

Understanding the landscape levy

A common landscape levy rate for the Northern and Yorke region is part of the levy equalisation process, providing a more equitable outcome for all ratepayers. Read on to find out more.



The landscape levy

The landscape levy (previously the Natural Resource Management levy) is a levy established under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* (the Act), which is used to fund the work needed to protect and enhance the natural environment. Councils collect the landscape levy on behalf of the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board, adding the levy to the council rate notices for all ratepayers.

The landscape levy is used by the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board to protect the region's natural assets, including water, soil and biodiversity, as outlined in the [Landscape Plan 2021-2026](#) and the [Annual Business Plan 2023-2024](#). The Board invests funds across 5 priority areas.

Council contributions are outlined in the business plan, and councils recoup the levy from ratepayers through applying a charge (cents per dollar of capital value) to all rateable properties within the council area.

The Board pays each council a fixed fee, plus a per property amount for collecting the landscape levy on its behalf. In 2023-2024, the collection costs paid by the Board to councils will be approximately \$74,400.

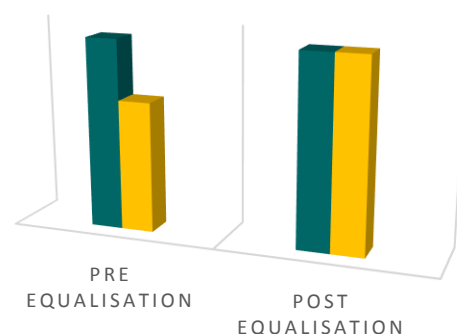
Levy equalisation

With the commencement of the Act, the region's boundaries were amended and the Adelaide Plains Regional Council, Light Regional Council, the Barossa Council and the Town of Gawler were welcomed into the Northern and Yorke region. They were formerly part of the Adelaide Mt Lofty Ranges (AMLR) NRM region which included metropolitan Adelaide and the Fleurieu Peninsula.

With the start of the landscape levy in 2020, these councils continued to be charged the

DISPARITY BETWEEN CAPITAL VALUE
AND LEVY CONTRIBUTIONS

■ Council Capital Values ■ Council Levy Contributions



former AMLR rate, which was significantly less than the former Northern and Yorke NRM rate.

The Act requires that for the 2023-2024 financial year and beyond, a common levy rate must apply to the whole region. To achieve this, the Board has redistributed the 2022-2023 levy across the region based on the capital value of each council area. As a result, all ratepayers within the region will be charged a common rate, providing a more equitable outcome.

The Board will not raise any additional revenue as a result of equalisation. The total levy collected from the councils remains the same as the 2022-2023 financial year, plus CPI.

Post equalisation there will be no disparity between the total capital value and the percentage of landscape levy. For 2023-2024, this is the breakdown of contributions:

Council	% of total capital value	% of levy
Adelaide Plains	5.15	5.15
Barossa	13.26	13.26
Barunga West	4.07	4.07
Clare & Gilbert Valleys	7.26	7.26
Copper Coast	9.17	9.17
Gawler	10.00	10.00
Goyder	3.78	3.78
Light	8.82	8.82
Mt Remarkable	2.31	2.31
Northern Areas	4.39	4.39
Orroroo Carrieton	0.69	0.69
Peterborough	0.48	0.48
Port Pirie	5.68	5.68
Wakefield	6.37	6.37
Yorke Peninsula	18.56	18.56

Landscape levy investment

The landscape levy provides \$6.19m of funding to the Board, which delivers a range of programs including:

Communities

- Health Country Planning
- Community and stakeholder forums
- Aboriginal Engagement Committee
- Nature Education program
- Grassroots and Bite-sized Grants

Biodiversity

- Coastal Management Action Plan
- Regional Alliance Climate Sector Agreement
- Community Grants program
- Marna Banggara

Water management

- Water Monitoring
- Water affecting activity permits
- Promotion of cultural water
- Water security planning and drought resilience activities

Sustainable agriculture

- Regional Agriculture Landcare facilitator
- Field days, events and workshops
- Weather stations and soil moisture sensors

Pest plant and animal control

- Fox and rabbit bait distribution
- Goat Management Steering Committee
- Provision of goat yards, cat traps and advice on pest animal management
- Collaborative roadside weed control with councils
- Pest plant education and compliance
- Provision of biological controls

More information

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