

Northern and Yorke Landscape Board

How your landscape levy is changing

We all benefit from our region's landscapes...

Our livelihoods, lifestyles and landscapes are all closely linked to the soil, water, native plants and animals around us. With more than 80% of our region under agricultural production, the sustainable use of our soils and water assets is critical to our long-term prosperity as a region.

Everyone who lives and works in the region has an impact on the environment and together, we all share the responsibility and cost of caring for our land, water and nature.

What is the landscape levy?

All ratepayers will see an amount on their council rates notice that contributes directly to managing our landscapes. This is known as the landscape levy (previously the NRM levy). It is collected by councils annually on behalf of the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board and is paid by property owners to help fund the work needed to protect and enhance our environment and contribute towards sustainable production.

What is changing?

The landscape levy is a levy established under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* (the Act). The commencement of the Act in 2020 brought changes, with four councils joining the Northern and Yorke region. They are Adelaide Plains Regional Council, Light Regional Council, The Barossa Council and the Town of Gawler Council, which were formerly part of the Adelaide Mt Lofty Ranges (AMLR) NRM region.

The landscape levy rate paid by these councils was significantly less than the rate paid by the 11 existing councils in the Northern and Yorke region. It is now time to equally distribute levy costs across all 15 councils.


Read the
Frequently Asked Questions about the landscape levy.




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



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

 youtube.com
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What is levy equalisation?

The Act requires that a common levy rate must apply to the whole Northern and Yorke region for the 2023-2024 financial year and beyond. This process is called levy equalisation and will provide a more equitable outcome for all councils and ratepayers across the region.

How is it calculated?

Councils recoup the landscape levy from ratepayers by applying a charge to all rateable properties within the council area. They set and publish a rate (cents per dollar of capital value) that they charge ratepayers. The rate may appear on your council rates notice, or may be outlined in council rating policies.

Following levy equalisation, council contributions to the landscape levy will be based on the council's total capital value. The total levy raised by the Board will only increase with CPI and the Board will not raise any additional revenue as a result of equalisation.

What does it pay for?

The landscape levy helps protect the region's natural assets, including water, soil and biodiversity. Funds are used for pest plant and animal control, to restore watercourses, protect threatened ecosystems and provide grant funding and



The Board is currently amending the Barossa Water Allocation Plan, a document that ensures the equitable use of ground water, while maintaining ecosystem health.

educational programs. About 3% of the levies collected are returned to the community through grant programs, which support local volunteer and community groups to undertake important environmental work. The levy also supports Landscape Officers across the region to work directly with landowners to ensure our land is managed sustainably.

What is the total levy amount?

The landscape levy provides \$6.19m of funding.

While this makes up a large proportion of the Board's total annual budget, it also allows the Board to attract additional Commonwealth Government funding that greatly increases the amount of work that can be accomplished in our region.

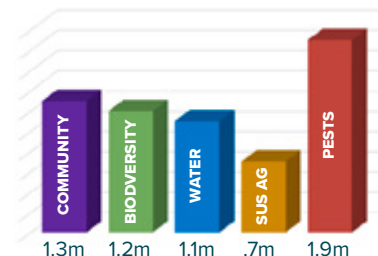


Our soil extension officer provides land managers with practical on-ground help to better understand soils, as well as delivering soil learning opportunities in schools.

It also stimulates regional economic growth through the protection and sustainable use of our landscapes, such as:

- Increasing farm viability by assisting and sponsoring collaborative weed management and control programs
- Improving productivity in the sheep industry by significantly reducing lambing deaths through predatory animal management
- Advances in soil conditioning and no-till techniques

The Board invests the landscape levy across 5 key priorities: communities, biodiversity, water management, sustainable agriculture and pest plants and animals.



Read our **business plan** to find out more about the range of Northern and Yorke projects and programs planned for this financial year.

I live in a town, not on a farm, so why do I have to pay the landscape levy?

We all benefit from a healthy environment and the Board supports communities in:

- managing the health of our watercourses
- controlling the worst weeds and feral animals
- helping to protect areas of natural vegetation that provide habitat for our unique native birds, animals and plants
- supporting farmers to sustainably and productively manage their land and soils
- contributing to the health of the region's coast and seas.



By cultivating and sharing biological control agents like cochineal insects, the Board helps landholders reduce the impact of declared weeds such as cacti on our landscapes.