

Annual Business Plan 2022-23

Northern and Yorke Landscape Board



Introduction



On behalf of the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board,
I present the 2022-23 Business Plan.

This plan continues the board's commitment to "a resilient and productive landscape that sustains a thriving community, environment and economy", through

a sustained focus on five priority areas; Communities, Biodiversity, Water Management, Sustainable Agriculture and Pest Plant and Animal Control. The programs and projects outlined in this plan deliver against the vision, and complement the priorities and objectives of the Northern and Yorke Landscape Plan 2021-2026 and State Landscape Strategy.

This plan provides that the Board will continue to deliver a combination of on-ground works, policy and strategy development, extension activities and landholder support ensuring that all members of the community have the opportunity to benefit from the work of the Board. The plan provides details of how funding for these initiatives is sourced and distributed in support of the priorities.

The Board has been successful in securing a number of Federal and State Government grants, which will see the delivery of new landscape-scale, multi-year projects in the Mid North, Yorke Peninsula and region-wide.

The Australian Government Regional Landcare Projects in the Southern Flinders and Yorke Peninsula are entering their fifth year, with a number of key milestones planned in the early stages of 2022-23. Many of the projects outlined in the plan address multiple priority areas including pest animal and plant control, enhanced or protected biodiversity, soil health, agricultural performance and drought resilience.

The Board recognises the invaluable contributions of its partners, stakeholders and the wider community. The success of the projects outlined in this plan is contingent on the relationships that the Board and its staff maintain with our partners, stakeholders, First Nations peoples, community organisations and not for profit organisations. A strong network of organisations and individuals who work together and have a shared vision for a sustainable future will ensure the activities outlined in this plan are successful.

I invite you to consider this plan and encourage you to support the Board's vision through participation in the programs and projects planned for 2022-23. I look forward to together continuing to strive for a sustainable future for all.

Caroline Schaefer
Chair, Northern and Yorke Landscape Board

Minister's approval

I, Susan Close, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, after taking into account and in accordance with the requirements of section 51 of the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, hereby adopt the 2022-2023 Business Plan for the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board.

Hon. Susan Close
Minister for Climate, Environment and Water



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.

Decision making

The Board's approach to decision making and determining support for programs and projects is based on the following:



Our 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.

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

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

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

Pest plant and animal control

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 Business Plan sets out the expenditure and expected revenue for the 2022-2023 financial year.

The Board's investment will be delivered through a range of programs and projects which include works delivered by Board staff, or through contracts for works or services, and grant programs. The Board will collaborate with project partners, stakeholders, communities, contractors and suppliers to deliver the outputs of the 2022-2023 Business Plan.



■ COMMUNITY ■ BIODIVERSITY ■ WATER ■ SUS AG ■ PESTS

This table provides the investment by priority across all programs and projects planned for the 2022-2023 year. The table includes expenditure related to staff costs, administrative support, fleet, accommodation and other operating costs, apportioned on the basis of staff resources dedicated to priority areas.

PRIORITY	LEVY FUNDS	EXTERNAL FUNDS *	TOTAL
 Communities	2,072,303 ¹	930,377	3,002,680
 Biodiversity	798,507	1,456,243	2,254,750
 Water management	862,982 ²	175,747	1,038,728
 Sustainable agriculture	532,779	1,115,507	1,648,285
 Pest plants and animals	2,017,951	324,530	2,342,481
Total	6,284,522	4,002,402	10,286,925

¹ Includes \$230,000 of community grants which may align to another priority once awarded

² Water Planning Management contributions of \$470,000 approx. are included in the Water Management priority.

Communities

Active. Informed. Knowledgeable.



Communities are the heart of the Regional Landscape Plan 2021-2026 and will be the ultimate beneficiary of the Board's vision for a sustainable future for all. The region's community has been, and will continue to be, vital in the development, delivery and success of the Board's work within the region. Community engagement, education and empowerment are the cornerstones of the Board's vision which seeks for community members and groups to actively manage their environment, make informed decisions and continually seek knowledge.

FOCUS AREA:

Make decisions based on best available science, cultural knowledge, and local experience

PROGRAMS

Aboriginal Engagement Committee

Aboriginal Partnerships Officer

PROJECTS

Restoring Coastal Ecosystems Yorke Peninsula (2022-2024); Narungga knowledge transfer and employment

Research partnerships with PhD student placements (Marna Banggara Project)

Development of a Research Prospectus to encourage partnerships with research institutions

Support for NAIDOC events

FOCUS AREA:

Actively engaged in community at the centre of landscape management

PROGRAMS

Community Grant Programs
Grassroots Grants (\$1k to \$10k)
Bite-sized Grants (\$200 to \$1k)

Communications and Engagement Program

PROJECTS

Community Action Planning

Citizen Science Programs



FOCUS AREA:

Foster partnerships that increase communication, expertise and collaboration in landscape management

PROGRAMS

Foster and encourage community groups, including:
Regional Alliance Group
Community Action Plan Steering Committee
Landcare, sustainable ag and farming systems groups
Landholder collaborative groups

Provision of insurance support for community land management groups

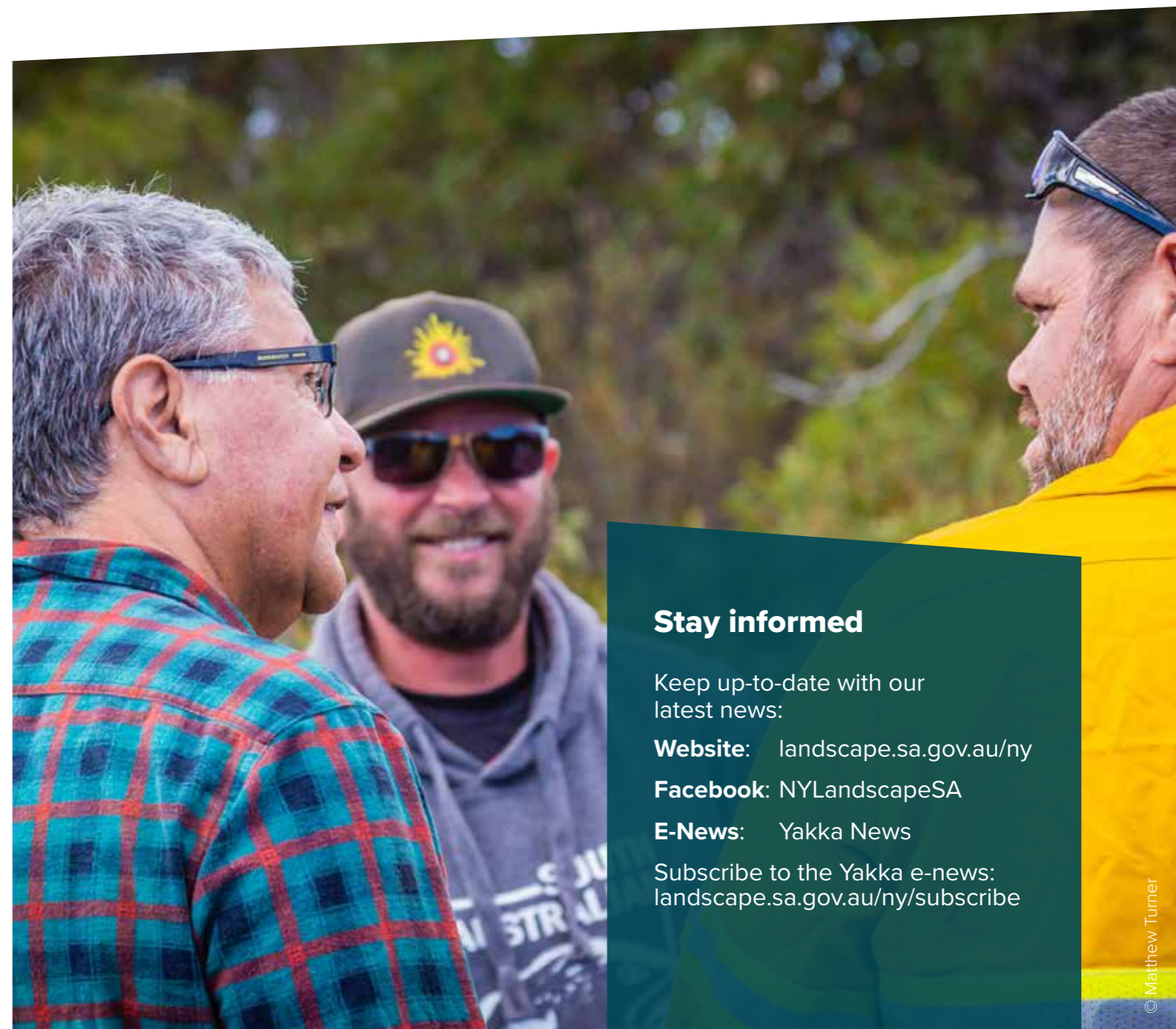
PROJECTS

Restoring Coastal Ecosystems YP (2022-2024)

Hooded Plover surveys

Willamulka Biodiversity Corridor Project

Osprey Nesting Platform Project support



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Biodiversity

Protected. Improved. Restored.



The Northern and Yorke region has areas of high biodiversity value, including over 1400km of coastline, large areas of eucalyptus mallee woodland in the southern Yorke Peninsula, samphire scrubland along much of the coast line and areas of nationally threatened woodlands and grasslands. Protection of number of threatened flora and fauna species that live within the region is critical and can only be achieved through partnerships with the communities that live, work and use the region.

FOCUS AREA:

Support the protection and restoration of coastal habitats

PROGRAMS

Coastal Management
Action Plan
2020 deliverables

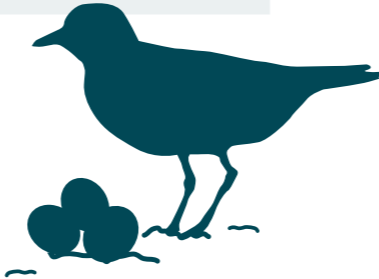
PROJECTS

Osprey Nesting
Platforms Project

Restoring Coastal Ecosystems
Yorke Peninsula
(2022-2024)

FOCUS AREA:

Coordinate programs to improve climate change resilience and adaptive capacity



PROGRAMS

Regional Alliance Climate
Sector Agreement
deliverables

PROJECTS

Living Flinders Project (2018-2023)
Regional Landcare Program

FOCUS AREA:

Improve ecosystems through the restoration of habitat

PROGRAMS

Strategic weed
management

PROJECTS

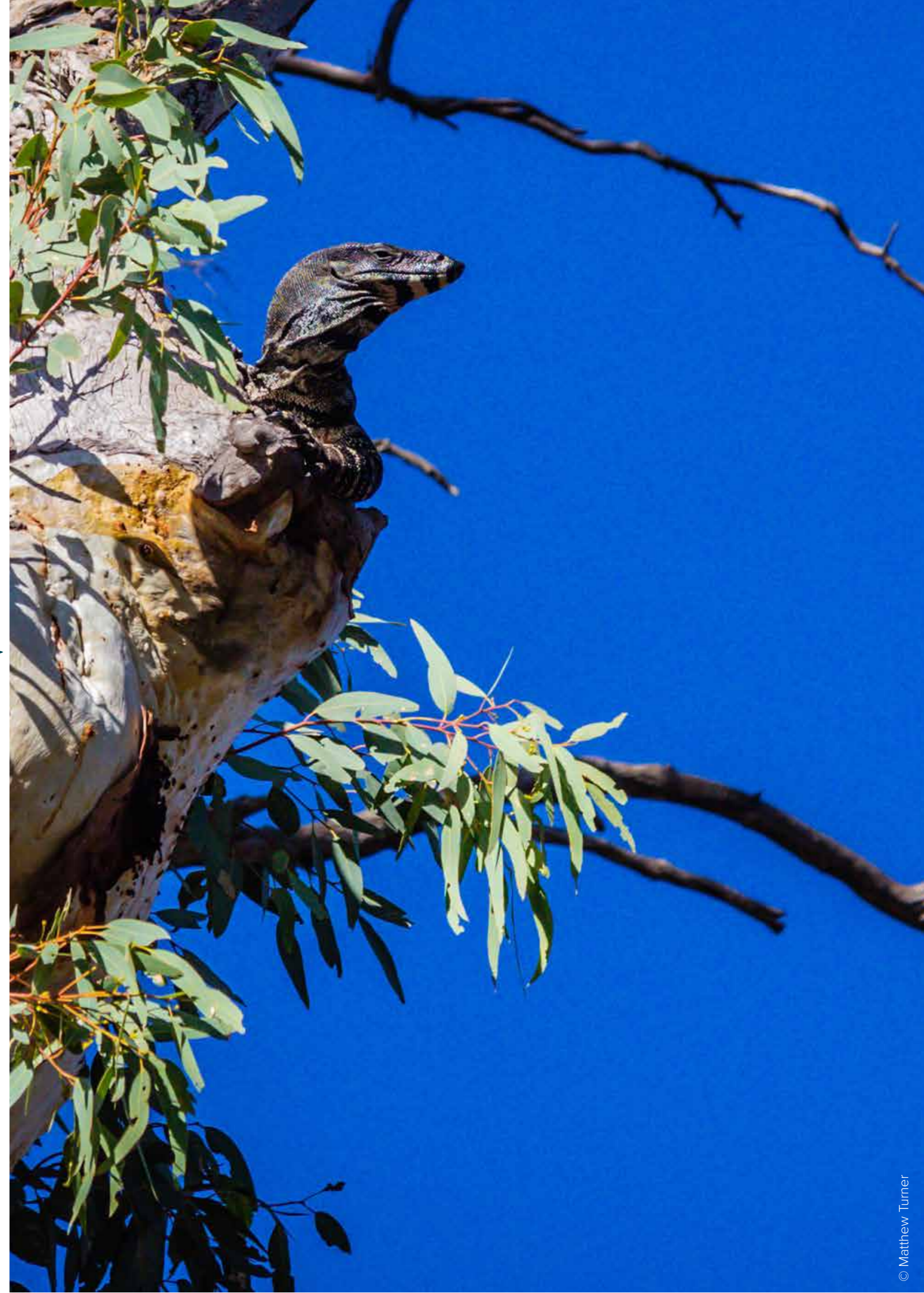
Regenerating Catchments in
Mid North Farmscapes
(2022-2024)

Wildlife for Wine Project
(Clare and Barossa Valleys)

Prescribed and cultural
burning activities
for improved
ecosystem health

Marna Banggara Project
(2018-2023)

Pygmy blue tongue
Threatened Species Recovery
(2022-2023)



Water Management

Efficient. Sustainable. Monitored.



Water is a scarce and valuable resource to all who live, work and visit the Northern and Yorke region. Managing the water resource requires considered planning and monitoring, for which the Board holds legislative responsibility for management of prescribed water resources areas in the region.

The natural movement of water through the environment is needed to ensure the ongoing health of watercourses and wetlands are maintained. A healthy water course provides environmental and economic outcomes for the region. The Board provides support for water affecting activities through a permitting system, ensuring that water course flows are maintained, and where necessary, repair or reinstatement of the waterflow is enforced.

FOCUS AREA:

Sustainably manage the region's prescribed water resources

PROGRAMS

Water Affecting Activity Permits

Monitoring of Water Allocation Plan effectiveness

PROJECTS

Completion of the Barossa Water Allocation Plan

Baroota Water Allocation Planning

Mid-term review of the Clare Valley Water Allocation Plan

Development of Water Allocation Plan Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) Plans

FOCUS AREA:

Protect and rehabilitate watercourses and wetlands

PROGRAMS

Water Affecting Activity Permits:
Compliance actions for non-approved water affecting activities

PROJECTS

Restoring Catchments in Mid North Farmscapes (2022-2024)

FOCUS AREA:

Promote the sustainable use of water for environmental, cultural, social and industry outcomes

PROGRAMS

Stormwater Management Plan review with councils

Water Allocation Planning with industry, community and First Nations

Participation in the Gawler River Floodplain Management Authority Committee

Investigation of environmental and cultural flows through planned water releases

PROJECTS

Support for a State Water Security Statement

Potential environmental water releases in Beetaloo and Baroota



Sustainable Agriculture

Adaptive. Resilient. Healthy.



With 80% of the Northern and Yorke region being utilised for agricultural purposes, and the remaining 20% used for viticulture, market gardening, mining, small farms and residential purposes, soil health is critical to the region's economic sustainability. Improvements in soil health and water retention provide benefits to agricultural production, land viability and local communities. Focussing on improving land management practices to benefit environmental and economic outcomes will provide long term benefits, as changing climate conditions continue to affect the region.

FOCUS AREA:

Building land managers capacity in adaptive agriculture and best practice land management

PROGRAMS

Partnership with Ag-Ex to provide a Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator	Support for extension and education events
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PROJECTS

Mid North Soils Project (2021-2023)	Statewide Network of Soil Extension Officers (2022-2024)
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FOCUS AREA:

Support innovation and adoption of practices for resilience and adaptation

PROGRAMS

Weather station and soil moisture sensors: Real-time data for decision making
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PROJECTS

Carbon + Biodiversity Project (2022-2024)	Living Flinders Project (2018-2023)
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FOCUS AREA:

Protect and improve the condition of the soil, groundcover and vegetation

PROGRAMS

Kangaroo Management Network: Reducing grazing pressure	Field days and workshops on soil health, grazing pressure and pasture management
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PROJECTS

Wildlife for Wine Project	Regenerating Catchments in Mid North Farmscapes	Living Flinders Arid Seeding Project (2023)
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Pest Plant and Animal Control

Targeted. Coordinated. Collaborative.



Uncontrolled pest plants and animals can have a significant impact on agricultural productivity, biodiversity and human health. The *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* requires action be taken to control pest animals and plants, tasking landowners with the responsibility to manage declared pests on their properties. The Board provides support and assistance to landowners to control existing pest species, and to prevent or reduce the likelihood of new pest threats.

FOCUS AREA:

Deliver programs that control priority weeds and feral animals to reduce their effects on agriculture and biodiversity

PROGRAMS

Community fox and rabbit bait sales and distribution	Weed and pest animal education campaigns	Release of biological controls for pest weeds
Support for PIRSA Wild Dog Management	Provision of goat yards for goat removal	Compliance inspections of deer farms

PROJECTS

Goat Management Steering Committee and Policy Development
Collaborative Council Roadside Weed Projects

FOCUS AREA:

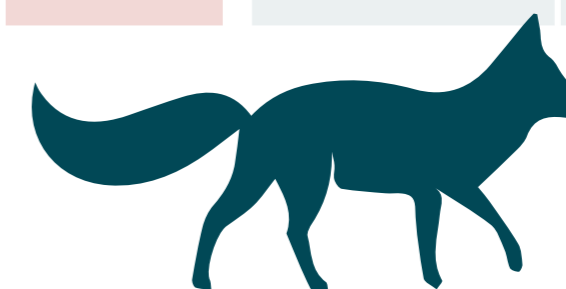
Develop land manager networks and facilitate collaboration for pest control and management

PROGRAMS

Rail and road corridor weed management (Councils, state and federal government)	Discounted fox baits for collaborative groups of landowners	Collaboration with other entities for pest plant and animal control education
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PROJECTS

Intensive fox, feral cat and weed control in Marna Banggara	Establishing biological control nursery sites
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Our key projects

The Northern and Yorke Landscape Board partners with community organisations, government entities, councils and industry, as a result of a competitive bid process, to deliver major landscape-scale projects. The following projects will commence or continue to be delivered during the 2022-2023 year.



Restoring Coastal Ecosystems Yorke Peninsula

FOOTPRINT:
Coast from Port Wakefield around YP to Wallaroo

TIMEFRAME: 2022-2024

AIM: Work with local communities and councils to help restore and protect sensitive coastal ecosystems from impacts of pest plants and animals, visitors and to recover from fire events.

PARTNERS: Barunga West Concil, AGL, National Parks and Wildlife Service SA, Southern YP Landcare



Marna Banggara

FOOTPRINT:
Southern Yorke Peninsula

TIMEFRAME: 2018-2023

AIM: To reinvigorate natural ecological processes through a reduction in pest plants and animals and re-introduction of locally-extinct animals to restore bushland health.

PARTNERS: Australian Government, Department for Environment and Water, Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife, WWF-Australia, Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation



Regenerating Catchments in Mid North Farmscapes

FOOTPRINT:
Mid North river catchment areas

TIMEFRAME: 2022-2024

AIM: Improve landscape condition and productivity through increasing connectivity of remnant vegetation within the Light and Gawler River catchments, including North and South Para Rivers. Improve soil health and permeability, reduce erosion, and increase sustainable agricultural practices through building community capacity.

FUNDING:
Landscape Priority Fund



Living Flinders

FOOTPRINT:
Southern Flinders Ranges

TIMEFRAME: 2018-2023

AIM: Increasing the drought resilience of the southern Flinders through intensive community engagement, landholder education and promotion of land management practice change. Areas of revegetation and focussed pest management will supplement the outcomes of practice change in the landscape.

PARTNERS:
Australian Government



Statewide Soil Extension Project

FOOTPRINT:
Statewide

TIMEFRAME: 2022-2025

AIM: A network of soil extension officers providing landholder advice, education and extension activities that result in a greater understanding of soil health for environmental and agricultural outcomes.

PARTNERS:
Australian Government Future Drought Fund and Landscape Boards



Pygmy Bluetongue Threatened Species Recovery

FOOTPRINT:
Mid North

TIMEFRAME: 2022-2023

AIM: Improve awareness and condition of irongrass temperate tussock grasslands, to support five known pygmy bluetongue populations in the Mid North area.

FUNDING: Australian Government, Environment Restoration Fund, Threatened Species Recovery



Our partners

The Board acknowledges that in order to deliver the objectives of the Regional Landscape Plan and the 2022-2023 Business Plan the Board is reliant on the involvement of the community, its stakeholders and partners. The Board values and thanks its partners, stakeholders, community groups and individuals who work with and alongside the Board in delivering against the Board's priorities. Continuation of these relationships and building on works completed to date is critical to long-term success.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Adelaide Plains Council | District Council of Orroroo Carrieton | Regional Council of Goyder |
| Barunga West Council | Light Regional Council | The Barossa Council |
| Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council | Northern Areas Council | Town of Gawler |
| Copper Coast Council | District Council of Peterborough | Wakefield Regional Council |
| District Council of Mount Remarkble | Port Pirie Regional Council | Yorke Peninsula Council |

The board and staff

The Northern and Yorke Landscape Board consists of a Presiding Member (Chair) and six community members appointed as Board Members. All board members were appointed by the Minister on the basis of the skills and experience that the member can provide to the Board. The Board and Board Committees meet regularly, holding meetings at towns throughout the region on a monthly or quarterly basis. Visitors are welcome to attend Board meetings which are advertised on the Board website.

The Board delivers on its objectives through the employment of a General Manager, and a team of public sector employees. The Board, through the General Manager, employs 39.09 full-time equivalent staff working to deliver the programs and projects of the Board. Of these positions, 7.4 FTE are funded by the Australian Government through the Regional Landcare Program or through State Landscape Priority funding. The Landscape Board staff work across three districts; Rangelands, Yorke 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.



Our Board (Back L-R): Geoffrey White, Peter Angus, Sam Germein, Phillip Heaslip. (Front L-R): Sarah Barrett, Caroline Schaefer (Chair) and Maree Wauchope.

Board representation across the region

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Caroline Schaefer | CLARE VALLEY | Phillip Heaslip | FLINDERS RANGES |
| Peter Angus | ADELAIDE PLAINS | Maree Wauchope | BARUNGA WEST |
| Sarah Barrett | BAROSSA VALLEY | Geoffrey White | LIGHT |
| Sam Germein | YORKE PENINSULA | | |

Funding

The Board receives funding through the collection of levies (landscape levy and water levies) and through agreements with the Federal Government or other partners. The table below provides the estimated funding (income) for the 2022-2023 financial year.

FUNDING SOURCE	2022-23 (\$)
Levies and water levies¹	
Regional Landscape Levy	5,717,688
Water Levy	379,830
Other income	38,000
External funding	6,135,518
Australian Government National Landcare Program <i>Regional Land Partnerships²</i>	1,402,040
Australian Government <i>Smart Farms</i> <i>(via SLA with Limestone Coast Landscape Board)</i>	231,250
Australian Government <i>Threatened Species Recovery</i>	100,000
Landscape Priorities Fund	649,180
Service level agreements with other landscape boards ³	80,000
TOTAL REVENUE	8,598,988
External funding requested carry-over ⁴	636,238
State Government <i>Landscape Priority Funds Projects</i> carry-over ⁴	391,680
Australian Government <i>Species Recovery</i> carry-over ⁴	149,950
Australian Government <i>Smart Farms (via SLA with Limestone Coast Landscape Board)</i> carry-over ⁴	206,000
Levy Projects requested carry-over ⁴	305,070
TOTAL FUNDING	10,286,926

¹ Landscape levy represents total figure to be collected by constituent councils. Water levy is an approximate figure based on water licence holders in the Northern and Yorke region; ² Funding agreements with the Australian Government Regional Land Partnerships program; ³ Service level agreements in negotiation at time of publication; ⁴ Carry-over funds are subject to approval by the Department for Treasury and Finance.

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 levy is collected by constituent councils through the council rates process, and forwarded to the Board. Constituent councils have the ability to claim costs associated with collecting the levy on behalf of the 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 table below provides the landscape levy to be collected by each constituent council and the collection fees that will be paid by the Board. The landscape levy and collection costs have increased by 2.5% (CPI) from the 2021-2022 amounts.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA	22/23 LANDSCAPE LEVY	COLLECTION FEE
Adelaide Plains	196,863	4,121
Barossa	560,509	6,041
Barunga West	234,835	3,401
Clare & Gilbert Valleys	514,101	4,532
Copper Coast	658,819	5,809
Gawler	378,016	5,780
Goyder	292,689	3,945
Light	349,177	4,833
Mount Remarkable	136,927	3,583
Northern Areas	284,165	3,852
Orroroo Carrieton	44,796	3,071
Peterborough	34,930	3,133
Port Pirie	435,783	5,422
Wakefield	402,225	4,170
Yorke Peninsula	1,193,852	6,507
TOTAL	5,717,688	68,200

Water levy

The Northern and Yorke Landscape Board region contains five prescribed water resource areas (PWRA). These include the Clare Valley and Barossa Valley and sections of the Marne Saunders, Northern Adelaide Plains and the Western Mount Lofty PWRA.

Water levies are paid by all water licence holders in the PWRA. 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 2022-2023 financial year, and include a Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase of 2.5% on the 2021-2022 levy rates.

PRESCRIBED WATER RESOURCE AREA (PWRA)	RATES AND BASIS OF LEVY	PROPORTION OF PWRA _s ALLOCATED	EXPECTED AMOUNT TO BE RAISED 22/23
Barossa Valley	.650 c/kl of water allocated	100%	\$379,830
Clare Valley	\$105.49 as a fixed amount per water license, and 3.764c/kl of water allocated	100%	
Marne Saunders	.699 c/kl of water allocated or a levy of \$200, whichever greater	40%	
Northern Adelaide Plains	.650 c/kl of water allocated	33%	
Western Mount Lofty Ranges	.650 c/kl of water allocated	3%	

Servicing our regional communities

HEAD OFFICE

CLARE 155 Main North Road, Clare

REGIONAL OFFICES

BURRA PO Box 26, 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

