

Five priorities, one connected landscape

At the heart of the refreshed plan are **five priorities: each has its own focus, but none stands alone.**
Healthy soils support productive farms. Sustainable agriculture protects native habitat. Coordinated pest control benefits biodiversity, waterways and primary production. Informed and active communities help make all of it possible.

1. Sustainable agriculture

Adaptive. Resilient. Productive.

Productive land and healthy ecosystems go hand in hand in Northern and Yorke.

Sustainable agriculture

With more than 80% of the region used for agriculture, sustainable management of soil, water and biodiversity is essential to the future of local businesses and communities. The plan will support primary producers to respond to soil constraints, make efficient use of water, build ground cover, strengthen drought resilience and prepare for a hotter, drier and more variable climate.

The focus is practical. It includes on-farm learning, property planning, field days, demonstrations, grants and timely land management advice. It will also help producers explore emerging opportunities such as carbon projects, natural capital improvements and the Nature Repair Market, while ensuring projects deliver genuine agricultural and biodiversity benefits.

Key actions include:

- Supporting practice change that improves soil health, native ground cover, water retention and ecosystem services.
- Helping primary producers prepare for drought and climate change.
- Partnering with farming groups to deliver on-ground learning and landscape-scale improvements.
- Supporting property planning that combines production and environmental benefits.
- Sharing information about carbon, natural capital and nature-based investment opportunities.
- Encouraging innovation through demonstrations, events and peer-to-peer learning.

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

2. Communities & partners

Active. Informed. Engaged.

Landscapes are not cared for by plans. They are cared for by people.

Communities & partners

The Northern and Yorke Landscape Board already works with more than 100 partner organisations, including councils, First Nations Prescribed Body Corporates, Landcare groups, farming systems groups, progress associations, volunteer organisations and landholder networks. The new plan aims to make those partnerships even stronger, clearer and more effective.

Community action may take the form of a school nature program, a coastal restoration project, citizen science, a local weed-control effort or an on-Country initiative. Different actions, same goal: giving people the knowledge, confidence, skills and support to care for the places that matter to them.

Key actions include:

- Supporting community groups and volunteers through grants, mentoring, internships and work experience.
- Partnering with councils and Natural Resource Centres to embed nature-positive actions in towns and coastal spaces.
- Expanding environmental education, citizen science, events and community ambassadorships.
- Facilitating community-led biodiversity, catchment and threat-management projects.
- Strengthening partnerships across communities, industry and government to deliver outcomes that no single organisation can achieve alone.
- Strengthening First Nations partnerships and creating more opportunities for on-Country work.
- Embedding cultural values and First Nations knowledge in regional planning, policy and projects.

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

3. Biodiversity

Protected. Improved. Restored.

The region is rich in biodiversity, and the new plan is determined to keep it that way.



Northern and Yorke is home to nearly 1,300 native terrestrial plant species, more than 300 recorded native bird species, 33 native terrestrial mammals and 91 native reptile species. But more than 87 per cent of the region's native vegetation has been cleared since European settlement, leaving threatened species and ecological communities increasingly vulnerable to habitat loss, invasive species, development, natural disasters and climate change.

The plan shifts the focus beyond simply holding the line. It calls for active recovery, including restoring connected habitat, supporting threatened species, protecting remnant vegetation and rebuilding ecosystems at a meaningful scale.

Key actions include:

- Leading threatened species recovery projects that secure and improve populations.
- Supporting translocations, reintroductions and flora conservation.
- Restoring habitat corridors and landscape mosaics across agricultural, urban and natural areas.
- Protecting and improving remnant native vegetation across all land tenures.
- Using technology, monitoring and natural capital accounting to understand the condition of biodiversity and guide investment.
- Working with landholders, councils, community organisations and industry to expand the reach of restoration projects.

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

4. Waters and coasts

Efficient. Sustainable. Monitored.

From ephemeral creeks and permanent springs to mangroves, saltmarshes and sweeping coastlines, water connects the region.



Northern and Yorke contains more than 1,300 kilometres of coastline and 47 per cent of South Australia's blue carbon ecosystems. Its rivers, wetlands, groundwater systems and marine environments support biodiversity, farming, fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, cultural values and community life.

But water is under growing pressure.

Declining rainfall, drought, sea-level rise, coastal erosion, pollution, unmanaged access and rising sea temperatures all demand smarter and more coordinated action.

Key actions include:

- Restoring rivers and watercourses to improve flows, ecological health and water quality.
- Working with partners to protect coastal environments while enabling responsible access.
- Supporting blue carbon and coastal restoration projects.
- Improving water allocation planning through monitoring, evidence and technology.
- Promoting efficient and sustainable water use across agriculture, industry and communities.
- Supporting catchment projects that reduce erosion, pollution and threats to riparian and coastal habitats.

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

5. Pest plants and animals

Targeted. Coordinated. Integrated.



Pests are famously unimpressed by property boundaries, council borders or neatly drawn lines on maps.

That is why the plan calls for integrated, landscape-scale management of invasive plants and animals. Declared weeds, feral predators and pest herbivores can damage agricultural production, native habitat, waterways and culturally significant places. Effective control depends on landholders, councils, community groups, industry and government agencies working in step.

The plan combines compliance and control with education, technology, biocontrol, incentives and coordinated programs.

Key actions include:

- Delivering coordinated pest animal programs using multiple control methods.
- Prioritising cat management to reduce predation pressure on native wildlife.
- Partnering with councils and landholders on roadside weed control and declared plant compliance.
- Supporting the development and distribution of biocontrols for priority weeds.
- Using technology to improve pest detection, mapping and treatment.
- Helping communities and land managers take part through practical advice, subsidies and integrated programs.

Reduce impact from pest plants and animals
Reducing the impact of invasive species on
biodiversity and agriculture.