

Annual Business Plan 2026 - 2027



NORTHERN AND YORKE LANDSCAPE BOARD

**Caring for land,
water and nature.**

 **LANDSCAPE**
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
NORTHERN AND YORKE

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



image credit: Chantelle Renee

Introduction

On behalf of the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board, I am pleased to present the *2026–2027 Annual Business Plan*.

This Annual Business Plan outlines the key programs and projects that will be delivered across the Northern and Yorke region during the 2026–2027 financial year. It marks the first year of implementation of the Northern and Yorke Regional Landscape Plan 2026–2031, translating our revised vision, strategic objectives and priorities into practical, on-ground action.

The new Regional Landscape Plan sets a clear direction for the future, grounded in an updated vision of a resilient and thriving region where communities, environment and economy are sustained together. It recognises the complex and evolving challenges we face—including climate variability, biodiversity decline, water security and invasive species—and provides a coordinated framework to respond.

Guided by this Plan, our work in 2026–2027 aligns to five interconnected strategic outcomes:

- Climate-ready communities caring for nature;**
- Thriving native species and habitats;**
- Healthy waters and coasts;**
- Resilient, sustainable agriculture;**
- Reduce impact from pest plants and animals.**

This year’s Business Plan reflects a strong emphasis on partnership and delivery. We will continue to work closely with First Nations peoples and organisations, landholders, community groups, industry and all levels of government to achieve shared outcomes. Our programs combine on-ground works, extension and engagement, and policy and strategy development, ensuring that investment delivers measurable environmental, social and economic benefits.

The Board remains committed to building the capacity of our communities to lead and participate in landscape management. We recognise that lasting change is achieved through local knowledge, stewardship and collective action. By supporting individuals and communities to adapt and respond, we strengthen the resilience of the region as a whole.

I encourage you to explore this Annual Business Plan and consider how you can be involved in the programs and opportunities it presents. Together, we can deliver on the vision of the 2026–2031 Regional Landscape Plan and ensure the Northern and Yorke region remains a place of healthy landscapes, productive industries and vibrant communities for generations to come.



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

Acknowledgement of Country

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

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

KAURNA • NARUNGGA • NGADJURI • NUKUNU • PERAMANGK

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.

About our region

One of South Australia’s **most diverse** and **productive landscapes**.

The Northern and Yorke region stretches across 38,500 square kilometres, forming one of South Australia’s most diverse and productive landscapes.

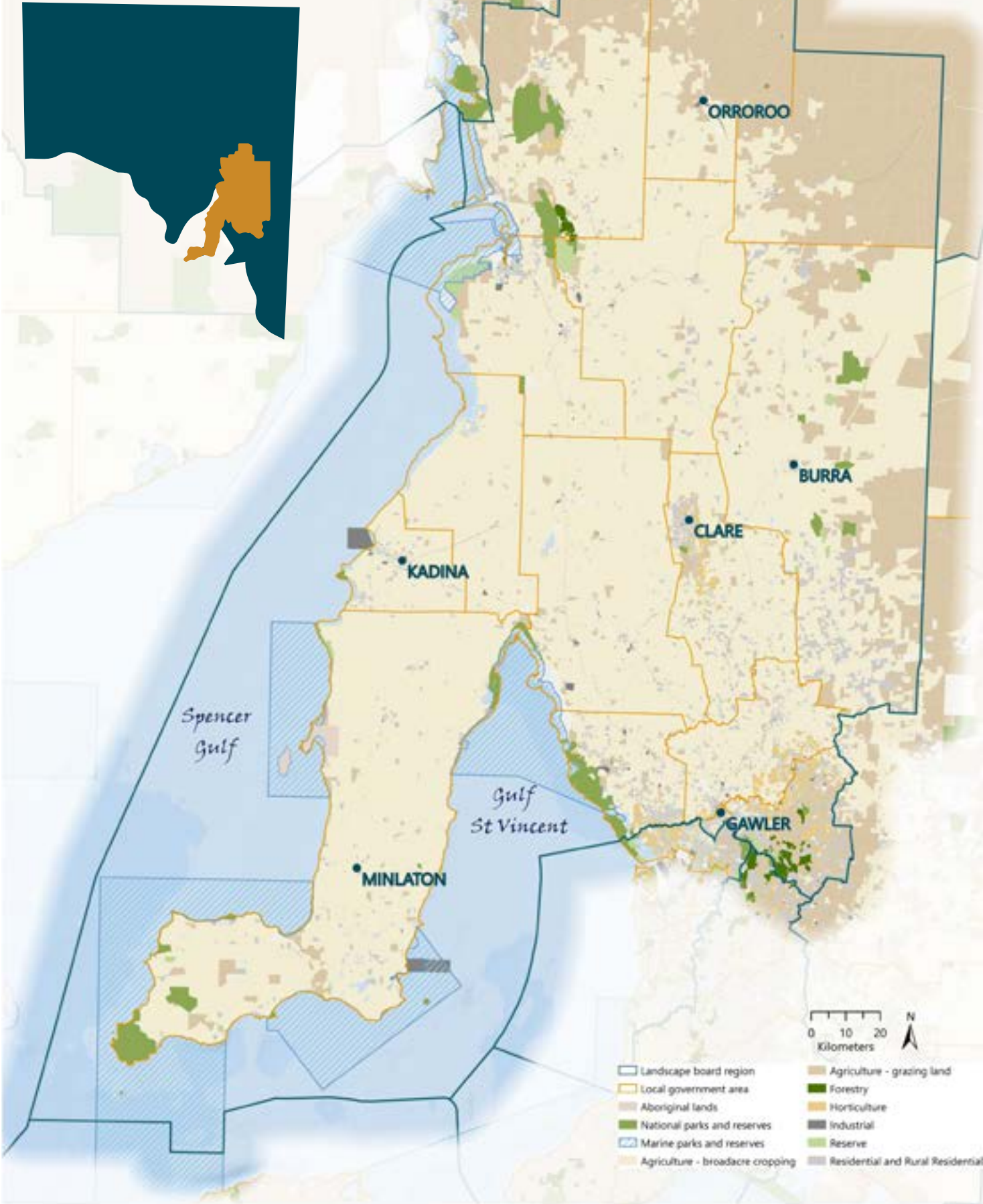
Bounded by more than 1,300 kilometres of coastline, the region’s sweeping shores and adjoining marine environments play a defining role in both its ecological richness and economic strength.

The region brings together an extraordinary mix of places and people. It encompasses the Yorke Peninsula, areas of Spencer Gulf and Gulf St Vincent, the southern Flinders Ranges, parts of the Rangelands and Mid North, the northern Mount Lofty Ranges, the Barossa, and the northern Adelaide Plains. Approximately 150,000 people currently call this region home, with areas of significant urban growth rapidly increasing the region’s population. The people of the region support vibrant agricultural, coastal and urban communities, while welcoming visitors to some of South Australia’s most celebrated destinations.

This is also Country for the Narungga, Nukunu, Ngadjuri, Kurna and Peramangk peoples, whose enduring connection to land and waters continues to shape the character and stewardship of the region.

A network of regional centres, including Port Pirie, Gawler, Nuriootpa, Clare, Burra, Peterborough, Kadina, Moonta and Wallaroo, anchors the community and economy. Natural resources underpin a diverse and resilient economy, with 80% of land dedicated to cropping and grazing, generating a significant share of South Australia’s agricultural output. Internationally recognised wine regions in the Barossa and Clare Valleys sit alongside key industries including mining and mineral processing, fishing and aquaculture, forestry, horticulture and tourism—together driving prosperity and opportunity across the region.

Northern and Yorke



Our Board

The Board is a statutory body established under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* commissioned to care for the region’s landscapes and natural resources.

The Board’s legislative obligations, include the management and protection of land, water resources and the control of ‘declared’ plants and animals.

The Board does this through:

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

The Board is funded through a combination of landscape (land) and water levies, and external grant funding. These funding sources allow the Board to deliver against the strategic objectives of the *Regional Landscape Plan 2026-2031*.

The Board consists of a Presiding Member (Chair) and six community Board Members appointed by the Minister. Visitors are welcome to attend Board meetings which are advertised on the Board website.

In 2026-2027 the Board operates two committees to support its operations:

- Governance and Finance Committee
- Five Nations Landscape Committee

Select Board Members also attend the following Water Planning committee:

- Water Planning Steering Committee & Water Allocation Planning Advisory Groups



The planning process

The Board plans work over three time horizons, long term (20+ years), medium term (5 years) and annual. These plans are linked through the Strategic Objectives, which we aspire to achieve over the long term.

To deliver these long-term objectives, the Board have highlighted 5 priorities or key areas of business, and a number of focus areas to be delivered against over the next 5 years (2026-2031). This plan outlines the programs and projects that will be delivered in the 2026-2027 financial year, which align with the focus areas.

LONG TERM | 2050

Strategic objectives

Aligned with long-term regional vision

MEDIUM TERM | 5 YEAR

Priorities with focus area

Medium 5 year targets

SHORT TERM | ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN

Programs and projects

Annual targets

Our income

The Board receives income through the collection of levies (landscape land levy and water levies) and through agreements with the Federal Government or other partners.

Income	\$
Regional Landscape Levy	6,936,259
Water Levy	453,162
Sale of Goods and Services	50,000
Interest	180,000
TOTAL Levy income	7,619,421
Regional Delivery Partnerships	1,836,686
Landscape Priorities Fund	591,726
Australian Government via other agencies	239,501
Other external funding	227,078
TOTAL External income	2,894,991
TOTAL INCOME	10,514,412
Re-profilling of external funding *	496,000
Carryover of external funding *	150,000
Total anticipated expenditure authority #	11,160,412

*Reprofiling and carryover of unspent funds are estimated at as 29 May 2026 and may alter. Re-profilling and carryover requests are submitted to the Department of Treasury and Finance and are subject to approval.

#The total anticipated expenditure authority reflects the total income, plus unspent budget from 2025/2026, anticipated to be expended in 2026/2027.

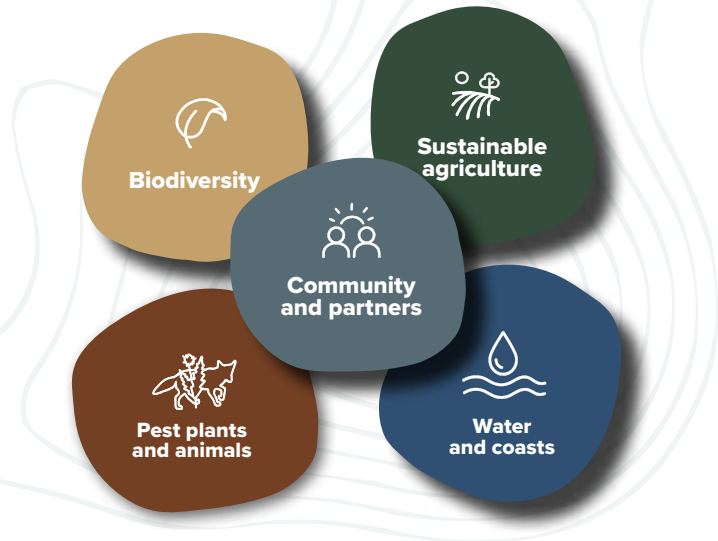
Strategic objectives and priorities

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 extend beyond the remit of the Board but provide a shared set of strategic objectives for the Northern and Yorke region and community. These objectives help to focus the programs and projects that the Board will deliver, across our 5 priority areas.

- Climate ready communities caring for nature
- Thriving native species and habitats
- Healthy waters and coasts
- Resilient, sustainable agriculture
- Reduce impact from pest plants and animals

The Board recognises that in order to achieve these objectives, work is required in the 5 priority areas:



This Business Plan outlines how funding is allocated to support these objectives, through allocation to priorities and focus areas, with investment implemented through a variety of approaches, including direct funding, contracts for works and services, and grants to support targeted initiatives.

Focus areas

These focus areas and priorities they serve demonstrate the interconnectedness of our landscape and how works in one area, can have a positive impact upon another.

FOCUS AREA						
1. Climate-ready communities caring for nature						
1.1	Learn from on-Country experiences and First Nations partnerships that grow local custodianship and shared stewardship.	✓	✓	✓		✓
1.2	Educate and inspire communities and visitors through ambassadorships, school programs, events, media and citizen science to build community care for nature.	✓	✓	✓		✓
1.3	Support community groups and volunteers with grants, mentoring, internships and work experience so they can lead and deliver local action.		✓			
1.4	Partner with councils, community groups and Natural Resource Centres to embed nature-positive behaviour in towns and coastal spaces.	✓	✓	✓		✓
1.5	Facilitate community led biodiversity, threat management and catchment health projects that strengthen climate resilience.	✓	✓	✓		✓
1.6	Support land managers through providing timely land management advice, information and connections.		✓	✓	✓	✓
1.7	Embrace First Nations' land management practices as a legitimate component of improving landscape health	✓	✓	✓		✓
2. Thriving native species and habitats						
2.1	Lead change in threatened species recovery to secure populations and improve their threat status.	✓				
2.2	Partner on translocations, reintroductions and flora conservation to rebuild connected habitats, threatened species populations and increase genetic diversity.	✓			✓	
2.3	Use the natural capital approach and technology to monitor our natural assets and detect change and guide our work.	✓		✓	✓	✓
2.4	Facilitate landscape-scale revegetation and urban biodiversity projects that restore habitat mosaics, improving climate resilience and production outcomes.	✓		✓	✓	
2.5	Promote the protection, conservation and restoration of remnant vegetation across all land tenures.	✓		✓		✓

FOCUS AREA



3. Healthy waters and coasts

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

4. Resilient sustainable agriculture

4.1	Support practice change and practical learning for primary producers in sustainable land and water management to build soil health, ground cover and improve drought resilience.	✓			✓	✓
4.2	Collaborate with agricultural groups and provide opportunities to deliver natural capital improvements at landscape scale.	✓			✓	
4.3	Partner with primary producers to develop property plans that address the requirements of the Landscape South Australia Act 2019.	✓		✓	✓	
4.4	Facilitate climate adaptation planning and support adaptive practices with a focus on managing a hotter, drier future.		✓		✓	
4.5	Use a range of extension methods to inspire continuous improvement and industry uptake of innovative, sustainable practices.		✓		✓	
4.6	Facilitate information and extension methods for primary producers to consider future nature-based investment opportunities.	✓			✓	

5. Reduce impact from pest plants and animals

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

Our programs

The table provides the details of the Boards long-term programs, including programs required to meet the legislative obligations of the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*.

The programs span all the focus areas and priorities, with underpinning programs such as communications and engagement, grants and compliance programs supporting the delivery of all programs and projects.

The resourcing columns provide the estimate of staff time allocated to each program, indicated by the salaries and wages costs, along with regional landscape levy investment (board investment) and where applicable, external funding. The Board leverages its regional landscape levy to attract grant and funding opportunities from state and federal government, along with other contributors.

Program	Resourcing		Focus areas				
	Board investment	External funding	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
First Nations Engagement Working with First Nations People to care for Country	50,000		1.1 1.7				
Natural Capital Approach Developing a Biodiversity Scorecard to underpin investment in our region	50,000			2.3			
Community & Stakeholder Engagement Working with our communities and stakeholders to enhance mutual outcomes	20,000		1.2 1.3 1.4 1.5				
5 Nations Landscape Committee Support for the 5 First Nations Landscape Committee	40,000	6,000 ^	1.7				
Citizen Science in Water Monitoring Waterwatch & Bioblitz programs, turtle and permanent pool monitoring	13,000	48,798	1.2 3.1 3.4	2.3			
Nature Education Program A primary school-based nature education program	30,000		1.2 1.4				
Volunteer Support Program Provision of support, materials and insurance for volunteer community groups	10,000		1.2 1.3				
Natural Resource Centre Project Support Support for aligned projects coordinated by the regions Natural Resource Centres	30,000		1.4				
Grants & Sponsorship Programs Grassroots Grants, Bite-Size Grants and Sponsorship Programs	311,000		1.3				
Communications & Engagement Program Stakeholder Engagement project co-design and media assets, ie newsletters, publications, media and advertising	10,000		1.2 1.6				
Coastal Access Strategy Implementation Supporting the resilience of the Yorke Peninsula coastal ecosystem	30,000		1.4			3.2 3.3	
Marine environments & Blue Carbon Support for Blue Carbon, seagrass and shellfish reef projects	10,000*					3.3	
Regional Alliance Climate Sector Agreement and Action Plan Development of a regional climate sector change agreement, and action plan	¹		1.5				4.4
Urban NRM Partnership with Green Adelaide to extend current Urban NRM programs. Providing advice on enhancing ecology in urban environments during the planning process	¹		1.2 1.4 1.5	2.4 2.5			
Threatened Species Monitoring programs Orchids Surveys on Southern Yorke Peninsula; Pygmy Blue-Tongues in the NY Region (inc PHD)	55,000			2.1 2.2 2.5			

^ Funding provided by Regional Alliance partners to the Five Nations Landscape Committee

* Funding to be confirmed

¹ Program supported through dedication of staff resources

Our programs

Program	Resourcing		Focus areas				
	Board investment	External funding	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
Improving Woodland Bird Habitat Improving habitat for declining woodland birds in the Mt Lofty Ranges	10,000		1.5	2.1 2.2 2.4 2.5			
Investment in Water Science Provision of water resource monitoring & data from DEW	521,087				3.1 3.4		
Water Allocation Plan Development & Implementation For the regions Prescribed Water Resources Areas (PWRA's)	55,000				3.1 3.4		
Monitor ecological changes in Prescribed Water Resource Areas (PWRA's) Fish, frog, macroinvertebrates and tree health monitoring	116,000		1.2	2.2 2.3	3.1 3.4		
Water Affecting Activity Permits Processing application for permits and hydrologist, engineering advice	¹				3.1 3.4		
Environmental & Cultural Flows Project - PHD Sponsorship Enhancing environmental and cultural flows in ephemeral river systems	18,000				3.4		
E-Flows Projects Promotion of environmental flows in the Baroota, Crystal Brook Creek and Barossa	10,000			2.4	3.1		
Water, Flood and Drought Resilience Planning¹ Staff involvement in flood, water management and drought planning at local & state level. Includes participation in Flows for the Future, Gawler River Flood Plain Management Authority and water security planning.			1.5		3.1 3.4	4.1	
Water Affecting Activity Compliance Compliance actions, including education, awareness and formal actions if required	5,000		1.6				
Weather Station and Soil Moisture Sensors Provision of free data from 5 weather stations and soil moisture sensors	¹					4.1 4.5	
Field Days, Events and Workshops Sustainable Agriculture focussed events and workshops throughout the region	¹					4.1 4.5	
Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator Dedicated specialist providing advice, education and support to land managers		166,256				4.1 4.3	
Managing impact causing native species (including Kangaroo Management)¹ Collaboration with the state level Steering Committee to address increasing impacts from overabundant species	¹		1.6				5.1 5.6

Program	Resourcing		Focus areas				
	Board investment	External funding	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
Reducing impact of overgrazing by pest herbivores Control and management of goats, rabbits and deer in the landscape	5,000		1.6	2.5			5.1 5.6
Pest Animal Control Program Support for Wild Dog Program, provision of cat traps, goat yards, and discounted baiting program and bait injection days.	18,600		1.5				5.1 5.2 5.6
Pest Plant Management Program Roadside weed control in conjunction with Councils	225,000						5.3 5.6
Extension and Education Activities Landholder workshops on priority pest plant and animal management	¹		1.6			4.5	5.6
District Priority Pest Plants and Animals Targeting priority species in each district to address agricultural or environmental threats	150,000			2.5		4.3	5.1 5.3 5.4
Community Collaborative Weed Projects Support for small community focussed projects addressing local priority areas	¹		1.4 1.6	2.5			5.6
Arterial Road and Rail Weed Management Program with SA Government & industry partners Collaborative project with road and rail managers to address declared weeds.		50,000					5.3 5.5
Property Clusters for Fox Baiting Promotion of coordinated fox baiting across large areas to increase effectiveness.	¹		1.6			4.2	5.6
Pest Plant & Animal Control Compliance Program Compliance actions, including education, awareness and formal actions if required	¹		1.6			4.2	5.6
Marna Banggara – Predator Management Fence Maintenance of 25km predator management fence on Southern Yorke Peninsula	40,000						
Staff salaries dedicated to the delivery of the above programs	3,786,239						
TOTAL	1,822,687	265,054					

¹ Program supported through dedication of staff resources

Our projects

The table provides the details of the projects undertaken by the Board during the 2026/2027 year.

The projects are often externally funded from state or federal government, with project commitments for between one and five years. The Board contributes staff time as in-kind contributions, leveraging the regional landscape levy to secure over \$3m in external funding.

The projects listed over all focus areas in the Regional Landscape Plan and provide a considerable increase in on-ground investment.

Projects	Resourcing		Focus areas				
	Board investment	External funding	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
ACE Farmers: Adapting to Climate and Emissions Promotion and acceleration of sustainable NRM practices		781,356*	1.6	2.4	3.4	4.1	
Stronger Country Property Management Planning and on ground works to support agricultural outcomes on properties with threatened ecological communities		439,174	1.1 1.6 1.7	2.1 2.2 2.4 2.5		4.1 4.3 4.4 4.5	
Now or Never Deer & Goat Control Project Project to eradicate deer and reduce goat numbers throughout the region		283,726				4.3	5.1 5.6
Buffel Grass Management Controlling the spread of Buffel Grass in the Northern and Yorke Region		100,000	1.7				5.3 5.5
Marna Banggara Rewilding the Southern Yorke Peninsula		774,000		2.1 2.2 2.3 2.5			5.1 5.2 5.6
National Soil Monitoring Soil sampling and condition monitoring across the region		66,501				4.1 4.3 4.4 4.5	
Managing and Mitigating Dry Saline Soils Trials and extension addressing dryland salinity		22,280				4.1 4.3 4.4 4.5	
Agricultural Revegetation Program Revegetation works on agricultural land throughout the region		121,000		2.4 2.5	3.1	4.1 4.2 4.4 4.5 4.6	
Soils for Life – Scaling for Success Extension and peer learning in improved soil management		52,000					
Regional Delivery Partnerships Regional Capacity Services Regional planning, community engagement and partnership capacity		321,900	1.1 1.5 1.7				
Livestock Water Quality Project Assessing and improving on-farm water quality for livestock	53,842				3.1	4.1 4.3 4.4	
Wardang Island Supporting land management on Wardang Island	30,000						
Reviving the Southern Flinders Pest plant and animal control in the Southern Flinders		308,000					5.1 5.3 5.5 5.6
TOTAL	83,842	3,269,937					

*Agreement in draft as at date of Business plan development. Estimate only.

^ Funding with road and rail partners is subject to change. Estimate only.

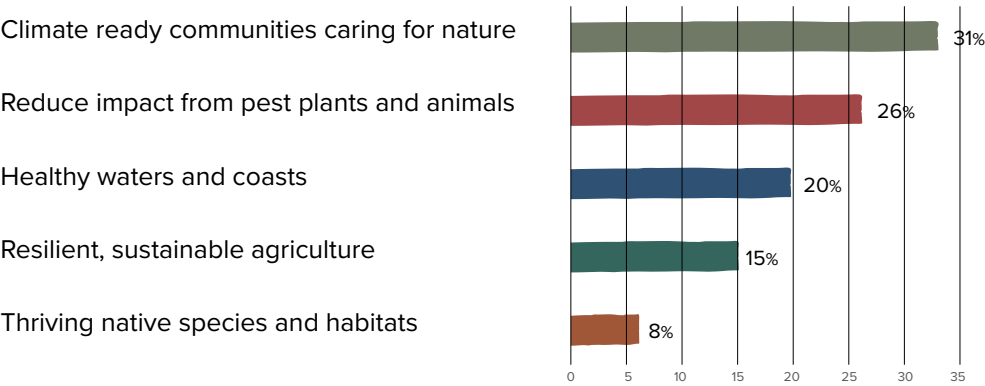
Our investments

The Board receives income from two sources: the regional landscape levy, and external funding secured through agreements with state and federal government and other partners.

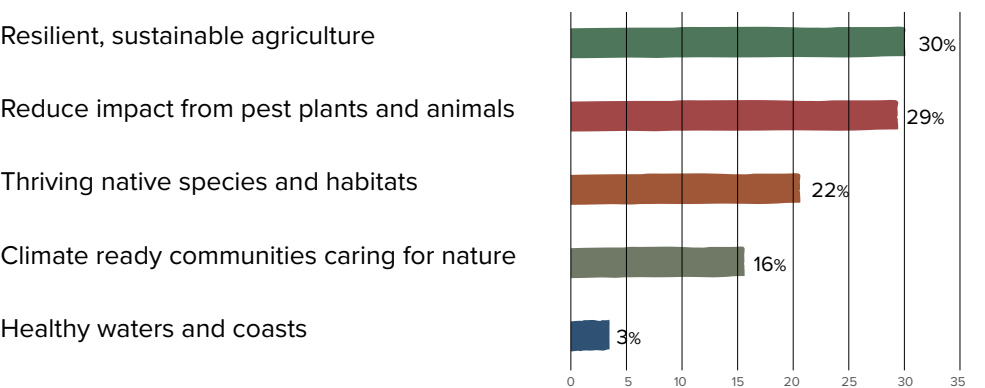
The tables sets out how this income is allocated across the five strategic objectives, along with operations and corporate costs. Levy income enables the Board to meet its legislative obligations, including administration of the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, and funds ongoing programs. External funding is tied to specific projects with commitments of between one and five years.

LEVY INVESTMENT BY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE (\$5,694,768)

Excludes operations and corporate costs (\$2,303,693)



EXTERNAL FUNDING BY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE (\$3,269,936)



INVESTMENT BY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Strategic objectives	Levy	External	Total	Percent
Climate ready communities caring for nature	1,855,543	528,492	2,384,035	21%
Thriving native species and habitats	441,348	719,052	1,160,400	10%
Healthy water and coasts	1,162,582	101,942	1,264,524	11%
Resilient, sustainable agriculture	720,547	991,585	1,712,132	15%
Reduce impact from pest plants and animals	1,514,748	928,865	2,443,613	22%
Operations and corporate costs	2,303,693		2,303,693	20%
TOTAL	7,998,461	3,269,936	11,268,397	100%

Our key projects

Programs and projects delivering **measurable environmental, social and economic benefits.**

\$2.05m investment from 2025 to 2028

This project aims to transform agricultural practices across the region by reducing carbon emissions and supporting long-term sustainability within the industry.



By building on-farm knowledge and encouraging practical action, the initiative will support land managers to sequester carbon, minimise emissions and enhance biodiversity. In doing so, it will enable the adoption of innovative, forward-thinking practices that respond to evolving environmental and market demands.

A comprehensive communication approach will facilitate widespread knowledge-sharing through workshops, conferences, podcasts, videos, fact sheets and tailored one-on-one advisory support. This will equip land managers with the tools and skills needed to drive meaningful, lasting change.

By engaging a broad cross-section of the agricultural sector—including livestock, cropping, horticulture and viticulture—the project will deliver region-wide impact and strengthen industry resilience.

Collaboration will be central to the project’s success. Partnerships with farming systems groups and other organisations will expand reach, leverage technical expertise and deliver practical, on-ground solutions to support a more sustainable agricultural future.

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



\$8.5m investment from 2019 to 2028

Marna Banggara is an ambitious initiative dedicated to restoring the unique landscapes of Southern Yorke Peninsula.



By reintroducing locally extinct species and protecting the existing threatened species, the project is reinstating vital ecological processes that underpin the health of bushland ecosystems, while also benefitting agriculture and the regional economy.

With the project in its seventh year, the list of achievements is long, with brush-tailed bettongs (or Yalgi in Narungga language) now translocated and thriving in Dhilba Guuranda–Innes National Park. Absent from mainland South Australia for over a century, this endangered marsupial is returning key ecological functions to the Southern Yorke Peninsula, through their soil engineering capabilities.

Managing invasive predators—particularly foxes and feral cats—remains critical to the project's success. Landscape-scale fox control, initiated over 15 years ago, continues to play a key role, supported by a 25-kilometre predator management fence across the Peninsula. Together, these efforts are protecting the reintroduced species, improving agricultural outcomes such as lamb survival, and contributing to increased survival rates of threatened species like the Hooded Plover.

2026-2027 represents a key year for the project, with the release of the Marna Banggara Prospectus and 5 Year Strategic Plan. Through these documents, and the continued development of strategic partnerships, the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board are looking to secure long term success for the project.

This project is jointly funded by the Australian Government and the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board, with contributions from a broad network of partners including the South Australian Department for Environment and Water, WWF-Australia, Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife, Regional Development Australia, South Australian Tourism Commission, Zoos SA, FAUNA Research Alliance, BirdLife Australia, Nature Conservation Society of South Australia, Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation, Primary Producers SA, Primary Industries and Regions SA, Conservation Volunteers Australia, Yorke Peninsula Council, Yorke Peninsula Tourism and the Scientific Expedition Group.



\$2m investment from 2024 to 2028

The Stronger Country project aims to protect and enhance three threatened ecological communities across the Southern Flinders and Rangelands: Peppermint Box (*Eucalyptus odorata*) Grassy Woodlands, Grey Box (*Eucalyptus macrocarpa*) Grassy Woodlands and Iron-grass (*Lomandra* spp.) Natural Temperate Grasslands.



The project also seeks to reduce the rate of decline and maintain populations of two threatened species—the Pygmy Blue-tongue Lizard and the Plains-wanderer.

A key focus of the project is the integration of First Nations land management practices. By supporting access to private land, the project will enable First Nations people to share knowledge and work alongside landholders to manage Country more effectively. A combination of established land management approaches, targeted protection works and revegetation activities will be used to strengthen existing ecological communities. At the same time, the project will explore innovative opportunities for landholders to balance agricultural production with the conservation of threatened habitats. Creating economic and business opportunities for First Nations people is also a central priority.

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

The project will deliver:

- **60,000 hectares** managed under plans supporting best-practice management for threatened ecological communities and species
- **50,000 hectares** protected during summer through improved grazing management
- **Increased First Nations capacity** to deliver environmental monitoring and land management services on Country
- **Reduced threats** to priority species and communities through coordinated pest plant and animal control
- **Protection of 1,500 hectares** of threatened ecological communities through on-ground works and conservation agreements
- **Ongoing trial and demonstration sites**, including monitoring of beneficial insects within these communities
- **Collaborative, community-led approaches** to managing pest plants and animals impacting both productivity and the environment



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

The Now or Never project aims to significantly reduce populations of feral deer and goats across the region through coordinated aerial and ground-based control, supported by strong community education and engagement.

The project builds on the existing state eradication programs focused on a strategic, landscape-scale effort.

Feral deer and goats pose serious threats to biodiversity, water quality, public safety, agricultural assets and Aboriginal cultural heritage. In response, the Northern and Yorke, Hills and Fleurieu, and Green Adelaide regions are working collaboratively with key industry groups and landholders to reduce their impacts and drive population decline.

With increasingly dry conditions anticipated, this represents a critical opportunity to reverse projected population growth—aiming to eradicate feral deer in all regions and significantly reduce feral goat numbers.

The project will utilise advanced surveillance and control technologies, including thermal imaging and drone systems, to enhance ground shooting operations and complement existing aerial control programs. Monitoring sites will be established in each region using consistent assessment protocols to evaluate the effectiveness of control efforts and measure reductions in environmental and agricultural impacts.

A strong focus on landholder engagement and participation underpins the project. The project is tenure blind, allowing control operations to occur across all land tenures providing the most effective use of resources, and enabling control at a landscape scale.

The project will also encourage ongoing use of Feralscan to report sightings, providing valuable data to inform adaptive management. Through continued engagement, the project will strengthen landholder awareness and capacity to actively manage feral deer and goats across the landscape.

This project is part funded through the Landscape Priorities Fund.



Project partners include:

- Hills and Fleurieu and Green Adelaide Landscape Boards
- Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA)
- Department for Environment and Water
- ForestrySA
- SA Water
- National Feral Deer Program



Our partners

The Board acknowledges the support and complementary work completed by its project partners, stakeholders, First Nations people and organisations, community groups, and individuals.

Ongoing support and commitment to the region’s priorities and long-term vision are invaluable, enabling the Board to deliver the objectives outlined in this Plan, the *Regional Landscape Plan*, and the *State Landscape Strategy*. Without these critical partnerships and shared objectives, the ability to address threats, manage the risks and create meaningful change would be impossible.

With the new *Regional Landscape Plan 2026-2031* outlining the Board’s direction for the next 5 years, the Board is focussed on bolstering existing relationships and exploring new opportunities to collaborate, to create a lasting impact across the region.



Our Council Partners

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

Our First Nations Partners

- Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation
- Ngadjuri Nation Aboriginal Corporation
- Kaurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation
- Nukunu Wapma Thura Aboriginal Corporation
- Peramangk Aboriginal Corporation

Our landscape levy

The primary source of income for the Board is the regional landscape levy, outlined in the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*.

The regional landscape levy enables the Board to meet its legislative obligations, including administration of the Act and it provides some funding for investment in programs and projects in support of the strategic objectives of the Regional Landscape Plan 2026-2031.

The Act requires the levy is paid by councils, in arrears, on a quarterly basis, with councils able to apply a levy and recover their costs through the council rates process. Councils are provided compensation for the cost of collecting the levy on behalf of the Board.

Council Collection Fees

The Councils within the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board region provide the valuable service of collecting the Landscape Levy from ratepayers, and forwarding the revenue to the Landscape Board quarterly. The Councils collect the levy through applying a rate per dollar of capital value and including the landscape levy on council rate notices.

For this service, in the 2025/2026 financial year, Councils will be paid \$3,190.00 plus 32 cents per assessment (rateable property), totalling approximately \$85,258 across the 15 Council areas.

Council	26/27 Levy	Collection costs
Adelaide Plains	388,643.43	5,227.12
Barossa	852,291.82	7,679.60
Barunga West	295,550.68	4,186.80
Clare & Gilbert Valleys	488,254.62	5,619.76
Copper Coast	612,091.31	7,360.88
Gawler	702,888.02	7,389.36
Goyder	253,835.85	4,840.56
Light	613,531.03	6,134.64
Mount Remarkable	136,685.47	4,387.12
Northern Areas	347,108.01	4,733.36
Orroroo Carrieton	42,138.25	3,732.08
Peterborough	36,189.10	3,815.28
Port Pirie	394,976.56	6,850.16
Wakefield	456,816.34	5,136.88
Yorke Peninsula	1,315,258.72	8,165.04
TOTAL	6,936,259.22	85,258.64

The table provides the landscape levy apportioned to each council on the basis of total capital value and the estimated collection fees that will be paid to councils by the Board.

Our water levies

The Northern and Yorke Landscape Board region contains 5 prescribed water resource areas (PWRA) and 3 prescribed wells areas (PWA).

These include the entirety of Baroota, the Barossa Valley and Clare Valley PWRA's and sections of the Marne Saunders, Eastern & Western Mount Lofty PWRA's and Northern Adelaide and Central Adelaide Prescribed Well Areas.

Water levies are paid by all water licence holders on the basis of the water access entitlement held. The levy is collected by the Department for Environment and Water and forwarded to the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board. The table below provides the rates at which levies will be charged in the 2026/2027 financial year, and includes an increase of 2.4%, being the September Quarter Consumer Price Index (CPI).

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

Prescribed Water Resource Area (PWRA) or Prescribed Wells Area (PWA)	6/27 Rates and Basis of Levy	Proportion within Northern and Yorke
Barossa Valley	.789 cents per kilolitre (c/kl) of water allocated	100%
Clare Valley	\$127.98 as a fixed amount per water license, and 4.566 cents per kilolitre (c/kl) of water allocated	100%
Marne Saunders	.849 c/kl of water allocated or a levy of \$200, whichever is greater	40%
Western Mount Lofty Ranges	.789 cents per kilolitre (c/kl) of water allocated	3%
Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges	.789 cents per kilolitre (c/kl) of water allocated	0%
Central Adelaide	.789 cents per kilolitre (c/kl) of water allocated	1%
Northern Adelaide Plains Prescribed Wells Area	.789 cents per kilolitre (c/kl) of water allocated	33%

Our operations

The Northern and Yorke Landscape Board is a Ministerially appointed body comprising six Board Members and a Presiding Member.

Supported by the Department for Environment and Water, the Board employs a General Manager who oversees the day-to-day operations of the region and acts as the employing authority for regional staff.

The Northern and Yorke Landscape Region team consists of 44.5 public sector employees across ongoing, term and casual roles, with approximately 13 full-time equivalent positions funded through the Australian Government's Regional Delivery Partnership Program and other external funding.

The Board holds two Service Level Agreements for the provision of water science and corporate services with the Department for Environment and Water and the Department of Treasury and Finance's Shared Services SA.

The estimated cost of Board Operations (levy funded) for the 2026/2027 financial year is outlined in the table below:

Cost Category	2025/2026
Staff salaries and wages ^	3,786,239
Operating costs	1,360,938
Corporate services costs#	857,496
Levy collection costs paid to council	85,259
Project delivery across all priorities *	1,906,529
Total estimated levy expenditure	7,996,461
2026/2027 Forecast end of year position (Levy funding)	(\$377,040)

^Salaries and Wages are budgeted at 100% occupancy, however an average vacancy rate of 3% indicates savings will be achieved against salaries

Costs paid to DEW and DTF through Service Level Agreements.

*Project delivery budgets are reviewed and amended as required at mid-year (30 December) and third quarter (30 March).

Monitoring process

This Plan sets the programs and projects to be delivered in support of the strategic objectives, priorities and focus areas outlined in the Regional Landscape Plan 2026-2031.

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



Helping our regional communities

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Stay informed

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

Socials

 NYLandscapeSA
 landscapesa.ny
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Connect

 ny.landscapeboard@sa.gov.au
 landscape.sa.gov.au/ny
Yakka News
 landscape.sa.gov.au/ny/subscribe

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