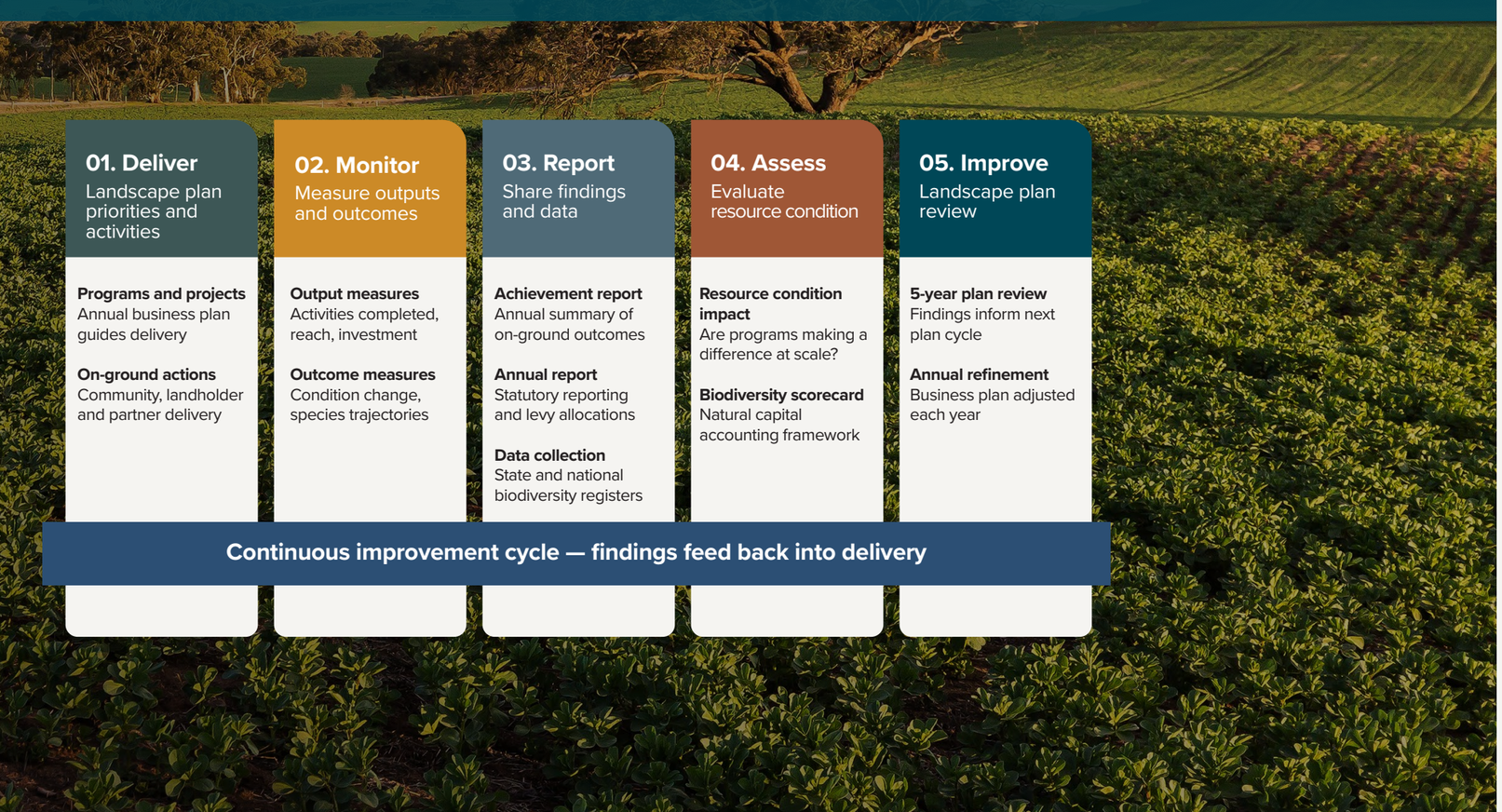
This Plan sets the strategic objectives, priorities and focus areas for the programs and projects which will be delivered or supported by the Board.

Through delivery against this Plan, the Board is committed to delivering initiatives that create lasting, positive, and sustainable impacts on our environment, cultural heritage and communities. Our Measures of Success outline what our actions intend to deliver, with the Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) Plan providing the means of measurement.

As part of our ongoing commitment to monitoring and reporting our progress, the Board will:

- Publish an *Annual Achievements Report* and a statutory *Annual Report*, detailing levy fund allocations and accomplishments
- Develop and utilise a Biodiversity Scorecard using a natural capital approach, in accordance with the *System of Environmental Economic Accounting Framework* and consider development of scorecards for the other priority areas.
- Monitor native vegetation changes through programs such as the Australian Government Monitor App, and related monitoring protocols, Bush Condition Monitoring, the Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network (TERN) methodology and Tree Condition Index data.
- Monitor water resources in Prescribed Water Resource Areas (PWRA's) including flow gauge, macroinvertebrate, fish, frog and turtle monitoring and undertake reviews of the effectiveness of Water Allocation Plans in accordance with the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*.
- Contribute vital data to the SA Biodiversity Data Register and equivalent national databases 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.



Corporate performance

The Board is a Ministerial appointed Board supported by 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.

As a statutory authority of the South Australian Government, the Board is required to comply with over 30 State Government Acts and numerous Federal legislations. The Board is a Regional Delivery Partner to the Australian Government under the Natural Heritage Trust, reporting quarterly on performance against milestones.

In addition to the legislative monitoring and reporting requirements, the Board aspires to achieve the following corporate non-legislated but worthy targets:

4% of employees are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent

Gender balance is maintained in the staff and leadership team cohorts

4% of all goods and services spend is with, or in support of, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander businesses or individuals

Board business is delivered with **Net Zero Greenhouse Gas emissions** *(incorporating offsets if needed)*

The Board is considered an **Employer of Choice**

The Board has benchmarked its performance using the **Performance Excellence Guide** for Regional NRM organisations (NRM Australia)

Appendix 1 - Threatened Ecological Communities of Northern and Yorke Landscape Region.

Iron-grass Natural Temperate Grassland of South Australia *(Critically Endangered),* occurs on gentle slopes of low hills, and in broad valleys with elevations from 50 m to more than 500 m, with the largest areas in the Lower North, Mid North and Upper North districts above 300 m. Iron-grass grasslands are different to the other grasslands of south-eastern Australia because they are often dominated, not by grasses, but by Lomandra species, known in South Australia as Iron-grasses. These are tussock-forming plants from the lily family (*Liliaceae*) that are present in other grasslands

Grey Box *(Eucalyptus microcarpa)* Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands of South-eastern Australia *(Endangered)* usually occur in flat to undulating landscapes, such as plains, low slopes and rises, or occasionally in drainage depressions. Patches of this community tend to occur on relatively productive soils. The Grey Box Grassy Woodlands provide habitat for many threatened native species. At the national level, at least 30 plant and animal species that may be found in or near the ecological community are listed as nationally threatened under the EPBC Act

Peppermint Box *(Eucalyptus odorata)* Grassy Woodland of South Australia *(Critically Endangered)* is an ecological community, characterised by dominant Peppermint Box trees, native grasses, and forbs, found across the southern Flinders Ranges and Mount Lofty Ranges, but are heavily cleared for agriculture. These woodlands are home to the nationally Vulnerable Flinders Ranges worm-lizard (*Aprasia pseudopulchella*), and several species of nationally threatened flora, among numerous state-listed threatened flora and fauna species.

Drooping Sheoak Grassy Woodland on Calcrete of the Eyre Yorke Block Bioregion *(Critically Endangered)* can be found on southern Yorke Peninsula (south of Port Clinton), with only around 3% of its original distribution remaining. Favoring a semi-arid to Mediterranean-type condition, with cool wet winters and mild to hot dry summers, these woodlands occur in association with shallow calcareous soils over calcrete, with calcrete rocks visible across the landscape. Home to multiple threatened orchid species, and once home to terrestrial mammals such as the brush-tailed bettong (*Bettongia penicillata*) most now regionally extinct, the Marna Banggara rewilding project seeks to recover the ecosystem services lost with the disappearance of these mammal species in this ecosystem.

Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh *(Vulnerable)* is found in a relatively narrow margin around the coast of Yorke Peninsula including high floristic biodiversity areas in Gulf St. Vincent and Spencer Gulf. Heavily impacted by tidal regime, temperature and rainfall, the community is particularly vulnerable to climate change. The community is dominated by salt-tolerant vegetation (*halophytes)* including grasses, herbs, sedges, rushes and shrubs, and can also include non-vascular plants (e.g. epiphytic algae, diatoms and cyanobacterial mats). This community provides critical nursery areas for commercially and recreationally important species of fish and prawns, and are also home to a diversity of birds, insects, molluscs and crabs.

Mallee Birds Ecological Community (Priority Place) is an assemblage of 20 bird species dependent on mallee vegetation in the Murray – Darling Depression bioregion. The mallee spans across a large area at the intersection of the NSW, South Australian and Victorian borders, stretching into the eastern edge of the Northern and Yorke Region. The landscape can be characterised by sandy soils, a sparse overstory and an understorey of heathy shrubs, sedges, grasses and herbs which support species such as the Malleefowl, Regent Parrot and Western Whipbird. The Mallee Birds Ecological Community is listed as one of 20 priority places under the the *Australian Government Threatened Species Action Plan 2022-2032*.

Appendix 2 - *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC) and State Listed Threatened Species in Northern and Yorke region

FAUNA

Native fauna species list

EPBC and state listed native fauna species recorded in the Northern and Yorke region.

cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/landscape/docs/ny/fauna-native-species-list.pdf

FAUNA

Pest fauna species list

Declared and invasive pest fauna species present in or threatening the Northern and Yorke region.

cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/landscape/docs/ny/fauna-pest-species-list.pdf

FLORA

Native flora species list

EPBC and state listed native flora species recorded in the Northern and Yorke region.

cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/landscape/docs/ny/flora-native-species-list.pdf

FLORA

Non-native flora species list

Introduced and invasive plant species recorded in or threatening the Northern and Yorke region.

cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/landscape/docs/ny/flora-non-native-species-list.pdf

image credit: Tom Hunt

Appendix 3 - Measures for success

This Plan outlines the Board's priorities (key areas of business), strategic objectives (vision for the future), and focus areas (areas for action). These actions need to be measurable and provide the outcomes desired as part of the vision. To this end, the measures of success below outline what the actions intend to deliver, with the MERI plan providing the means of measurement.

Climate ready communities caring for nature

PRIORITY AREA	MEASURE OF SUCCESS
Biodiversity	Communities demonstrate increased knowledge, awareness, and participation in biodiversity stewardship, evidenced by sustained involvement in citizen science and nature education programs.
Communities and partners	First Nations partnerships are actively embedded in planning and delivery, with cultural objectives and knowledge integrated into land management practices.
Pest plants and animals	Community groups and councils collaborate on coordinated pest programs. Land managers actively reduce incursions of priority weeds and pest animals.
Sustainable agriculture	Land managers use accessible data and monitoring to inform decisions, showing measurable uptake of best-practice land management.
Water and coasts	Communities value water and coastal ecosystems more highly, reflected in engagement rates and delivery of coastal access strategies.

Thriving native species and habitats

PRIORITY AREA	MEASURE OF SUCCESS
Biodiversity	Threatened species populations are secured or improved in status through translocations/reintroductions and connected habitat restoration, with biodiversity scorecards showing positive trends.
Communities and partners	Partnerships (NGOs, councils, boards, industry) deliver biodiversity outcomes, with shared learning and co-investment increasing program reach and impact.
Pest plants and animals	Reduced predation and weed pressure on native fauna and habitats through improved cat/fox control, bio-control adoption, and strategic roadside weed management.
Sustainable agriculture	Urban and agricultural planning decisions protect biodiversity (e.g. reduced clearance, increased habitat corridors, increased use of ground covers), aligning with industry ESG programs.
Water and coasts	Coastal biodiversity (dunes, shorebirds, seagrass, oysters) shows measurable recovery where communities implement coastal protection and restoration actions.

Healthy waters and coasts

PRIORITY AREA	MEASURE OF SUCCESS
Biodiversity	Environmental watering requirements meet the needs of water-dependent ecosystems with monitoring showing improved condition of fish, frogs, invertebrates, and riparian vegetation.
Communities and partners	Coastal and catchment partnerships deliver elements of coastal access strategies and catchment health improvements. Stormwater plans that reduce pollution/erosion and improve community resilience to flood are developed and implemented.
Pest plants and animals	Coordinated weed control in riparian/coastal zones reduces spread into sensitive habitats, supported by compliance, biocontrols, and technology-enabled detection/mapping.
Sustainable agriculture	On-farm riparian management (fencing, watering points, weed control) improves waterway health and drought resilience, evidenced by sustained groundcover and reduced erosion.
Water and coasts	Equitable, sustainable access to water is maintained via effective Water Allocation Plans (WAPs), with MER (monitoring, evaluation, reporting) showing improved flows and water quality.

Resilient sustainable agriculture

PRIORITY AREA	MEASURE OF SUCCESS
Biodiversity	Communities demonstrate increased knowledge, awareness, and participation in biodiversity stewardship, evidenced by sustained involvement in citizen science and nature education programs.
Communities and partners	Farmer networks and cross-industry partnerships grow, accelerating practice change and climate adaptation through shared knowledge.
Pest plants and animals	Integrated pest management adoption rises across farming areas, reducing weed density and animal impacts while supporting biodiversity and production outcomes.
Sustainable agriculture	Soil condition, groundcover, and water retention improve; chemical use decreases; rotational grazing increases — validated by natural capital scorecards at farm and regional scale.
Water and coasts	Producers adopt water-efficient practices and participate in WAP reviews, demonstrating awareness of climate impacts, and contributing to water security initiatives.

Pest plants and animals managed

PRIORITY AREA	MEASURE OF SUCCESS
Biodiversity	Agricultural landscapes increase native pasture/vegetation and identification of biodiversity corridors, supporting species movement and production benefits.
Communities and partners	Landscape-scale coordination increases (councils, landholders, state agencies), with sustained community-led control programs and clear priority-setting/education.
Pest plants and animals	Northern and Yorke region achieves deer eradication milestones; bio-control uptake grows; cat/fox control strengthened through bylaws and cross-agency collaboration.
Sustainable agriculture	Agricultural productivity and groundcover improve as a result of effective weed/animal control; compliance and technology use streamline detection and treatment.
Water and coasts	Reduced weed incursions into riparian/coastal systems support healthier waterways and estuaries, with monitoring showing less erosion and improved ecological indicators.

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