

Annual Business Plan 2021-22

Northern and Yorke Landscape Board



Introduction



On behalf of the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board, I present the 2021/22 Business Plan.

This plan outlines the vision and priorities of the Board, for the 2021/22 financial year, with a

focus on programs and projects that deliver the objectives of the Northern and Yorke Landscape Plan 2021-2026.

The board will deliver a range of programs and projects across five priority areas, Communities, Biodiversity, Water Management, Sustainable Agriculture and Pest Plant and Animal Control. The plan provides details of how funding is sourced and distributed in support of these priorities.

In addition, the Board will continue to deliver a number of Australian Government Regional Landcare Projects in the Southern Flinders and Yorke Peninsula. These projects are large scale, long term projects that address multiple priority areas including pest animal and plant control, improved biodiversity, soil health and drought resilience.

For the Board to succeed in its delivery, partnerships and engagement with stakeholders

and the wider community is vital. The programs and projects that will be delivered by the Board, will be delivered using staff, or through our partners, including local councils, First Nations peoples, community organisations and not for profit organisations.

I invite you to consider the programs and projects outlined in this document, and encourage you to participate in supporting the Board's vision of "A resilient and productive landscape that sustains a thriving community, environment and economy."

I look forward to working with you throughout the 2021/22 year and continuing to strive towards a sustainable future for all.

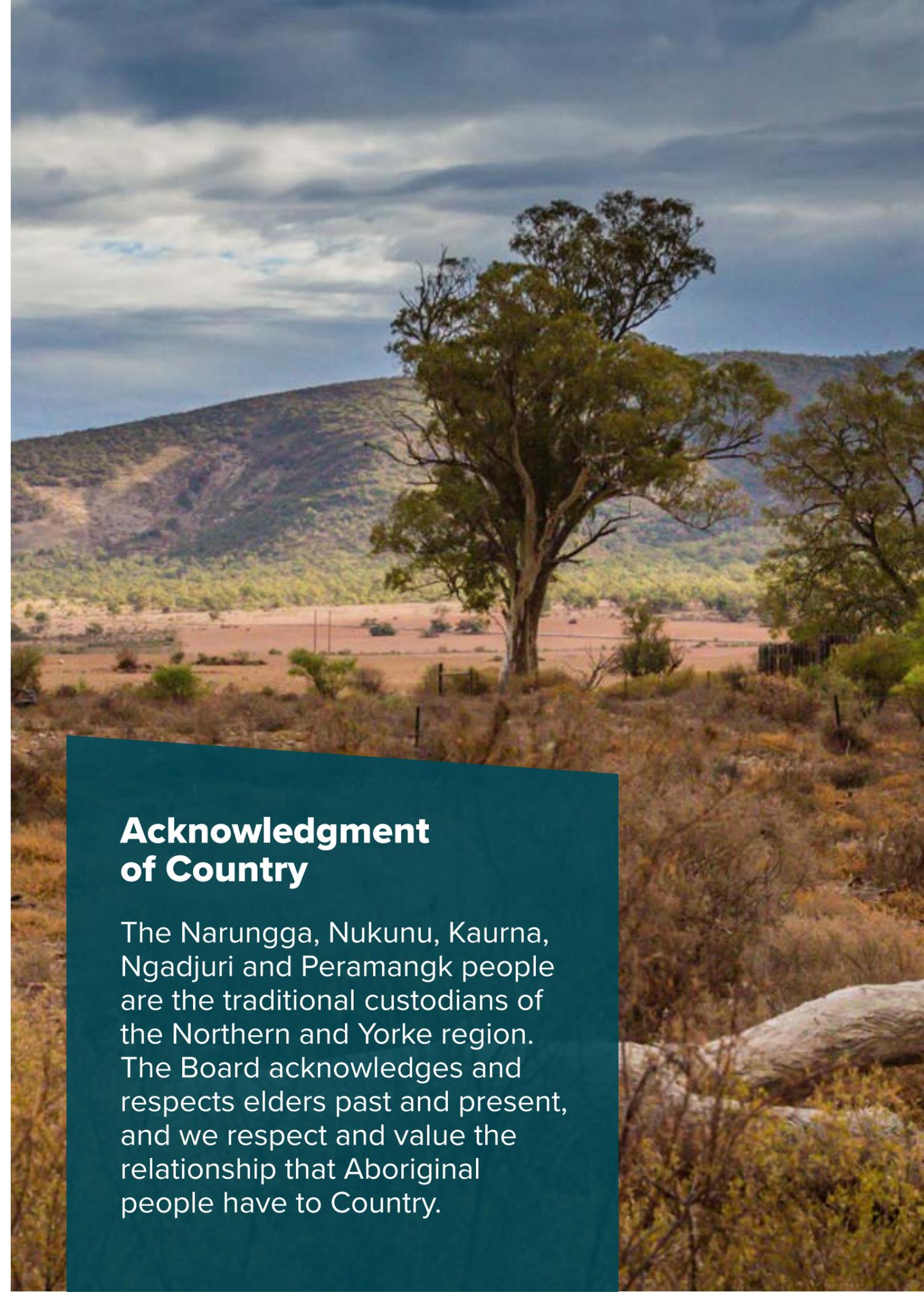
Caroline Schaefer

Chair

Northern and Yorke Landscape Board

Minister's approval

I, David Speirs, Minister for Environment and Water, after taking into account the requirements of section 51, and in accordance with Schedule 5, clause 95(3)(c), of the Landscape South Australia Act 2019, hereby approve the Business Plan 2021/22 for the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board.

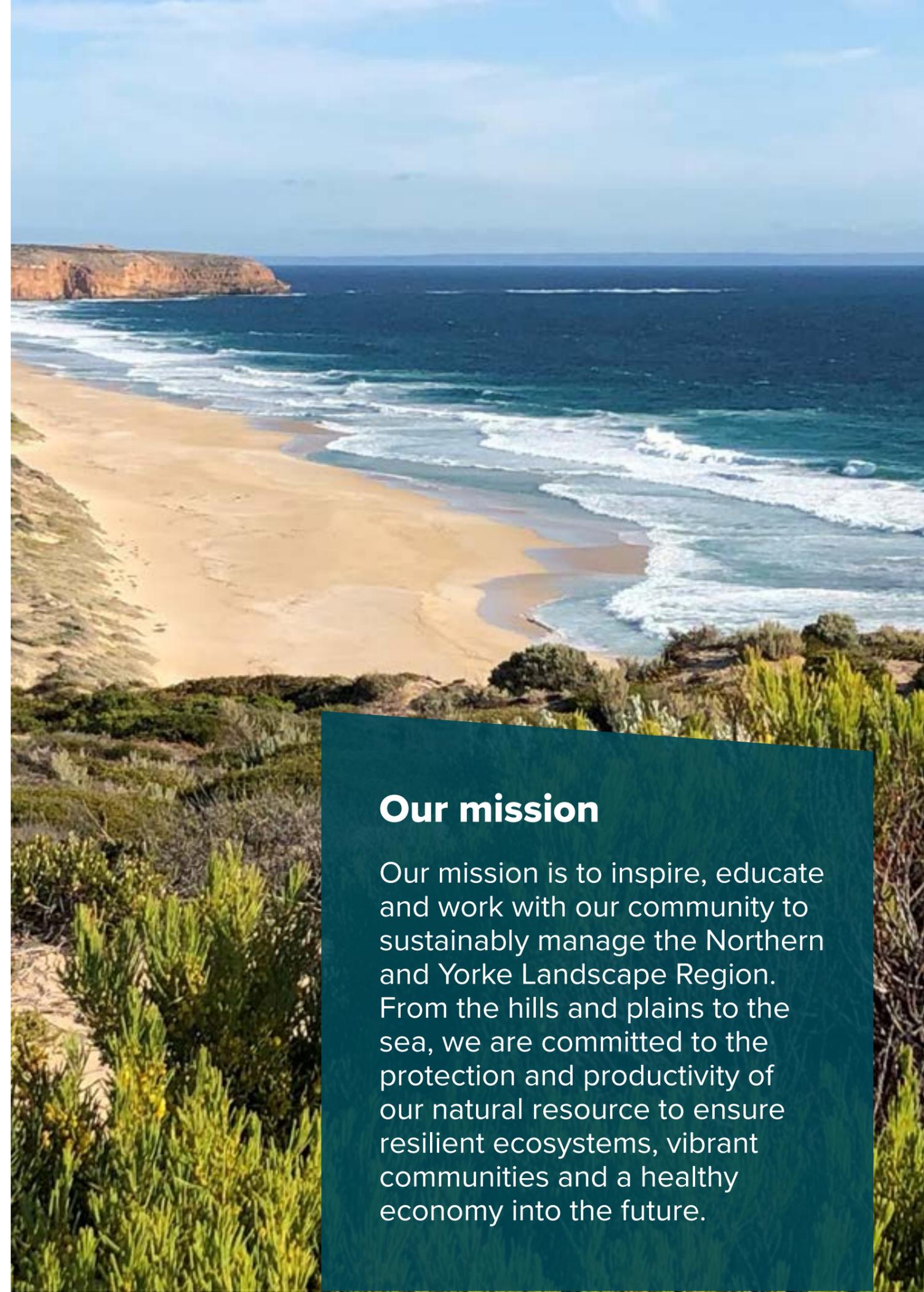


Acknowledgment of Country

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 resource 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 2021/22 Financial Year.

The Board's investment will be delivered through a range of programs and projects including direct investment, contracts for works or services, and grants to community organisations. This table provides the investment by priority across all programs and projects planned for the 2021/22 year, and includes expenditure related to administrative support, fleet, accommodation and other operating costs.

PRIORITY	LEVY FUNDS	EXTERNAL FUNDS *	TOTAL
 Communities	1,712,499	447,446	2,159,945
 Biodiversity	715,140	272,533	987,673
 Water management ^	1,290,270	-	1,290,270
 Sustainable agriculture	458,162	704,288	1,162,450
 Pest plants and animals	1,764,875	366,862	2,131,737
Board and Reporting Costs	50,000	55,740	105,740
Total	5,990,945	1,846,869	7,837,814

Note:

* The above table includes \$596,288 received from the Australian Government in May 2021 for future expenditure in 2021/22.

^ Water management includes \$461,000 towards water planning management by the Department for Environment and Water.

Australian Government support

The Australian Government's National Landcare Program (NLP) supports a number of Northern and Yorke Landscape Board programs and projects, through the Regional Land Partnerships (RLP) program, including Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator, Marna Banggara, Living Flinders, Goyder's Line and Smart Farm projects.



Communities

Active. Informed. Knowledgeable.



The involvement of the region's community has shaped and developed the Board's priorities and vision for the future of land management within the region. Long term engagement processes such as the Community Action Planning Groups and the newly formed Aboriginal Engagement Committee will continue to be valued and prioritised. The contribution from the community through on ground action, information sharing through community networks and working in partnership with the Board is highly valued and provides a solid foundation for decision making.

FOCUS AREA:

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

Programs

- Healthy Country Planning
- Aboriginal Engagement Committee – Involves representatives from all Northern and Yorke First Nations, Regional Development Australia (Yorke & Mid North and Barossa) and Legatus Group.

Projects

- Protection of cultural heritage values of important sites
- Support for celebrations and education events throughout the region
- Complete Nukunu Healthy Country Plan Project (multi-year project)

FOCUS AREA:

Actively engaged community at the centre of landscape management

Programs

- Continuation of the Community Action Planning
- Grassroots and Bite-sized grant programs
- Communication and Engagement program

Projects

- Clare Valley Water Allocation Plan – Citizen Science Data Collection (multi-year project)
- New Board website

FOCUS AREA:

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

Programs

- Foster and encourage community groups, inc:
- Regional Alliance Group (RDA Yorke and Mid North, Legatus Group and the Board)
 - Community Action Plan Steering Committee
 - Landcare, Sustainable Agriculture and Farming Systems Groups
 - Landholder collaborative groups

Projects

- Insurance support for community land management groups

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:

Website: landscape.sa.gov.au/ny

Facebook: NYLandscapeSA

E-News: Yakka News

To subscribe to the monthly Yakka News, go to landscape.sa.gov.au/ny/subscribe

Biodiversity

Protected. Improved. Restored.



The Northern and Yorke region has approximately 1400km of coastline, including areas of beaches, cliff, sand hills, samphire, mangroves, salt marshes and sea meadows. This fragile coastal environment requires protection, which will only be achieved through partnership with the communities that utilise the coastal areas of the region.

The frequency and intensity of drought and increasing impacts of climate change on our region are well researched and documented. These impacts are considered in the Board's planning of all programs and projects, with the aim of increasing our regions resilience and promotion of adaptive and innovative practices within all land and natural resource management, for a sustainable future.

FOCUS AREA:

Support the protection and restoration of coastal habitats

Programs

- Collaboration with coastal Councils and local Landcare groups to action the recommendations outlined in the Coastal Management Action Plan 2020

Projects

- Port Pirie Sediment Sink – Carbon Capture study, in conjunction with a university.
- Osprey Nesting Platforms Project

FOCUS AREA:

Coordinate programs to improve climate change resilience and adaptive capacity

Programs

- Delivery of actions outlined in the Regional Alliance Climate Sector Agreement

Projects

- Goyder's Line, a drought resilience project aiming to reduce the impacts of drought through innovation and education (Future Drought Fund Project)

FOCUS AREA:

Improve ecosystems through the restoration of habitat

Programs

- Targeted weed management
- Support for Natural Resource Centres
- Support for prescribed burning activities

Projects

- River Restoration Projects
- Wildlife for Wine Project (Clare and Barossa Valleys)

BIODIVERSITY PROJECT

Marna Banggara

An ambitious project that aims to restore southern Yorke Peninsula's spectacular landscape and create a safe haven for some of Australia's most threatened species. By controlling pest predators and returning locally extinct native mammals, like this year's pilot release of Brush-tailed Bettongs, we hope to reinvigorate the ecological processes that ensure the bushland's health and provide benefits to agriculture and the local economy.

FUNDING PARTNERS:

Australian Government's National Landcare Program

South Australian Department for Environment and Water

Northern and Yorke Landscape Board

Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife

WWF-Australia

OTHER ACTIVE PARTNERS:

BirdLife Australia

Conservation Volunteers Australia

FAUNA Research Alliance

Legatus Group

Nature Conservation Society of SA

Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation

Primary Producers SA

Primary Industries and Regions SA

Regional Development Australia

Scientific Expedition Group

South Australian Tourism Commission

Yorke Peninsula Council

Yorke Peninsula Tourism

Zoos SA

Water Management



Efficient. Sustainable. Monitored.

Water in the Northern and Yorke Region is a scarce and valuable asset which requires considered planning and monitoring. The Board holds legislative responsibility for management of water resources in the region.

A Water Allocation Plan is required for prescribed water resources areas to ensure the sustainable and equitable use. In non-prescribed areas, Water Allocation Plans are not required but there are provisions to control the use and movements of water via Water Affecting Activity (WAA) permits.

Where an unapproved activity has impacted on a watercourse or wetland, the Board has the ability to seek the repair or reinstatement of the waterflow. Compliance matters such as this provide that water assets are protected and the health of watercourses and wetlands is maintained.

FOCUS AREA:

Sustainably manage the region's prescribed water resources

Programs

- Water Affecting Activity Permits – enquiries and issuing of permits
- Develop Water Allocation Plan Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement Plans

Projects

- Complete Barossa Water Allocation Plan
- Start Clare Valley Water Allocation Plan Review
- Baroota Water Allocation Planning

FOCUS AREA:

Protect and rehabilitate watercourses and wetlands

Programs

- Water Affecting Activity Permits – compliance actions

Projects

- Riparian Areas Restoration - Wakefield River

FOCUS AREA:

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

Programs

- Councils on Stormwater Management Plans
- Gawler Rivers Floodplain Management Authority Committee
- Promotion of environmental and cultural flows in water management planning

Projects

- Support for the development of the Water Security Statement for South Australia

Sustainable Agriculture



Adaptive. Resilient. Healthy.

More than 80% of the Northern and Yorke region is utilised for agriculture (cropping and grazing) with remaining 20% used for viticulture, market gardening, mining, small farms and residential purposes. The need to sustainably manage our soil health, agriculture production and land viability is critical to the success of the region and the industries based here.

This focus area aims to improve land management practices for environmental and economic outcomes, now and during changing climatic conditions into the future.

FOCUS AREA:

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

Programs

- Partnership with Ag-Ex to provide a Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator
- Dedicated Sustainable Agriculture Officer to foster ongoing engagement and partnership with Agricultural and Farming System groups

Projects

- Soil Health in the Mid North Farming Community

FOCUS AREA:

Support innovation and adoption of practices for resilience and adaptation

Programs

- Weather Station and Soil Moisture sensors providing real-time data for decision making

Projects

- Goyder's Line project: Building drought resilience into transitional country

FOCUS AREA:

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

Programs

- Partnership with government organisations on reducing grazing pressure from overabundant native species.
- Education on soil health, grazing pressure and pasture management

Projects

- Wildlife for Wine project outcomes including increasing native ground cover in vineyards.



Pest Plant and Animal Control



Targeted. Coordinated. Collaborative.

Controlling existing pest species while minimising the risk of new pest threats is critical for reducing impacts to agricultural productivity, biodiversity and human health. The Landscape South Australia Act 2019 sets out the requirements for the control of pest animals and plants, requiring landowners to take the lead in managing declared pests, with support and assistance from the Board.

FOCUS AREA:

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

Programs

- Fox and rabbit bait sales and distribution
- Provision of weed and pest animal fact sheets
- Release of biological controls for pest weeds
- Support for Wild Dog Management via PIRSA
- Provision of goat yards for goat trapping and removal from the landscape

Projects

- Aerial Boxthorn Management Trial in Southern Flinders
- Weed mapping with drone technology trial

FOCUS AREA:

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

Programs

- Rail and road corridor weed management plans with landowners (councils, state and federal government)
- Discounted fox baits for collaborative groups of landowners

Projects

- Facilitation of landowner collaboration for landscape scale pest control and access to grant funding
- Establishing biological control nursery sites

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PROJECT

Goyder's Line:

Building drought resilience into transitional country

With Goyder's Line shifting steadily southwards, large sections of the region are at risk of losing significant economic, environmental and social capital. Building resilience into transitional landscapes will take time, making it necessary to begin the process now to minimise impacts on productivity and local communities.

This project will support farmers to adapt to progressively drier conditions and manage more frequent drought by; increasing their understanding of landscape function and its link to productivity, providing management options for dry times, and ensuring they have the knowledge and skills to adjust their business operations.

FUNDING PARTNER:

Australian Government's Future Drought Fund

Biological Control

Biological control uses plants' natural enemies, such as host specific insects, bacteria or fungi and mites which only affect the target plant. It is an important and inexpensive tool to limit growth and weed spread and is highly successful when mixed with other control methods. Examples include agents such as the crown weevil on Salvation Jane; the spider mite on Gorse; the plume moth on Horehound; a rust on Slender Thistle; a psyllid on Broom; a rust and a leaf beetle on Bridal Creeper and many more.



Plume moths target Horehound weed.

PEST PROJECT

Living Flinders

Working at a landscape-scale, the Living Flinders project seeks to improve habitat condition, connectivity and resilience in the Southern Flinders Ranges through:

- An extensive community engagement program to increase participation rates in land management
- Collaborative delivery of pest control programs on Aboriginal community lands
- Strategic on-ground works to address threats posed by feral animals (70,000 ha) and weeds of national significance (5,100 ha).

FUNDING PARTNER

**Australian Government
Regional Land Partnership**

PROJECT PARTNERS

**Greening Australia
SA Aboriginal Lands Trust
Nature Conservation
Society of SA**

Staff resources

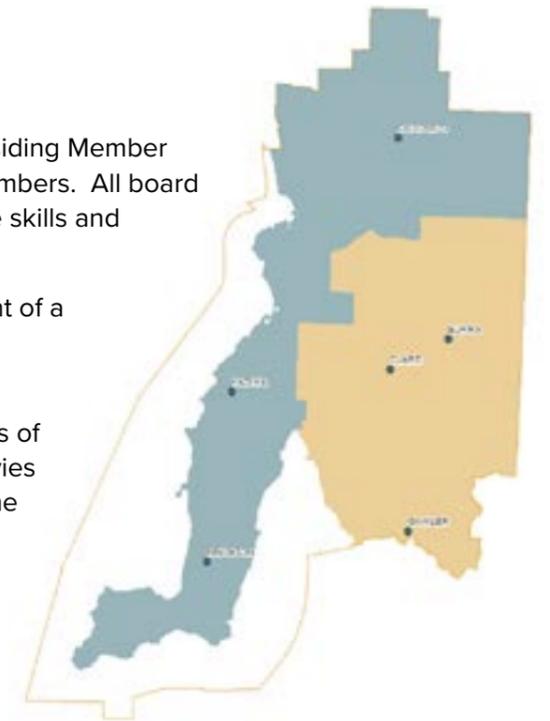
The Northern and Yorke Landscape Board consists of a Presiding Member (Chair) and six community members appointed as Board Members. All board members were appointed by the Minister on the basis of the skills and experience that the member can provide to the Board.

The Board delivers on its objectives through the employment of a General Manager, and a team of public sector employees.

Through the General Manager, it employs 36.09 full-time equivalent staff working to deliver the programs and projects of the Board. Of these positions, 31.99 FTE's are funded by levies and 4.1 FTE funded by the Australian Government through the Regional Landcare Program or other funding arrangements.

Landscape Board Staff are located across 6 offices, from Orroroo in the north of the region to Minlaton and Gawler in the regions South. The Region is split into two districts; the Southern Flinders and Yorke Peninsula district and the Mid North and Valleys and Plains district.

A number of corporate 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 (Clockwise from back left): Phillip Heaslip, Sam Germein, Sarah Barrett, Geoffrey White, Peter Angus, Caroline Schaefer (Chair) and Anna Baum.

Offices and staff

Office	Staff
BURRA	2
CLARE	17
GAWLER	8
KADINA	2
MINLATON	3
ORROROO	4

Board representation across the region

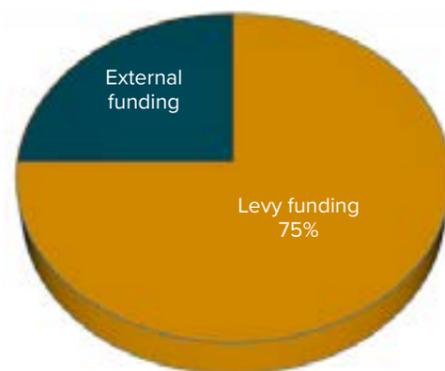
Caroline Schaefer	CLARE VALLEY	Sam Germein	YORKE PENINSULA
Peter Angus	ADELAIDE PLAINS	Phillip Heaslip	FLINDERS RANGES
Sarah Barrett	BAROSSA VALLEY	Geoffrey White	LIGHT
Anna Baum	CLARE VALLEY		

Funding

The Board receives funding through the collection of levies (landscape land levy and water levies) and through agreements with the Federal Government or other partners. The table below provides the estimated funding (income) for the 2021/22 financial year.

Levy monies collected by councils on behalf of the Board are paid quarterly to the Landscape Administration fund and forwarded to the Board.

Water levies are collected by the Department for Environment and Water on behalf of the Board and forwarded to the Board monthly. RLP projects are paid to Board on a six-monthly basis upon completion of project milestones.



FUNDING PROGRAM	2021/22 BUDGET (\$)
Levies and Other	
Regional Landscape Levy	5,578,232
Water Levy income	372,449
Sale of Goods/Services	35,000
Regional Land Partnership Projects	
Core Services	418,574
Marna Banggara	407,473
Living Flinders *	574,000
Regional Drought Funding Projects	
Goyder's Line ^	496,288
Smart Farm Funding	
Soil Health in the Mid North Farming Community ^	100,000
TOTAL	7,982,016

* Project funding is subject to confirmation at time of business plan preparation

^ Funding was received in May 2021 for use in 21/22 financial year

Landscape levy

The regional landscape levy 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 are able to claim the cost 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 this 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 1% (CPI) from the 2020/2021 amounts.

COUNCIL	21/22 LANDSCAPE LEVY	COLLECTION COSTS
Adelaide Plains	192,061	3,920
Barossa	546,838	5,948
Barunga West	229,107	3,309
Clare & Gilbert Valleys	501,562	4,422
Copper Coast	642,750	5,693
Gawler	368,796	5,574
Goyder	285,550	3,823
Light	340,661	4,665
Mount Remarkable	133,588	3,479
Northern Areas	277,234	3,750
Orroroo Carrieton	43,703	2,976
Peterborough	34,078	3,039
Port Pirie	425,154	5,372
Wakefield	392,414	4,057
Yorke Peninsula	1,164,734	6,377
TOTAL	5,578,232	66,404

Water levy

The Northern and Yorke Landscape Board region contains five prescribed water resource areas (PWRA). PWRAs are declared where a water resource is determined to be vulnerable or at risk. Once declared a PWRA, water users require a licence to take water and the resource is continually monitored. PWRAs include the Clare Valley and Barossa Valley and sections of the Marne Saunders, Northern Adelaide Plains and the Western Mount Lofty.

Water levies are paid by all water licence holders in the PWRAs. 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 2021/2022 financial year, and include a Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase of 1% on the 2020/2021 levy rates.

PRESCRIBED WATER RESOURCE AREA (PWRA) AND ALLOCATION TYPE	RATES AND BASIS OF LEVY	PROPORTION OF PWRAs ALLOCATED	EXPECTED AMOUNT TO BE RAISED 21/22
Barossa Valley	.634 c/kl of water allocated	100%	372,449
Clare Valley	\$102.92 as a fixed amount per water license, and 3.672c/kl of water allocated	100%	
Marne Saunders	.681 c/kl of water allocated or a levy of \$200, whichever greater	40%	
Northern Adelaide Plains	.634 c/kl of water allocated	33%	
Western Mount Lofty Ranges	.634 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

