

South Australian Arid Lands Landscape Board

Annual Business Plan 2025–2026



Acknowledgement of Country

The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board acknowledges Aboriginal people as the First Peoples and Nations of the lands and waters of our region. We pay our respects to the Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and respect the deep spiritual connection and the relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to Country, and commit to working together to look after our landscapes.



Image: Spencer Gulf, Barngarla and Nukunu Country

Artwork: Marika Davies

Cover image: Red-barred dragon (*Ctenophorus vadeni*) at Gum Creek, Adnyamathanha Country.

Foreword



I am pleased to present the 2025/26 Business Plan for the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board Business Plan which outlines the board's expected income and investment priorities for the 2025/26 financial year.

It is pleasing that after a period of transition in funding programs, the board has a greater level of certainty around funding for significant projects, particularly with the Australian Government.

This has seen three key projects – Wetland Wonders, Discovery4Recovery and the second version of Building Pastoral Sustainability – designed and delivery now well underway,

As with previous business plans, the 2025/26 plan remains agile to adapt to the projects that we know are on the short-term horizon and changes due to significant weather events such as flooding in the far northeast of the region or being responsive to community needs in dry times.

Opportunities arise at any time throughout any given financial year and the board continues to leverage investment to strengthen its delivery capability and increase on-ground outcomes, resulting in occasional changes in the business plan.

As you'll see in the plan, the board sources its income from a range of areas including land and water levies generated in the region as well as a significant portion from external partners and programs. The board also invests in several community initiatives including a significant annual contribution to Grassroots Grants, sponsorship and support for First Nations groups through Healthy Country Planning grants.

With community firmly at the centre of the board's decision making, there is continued investment in local and district level natural resource management opportunities through the Landscape Group model and the Community Landscape Officers who are closely connected to their communities in each district.

Continued increased spending in the priority pest plant and animal management demonstrates the board's sustained focus on feral animal control in addition to supporting community to respond to over abundant impact causing native species. This investment assists our region to become more climate resilient through the removal of total grazing pressure and protecting native vegetation and soils.

Partnerships are a strength of the board and we look forward to continued collaboration with community and our many partners in the delivery of the 2025/26 Business Plan.

Yours faithfully,

Douglas Lillecrapp

Presiding Member

South Australian Arid Lands Landscape Board

Our vision

Leading the way to biodiverse and productive landscapes in a changing climate

Regional Priorities

REGIONAL PRIORITIES

OUR FOCUS AREAS



CLIMATE RESILIENT REGION

Resilient landscapes, communities, and enterprises are mitigating and adapting to climate change

- Ensuring climate risk is embedded in all board business
- Providing land managers with the knowledge and skills they need to mitigate and adapt to climate change
- Exploring adaptation pathways to ensure communities are climate resilient



WATER MANAGEMENT

The region's water resources are managed judiciously

- Planning, research & leveraging infrastructure investment to support the judicious use of groundwater
- Maintaining hydrogeology to protect Great Artesian Basin springs and groundwater-dependent ecosystems
- Understanding and managing surface water systems including the Lake Eyre Basin



SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT

Land management practices protect soil, vegetation and biodiversity

- Effective pest plant and animal control protecting production systems
- Addressing the threat of excessive total grazing pressure
- Building land managers' capacity in adaptive agriculture, best practice land management and rehabilitation



PROTECTING AND ENHANCING BIODIVERSITY

Intrinsic biodiversity values are protected and enhanced

- Managing key threats to protect natural values
- Taking action for threatened species and ecosystem recovery
- Maintaining and improving the condition of Great Artesian Basin springs and water-dependent ecosystems



PEOPLE AND PARTNERSHIPS

People and community are central to looking after our landscapes

- First Nations partnerships supporting cross-cultural knowledge sharing and landscape management outcomes
- Supporting landscape groups to lead community action and education
- Raising awareness of the region's natural values and connecting people to nature
- Supporting community action to achieve land, water and coastal management outcomes

Landscape planning framework

Strategic alignment to:

- South Australian State Landscape Strategy (in review)
- South Australia's Net Zero Strategy 2024-2030
- Outback SA Drought Resilience Plan
- Far North and Outback SA Climate Change Adaptation Plan
- Strategic Blueprint for Outback SA (in draft)
- 2023-2033 South Australian Wild Dog Management Strategy
- Local Government strategic plans
- Blueprint to Repair Australia's Landscapes
- Australian Government's Nature Positive Plan
- Australian Government's 30 by 30 National Roadmap
- Australian Government's Threatened Species Action Plan 2022-2032

It is recognised that this plan aligns to a number of other national, state and regional strategies and plans, and vice versa.

5 years

South Australian Arid Lands Regional Landscape Plan

- Vision for the region
- Five strategic priorities
- Board's focus areas

1 years

South Australian Arid Lands Annual Business Plan

- Board income
- Investment priorities
- Key projects, services and partnerships
- Board staffing arrangements

Supporting Resources:

- Monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement (MERI) framework
- Far North Prescribed Wells Area Water Allocation Plan
- South Australian Arid Lands Water Affecting Activities Control Policy
- South Australian Arid Lands Landscape Group District Plans
- South Australian Arid Lands Landscape Board Pest Management Strategy
- South Australian Arid Lands bioregional descriptions
- South Australian Arid Lands Biodiversity Strategy (in review)

The board's guiding principles

The board is:

- Collaborative, considers community values and involves people in decision-making
- Facilitates resilient and adaptive landscape management
- Is accountable, transparent, adaptive, innovative and action-oriented
- Takes a best-practice systems approach to regional planning
- Employs evidence-based decision making that incorporates the best available science, local and cultural knowledge and improves understanding of landscape resilience
- Maximises public return on investment
- Complies with legislation

The board and staff

The board's key role is to undertake, promote and integrate the sustainable management of natural resources in the SA Arid Lands (SAAL) region to build resilience in the face of change, and facilitate biodiversity conservation. Particular reference is given to land management, water resource management and pest animal and plant control. The South Australian Arid Lands Landscape Board consists of community members appointed on a skills basis. Many work in key industries (pastoralism, mining etc.), while others have specific expertise relevant to the region.

Projects and services are implemented by a team of dedicated staff who work on behalf of the board. Staff are public sector employees and are employed by a General Manager who manages the board's operations. In 2025/26, the SAAL Landscape Board will support 31 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions (18.7 FTE funded by regional landscape and water levies and 12.3 FTE funded by external funding). The cost of board and landscape group administration and governance in 2025/26 is \$210,000. The board's office is in Port Augusta.

In 2025/26, the board will receive contracted Corporate Service support (including Information Technology Service Design and Operating, Treasury Relationship Services, Accounts Receivable Services and Landscape Services Governance advice) through the South Australian Department for Environment and Water.

Our delivery

The board's investment will be delivered through a range of projects and approaches including direct investment, contracts for works or services, and grants to community organisations.

Landscape groups

The SAAL Landscape Board will continue to work with its seven landscape groups within the region to address local natural resource management needs. Landscape groups provide a conduit between landholders and the work of the board, influence the investment priorities, and support delivery of board programs with landholders and the broader community. The seven landscape groups in the SAAL region are:

- Marla-Oodnadatta
- Kingoonya
- Marree-Innaminka
- North East
- North Flinders
- Port Augusta – Quorn
- Gawler Ranges

Landscape group members are involved in the SAAL Region, providing the board with a social and local context for delivery of its programs and encouraging broader community engagement and awareness of local projects and levy investment.



Staff from the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board Water Team and the Department for Environment and Water.

Key Projects

**Support for
landscape groups**
Region wide



**Building Pastoral
Sustainability**
Region wide



**Native Not
Noxious**
Region wide



**Buffel grass cross-
region control**
Region wide



**Sustainable land
management**
Region wide



**Water planning
and management &
GABWSP**

Marla

Oodnadatta

Marla -
Oodnadatta

Cooper Pedy



**Wetland
Wonders**

Innaminka

Marree -
Innaminka

**Great Artesian Basin
Springs Project**



Marree

Kingooonya

Roxby Downs

Leigh Creek

Kingooonya



**Biteback Wild
dog management**
Region wide

**Statewide rangelands goat
management & sustainable use**
Region wide



**Kangaroo
Partnerships**
Region wide

Discovery 4 Recovery
*Kingooonya Flinders Ranges Gawler
Ranges & Marla-Oodnadatta*



Gawler Ranges

Port
Augusta -
Quorn

Quorn

Port Augusta

Yunta

**Monitoring Plains
Wanderer**
Region wide



**Sustainable
Agriculture
Facilitator**
Region wide



**Carbon
Outreach**
Region wide



Far North
Prescribed
Wells area

Coordinated Buffel grass management

A partnership has been formed across four Landscape Board regions to address the significant threat posed by Buffel grass to the condition and resilience of ecosystems across South Australia. The project aims to coordinate and maximize operational efforts across borders and organisations by supporting a coordinated approach to a landscape scale problem with the aim to eventually achieve a dynamic shift in the perception of, and response to, Buffel grass at a national level. It is funded by the State Government's Landscape Priorities Fund.



Sustainable Land Management Project

This project strengthens the board's work with land managers to increase native vegetation and biodiversity across the SA Arid Lands region. It provides capacity to position the region to take part in the Nature Repair Market outlined in the Federal Government's Nature Positive Plan and provide opportunities for increased restoration of groundcover and critical habitat protection. The project provides information to, and works with, land managers on emerging nature repair markets, native vegetation restoration projects and land management practices to increase groundcover and biodiversity. It is funded by the State Government's Landscape Priorities Fund.



Native Not Noxious Project

This project informs a strategic and pro-active approach to weed management in the SA Arid Lands region, which aligns with board priorities and district plans, as well as State legislation, frameworks and policies. This aims to reduce population sizes, establishment, distribution and impacts of weeds on-ground. This project is funded by SA Arid Lands Landscape Board levies.



Biteback – Wild dog management

The board supports landholders in the region by building their capacity to meet legislative mandatory wild dog control requirements. The board also works with other stakeholders including PIRSA, in support of other initiatives and programs that facilitate the goal of eradicating wild dogs south of the dog fence, as outlined in the 2023-2033 South Australian Wild Dog Management Strategy.



Statewide Rangelands Goat Management Strategy Project

A focus on a coordinated landscape scale management of goats is key to the delivery of this project. This is through establishing a formal network and working with land managers across the region, in collaboration with industry, neighbouring rangelands landscape boards, First Nations and policy makers. It is funded by the State Government's Landscape Priorities Fund.



Sustainable Use of Undersized Goats to Protect Native Habitat and Pasture

This project aims to explore innovative approaches to goat management by making use of protein from harvested goats, reducing waste and resulting in a positive environmental impact. The joint venture between Zoos SA and landscape boards, involves humane, on-site destruction and processing of undersized or unfit to load animals to feed carnivores at the Zoos SA sites. This conservation endeavour, aligned with the values of both parties, will reduce goat impacts on the landscape, and supports landowners to manage goats. It is funded by the State Government's Landscape Priorities Fund.



Great Artesian Basin Springs Project

The board has partnered with BHP in this project to develop a monitoring protocol to expand knowledge on the natural values of the Great Artesian Basin (GAB) Springs. This includes establishing baseline conditions, identifying the likely occurrence of threatened plant species, using the presence of sensitive indicator plant species to measure spring condition and determining any current or emerging threats. The project also involves developing a toolkit comprising a repeatable, standardised monitoring protocol to enable a wide range of stakeholders, volunteers and Aboriginal groups to individually collect data on springs. It will build on existing programs that support the protection, management and public awareness of culturally and ecologically significant sites, including providing ongoing support to maintain and increase spring protection.





State water planning and management

The South Australian Government recovers water planning and management costs from each Landscape Board in a similar approach to the National Water Initiative which recovers costs on an ‘impactor pays’ basis. An ‘impactor’ is defined as a beneficiary of the activity. These activities are undertaken by the Department for Environment and Water and include water science, planning, licensing, monitoring and compliance activities. The amount the SAAL region will be required to contribute in 2025/26 is \$74,308.



Great Artesian Basin Water Security Program

This program is funded through the Commonwealth Government’s Great Artesian Basin Water Security Program (GABWSP) for the rehabilitation, maintenance, and replacement of wells and associated distribution networks. It is available on a cost sharing basis for landholders accessing water from the Great Artesian Basin (GAB). In South Australia, \$5M for the GABWSP is being administered by the Department for Environment and Water in partnership with the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board.



Kangaroo Partnership Project (KPP) – improving landscape and community resilience in South Australia

Designed to build on the coordinated partnership approach successfully developed by the previous project and further refine efforts on over-abundant kangaroo management priorities best addressed by the KPP network. It explores and trials new pathways, offer knowledge sharing opportunities and deliver strategic community engagement to increase public understanding of kangaroo management and increase social licence to achieve positive outcomes. This project received funding from the Australian Government’s Future Drought Fund, SA Drought Resilience, Adoption and Innovation Hub, and the State Government’s Landscape Priorities Fund.



Monitoring Plains Wanderer to Track Trajectory

Partnering with Bush Heritage Australia and Birdlife Australia, this project will improve the understanding of the Plains-wanderer baseline across their distribution. It includes deploying bioacoustic equipment in known and potential Plains-wanderer habitat and analysing call data for presence/absence of birds. It will see a management guide developed for landholders who have Plains-wanderers and updating of a species distribution map to assist in tracking its trajectory. A number of key stakeholders including First Nations groups and individuals are involved to enable knowledge sharing to improve land management practices which benefit the species. This project has been funded by the Australian Government’s Saving Native Species program.



Landscape Group support

The region’s seven landscape groups have an integral role in supporting regional programs and conducting specific local projects in each district. They help assess and prioritise project proposals, initiate group area projects, and provide an important community liaison role. The strategic priorities identified by each group are used in regional planning and in board support for group activities. Landscape groups access funds for a wide range of projects through the board. Community Landscape Officers provide support to groups, and keep the community involved and connected with the work of the board through volunteer support, First Nation partnerships, education, community events, Grassroots Grants and land management extension. These roles are central to community capacity building and are an extension of the core services that underpin the board’s work, including state and federally-funded projects.



Discovery4Recovery

This project addresses key threats to the Western Quoll (*Dasyurus geoffroii*) by coordinating targeted fox control. This complements existing management programs, to reduce threats of predation and enhance landscape scale connectivity between key sites to facilitate the success of past reintroduction efforts of this species. This project continues monitoring of quolls in areas outside of their reintroduction sites, as well as Arckaringa Daisy (*Olearia arckaringensis*), and key populations of Flinders Ranges Purple-spotted Gudgeon (*Mogurnda clivicola*), to refine understanding of population status, trends and inform management actions. A new activity in this project is surveying for Desert Greenhood (*Pterostylis xerophila*) to refine understanding of population status and extent. It provides opportunities to engage with relevant state agencies and First Nations Groups, NGO's and the wider community to promote understanding of, and participation in, ongoing conservation efforts of EPBC-listed species and habitats. It is funded by the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust.



Wetland Wonders

This project takes a cooperative approach to the management of key threats to maintain the Coongie Ramsar values and beyond, namely, feral animal impacts and priority weed incursions (especially after flood). It also aims to fill knowledge gaps in past and existing monitoring of these values. On-ground management actions are informed by a Strategic Adaptive Management process and are being implemented in collaboration with relevant land managers. The monitoring of threatening processes and their impacts on Ramsar biodiversity values also involves Traditional Owners and community volunteers. It is funded by the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust.



Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator

The Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator (SAF) engages and works closely with pastoralists, land managers, producer groups, related community organisations, farming systems groups, agri-business, industry bodies and agencies. The SAF is responsible for facilitating and implementing workshops, events, grant programs and activities that promote sustainable farming outcomes that achieve Australian Government objectives for sustainable agriculture and natural resource outcomes. The position is funded by the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust.





Building Pastoral Sustainability

Identifying, Enhancing and Conserving Natural Resources

The project's focus is to support environmental stewardship and economic resilience by supporting pastoralists to protect and enhance natural capital. This is being achieved by adoption of sustainable practices that improve ground cover, soils, and landscapes. Pastoralists are supported to understand their landscapes and be provided opportunities to reduce emissions, and plan, implement and monitor practices such as rotational grazing, soil erosion mitigation, and carbon accounting. Soil demonstration sites showcased in previous projects are being revisited to build a better profile and understanding of soil carbon in the region. Another focus is to build knowledge and capacity of pastoralists in the region through peer-to-peer learning, and hosting events that provide them with the opportunity to consult with experts on relevant topics. Topics could include carbon emission reduction, soils, animal husbandry and natural resource management practices. This project is funded by the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust.



Landscape SA Carbon Outreach

The Carbon Outreach project provides the latest information to land managers across regional South Australia to understand carbon accounting and low emissions technologies and practices. Carbon outreach officers are employed across the state to offer tailored training to pastoralists, First Nations, and conservation land managers. As part of the project, Landscape Board staff are upskilled to be the go-to independent advisors for emissions reduction during the grant and beyond. This project is funded by the Australian Government's Department of Industry, Science and Resources.



Aboriginal Partnerships

The board's work with First Nations groups is a focus across each of its five priority areas. Through its Aboriginal Engagement Network (AEN), the board seeks to integrate First Nations' values and inputs across its programs. The AEN membership includes representatives from local Aboriginal ranger programs, the board's seven Landscape Groups and local Aboriginal organisations and the board delivers on the priorities of the network, alongside the board's Statement of Commitment. The Indigenous Ranger Gatherings held in 2023 and 2024 is one initiative of the network. The AEN meetings and Indigenous Ranger Gatherings are part-funded by the Australian Government through Regional Capacity Services. Additionally, the board has provided \$300,000 to support First Nations groups develop plans for healthy Country which identify and prioritise conservation, water and land management issues and actions for groups on their Country.



Board governance and program delivery

Board governance expenditure covers board meeting costs, general administration and related administration salaries not directly attributed to board project investments or support to groups.

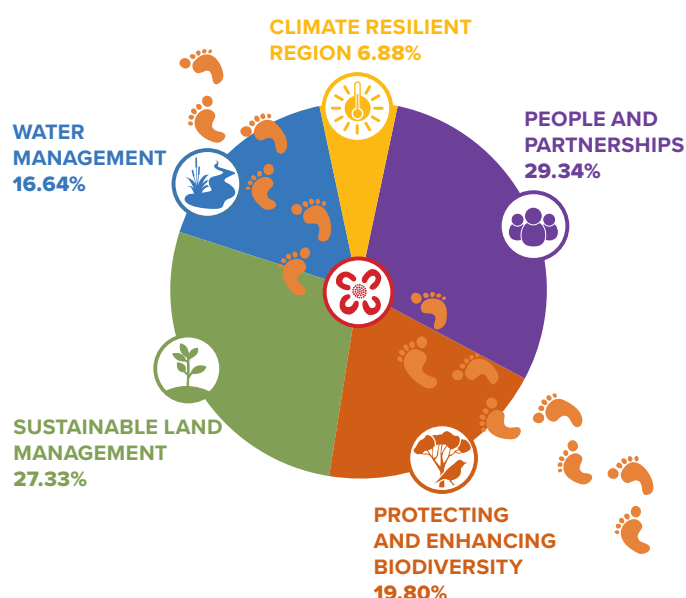
A number of supporting services underpin the delivery of the board's work. Program delivery includes:

- Landscape planning support to facilitate community involvement in prioritising management actions, and to support board delivery of key priority areas.
- Monitoring, evaluation and reporting on program delivery to facilitate a culture of learning and improvement in order to leverage further investment and achieve reporting obligations.
- Regional communications, publications, promotion, education and awareness raising, multimedia and engagement platforms.
- Business and operations support – Finance, HR, ICT, fleet management, WHS, Risk and Audit, customer service, contract management.

Infrastructure and land

The board owns no infrastructure or land.

FIGURE 1: Expenditure by priority



Support for Indigenous projects and programs is funded across all five priority areas. Climate resilience is the driver for all project areas and is captured across all priority areas.

Program expenditure

TABLE 1: Proposed board expenditure by priority area for 2025/26

Priority	Focus Areas 2025/26
 Climate resilient region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring climate risk is embedded in all board business • Providing land managers with the knowledge and skills they need to mitigate and adapt to climate change • Exploring adaptation pathways to ensure communities are climate resilient
 Water management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning, research & leveraging infrastructure investment to support the judicious use of groundwater • Maintaining hydrogeology to protect Great Artesian Basin springs and groundwater-dependent ecosystems • Understanding and managing surface water systems including the Lake Eyre Basin
 Sustainable land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective pest plant and animal control protecting production systems • Addressing the threat of excessive total grazing pressure • Building land managers' capacity in adaptive agriculture, best practice land management and rehabilitation
 Protecting and enhancing biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing key threats to protect natural values • Taking action for threatened species and ecosystem recovery • Maintaining and improving the condition of Great Artesian Basin springs and water-dependent ecosystems
 People and partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Nations partnerships supporting cross-cultural knowledge sharing and landscape management outcomes • Supporting landscape groups to lead community action and education • Raising awareness of the region's natural values and connecting people to nature • Supporting community action to achieve land, water and coastal management outcomes
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	

1. Total expenditure exceeds income received in 2025-26 due to carry over of funds for multi-year projects
2. Program delivery includes the core functions of the board's operation that underpin the delivery of projects. This includes, board administration and governance, strategic and operational planning, business and finance support, monitoring and evaluation and regional communications and media.

Key Projects/ Activities	Landscape And Water Levies (\$)	External Funds (\$)	State Appropriation (\$)	Total (\$)
Building Pastoral Sustainability ⁵		157,593		157,593
Carbon Farming Outreach Program		96,831		96,831
Landscape Priorities Fund - Climate Adaptation		275,000		275,000
Joint Delivery Outback Drought Resilience Plan		TBC		0
<i>Program delivery</i> ²		60,952		60,952
Implementation of the Far North Prescribed Wells Area Water Allocation Plan	25,000			25,000
Water Affecting Activities assessment and approvals and project support	353,284			353,284
State Water Planning and Management contribution ³	74,308			74,308
Bore audit, extension, education and well compliance support	122,275			122,275
Lake Eyre Basin Riparian Vegetation and Springs restoration		212,000		212,000
Water Security Program		90,000		90,000
<i>Program delivery</i> ²	478,057	72,350		550,408
Biteback - Wild dog management	185,447			185,447
Weed control	50,000	400,000		450,000
Building Pastoral Sustainability ⁵		157,593		157,593
Landscape Priorities Fund - Kangaroo Partnership		111,000		111,000
Landscape Priorities Fund - Resilient Rangelands		128,000		128,000
Landscape Priorities Fund - Statewide Rangeland Goat Management		136,906		136,906
Landscape Priorities Fund - Sustainable Land Management		123,750		123,750
Landscape Priorities Fund - Undersized Goats		165,000		165,000
Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator ⁵		252,016		252,016
Kangaroo Partnerships Project		45,000		45,000
<i>Program delivery</i> ²	195,797	393,917		589,714
Discovery4Recovery ⁵		390,270		390,270
Wetland Wonders ⁵		459,943		459,943
Plains-Wanderer ⁵		251,676		251,676
Ramsar Strategic Adaptive Management ARC linkage	13,333			13,333
Pest Control	50,000			50,000
Ecology	118,331			118,331
Program delivery ²	151,071	263,980		415,051
Landscape Group governance			84,000	84,000
Local projects/ events/ initiatives			70,000	70,000
Aboriginal partnerships	20,000			20,000
Grassroots grants	150,000			150,000
Planning for Healthy Country Grants	100,000			100,000
Landholder engagement and land management extension, partnerships and education ⁴	833,183			833,183
Community sponsorship	15,000			15,000
Invest in partnerships	26,400			26,400
Program delivery ²	951,831		266,000	1,217,831
	3,913,317	4,243,776	420,000	8,577,093

3. State Water Planning and Management contributions include the following functions: water licensing and assessment, water resource monitoring, state and condition reporting for water resources, compliance activities and water planning advice to support the management of water resources. These services are provided by the Department for Environment and Water, including Departmental staff based regionally.

4. Investment in People and Partnerships includes community engagement and capacity building, First Nation's engagement, and landholder extension across all of the board's priority areas.

TABLE 2: Future expenditure projections

Priority	Key Projects/ Activities	2026-27 LANDSCAPE AND WATER LEVIES (\$)	2026-27 EXTERNAL FUNDS (\$)	2026-27 STATE APPROPRIATION (\$)	2026-27 TOTAL (\$)
Climate resilient region	Projects	0	145,020	0	145,020
Water management	Projects	588,614	0	0	588,614
Sustainable Land Management	Projects	239,614	559,596	0	799,210
Protecting and enhancing biodiversity	Projects	184,622	716,691	0	901,314
People and partnerships	Projects	1,066,073	0	154,000	1,220,073
	Program delivery ²	1,816,050	802,300	277,000	2,895,350
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		3,894,973	2,223,607	431,000	6,549,580

1. Program delivery includes the core functions of the board's operation that underpin the delivery of projects. This includes, board administration and governance, strategic and operational planning, business and finance support, monitoring and evaluation and regional communications and media.

Funding sources 2025/26

Landscape and water levies

To assist the board to undertake its functions, the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* provides for two types of levies to be raised.

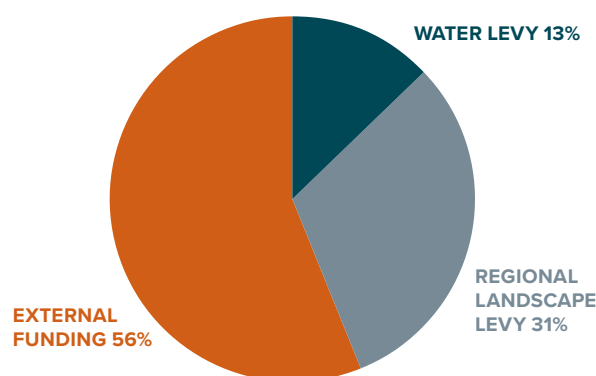
- **Regional (land-based) landscape levy:** A levy collected by constituent councils from rate payers. The board specifies the amount to be contributed by constituent councils towards the cost of performing its functions. In SAAL, the regional landscape levy is also collected from outside council areas.
- **Water levy:** A levy paid by all water licence holders in prescribed water resource areas. This excludes water allocated for stock and domestic purposes, as defined in the Water Allocation Plan, Far North Prescribed Wells Area.

Levies provide a primary source of funding for the management of the region's natural resources, and ensure works can be undertaken to achieve the board's vision. Levies also provide the board with the ability to leverage significant additional government funding to increase the volume of work that can be accomplished.

As well as board funds from levies, there are also in-kind contributions, partnerships and collaborations that support the delivery of board projects.

State Government funding

State funds provide a base for the board to deliver basic governance and some of its core responsibilities under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*.

FIGURE 2: Funding by source

Australian Government funding

The Australian Government is a key funding partner in the delivery of environment and sustainable agriculture outcomes in the SA Arid Lands region.

Details of funding received from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry are provided in **TABLE 3**.

Industry Partnerships Program

The board continues to seek industry investment to support the delivery of projects through a co-investment model.

Any additional external funding that is obtained by the board after this business plan is prepared, will be directed to projects that deliver on priorities identified in the five-year Landscape Plan which forms the investment priorities detailed within this plan.

2027-28 LANDSCAPE AND WATER LEVIES (\$)	2027-28 EXTERNAL FUNDS (\$)	2027-28 STATE APPROPRIATION (\$)	2027-28 TOTAL (\$)	2028-29 LANDSCAPE AND WATER LEVIES (\$)	2028-29 EXTERNAL FUNDS (\$)	2028-29 STATE APPROPRIATION (\$)	2028-29 TOTAL (\$)
0	160,975	0	160,975	0	0	0	0
602,704	0	0	602,704	537,125	0	0	537,125
243,886	528,338	0	772,224	198,264	0	0	198,264
174,322	863,274	0	1,037,596	127,430	0	0	127,430
1,088,099	0	154,000	1,242,099	1,110,677	0	154,000	1,264,677
1,856,326	751,300	288,000	2,895,626	1,897,609	170,000	288,000	2,355,609
3,965,337	2,303,887	442,000	6,711,225	3,871,105	170,000	442,000	4,483,105

TABLE 3: Sources of income

FUNDING SOURCE	2025/26 BUDGET (\$)
Landscape and water levies	
Landscape levy ¹	985,382
Water levy ^{1,2}	1,282,894
Levy – co-produced	1,014,776
State Government	
State recurrent ³	420,000
Australian Government	
Discovery4Recovery	390,270
Wetland Wonders	459,943
Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator	252,016
Regional Capacity Services	371,200
Building Pastoral Sustainability	315,186
Plains-Wanderer	251,676
Other	
Carbon Farming Outreach Program	96,831
Landscape Priorities Fund - Kangaroo Partnerships	111,000
Landscape Priorities Fund - Resilient Rangelands	128,000
Landscape Priorities Fund - Statewide Rangelands Goat Management	136,906
Landscape Priorities Fund - Sustainable Land Management	123,750
Landscape Priorities Fund - Undersized Goats	165,000
Landscape Priorities Fund - Climate Adaptation	275,000
Water Security Program	90,000
Landscape Board Executive Officer	250,000
Drought Hub - Kangaroo Partnerships	45,000
DIT - Roadside Weed Control	TBC
Interest	270,000
TOTAL INCOME	7,434,830

1. Landscape and water levy total income to be raised in 2025/26 is based on 3.2% actual CPI rate (September 2024 quarter) increase on the approved 2024/25 income. Outside council areas is levied based on property size.
2. Subject to variation through licence application and approval.
3. The Landscape Administration Fund is a statutory fund established by the Landscape South Australia Act 2019.



Sudells Frog
(*Neobatrachus sudelli*)
at Clifton Hills, Dieri
Country

Our Delivery Partners

The board engages with partners to deliver on its five priority areas. It's valued partnerships both for identified projects outlined in this plan and future partnerships that may still depend on funding or formal project development include;

- First Nations communities, Traditional Landowners, body corporates, Parks Co-management Boards and Advisory committees, Indigenous Protected Areas,
- Indigenous Desert Alliance (IDA) and Indigenous Ranger groups
- Peak bodies and industry groups – including Pastoral Board of SA, Livestock SA, Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA), Kangaroo Management Reference Group, SA Professional Field Processors Organisation, SA Chamber of Mines and Energy, Goat Industry Council of Australia (GICA)
- SA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub
- Community groups and progress associations
- Environmental organisations, including Greening Australia, Nature Foundation SA, Bush Heritage Australia, Conservation Management, Nature Conservation Society of SA, Conservation Council of SA, Arid Recovery, Ecological Horizons, Landcare SA, Birdlife Australia
- Volunteer groups
- All SA Landscape Boards
- Academic institutions and research organisations
- Technical experts
- Schools, School of the Air and Isolated Children's Parents' Association (ICPA)
- National partners: NRM Regions Australia, Rangelands Alliance
- Local, State and Australian Government including;
- Port Augusta City Council, The Flinders Ranges Council, Coober Pedy Council, Roxby Downs Council, Department for Environment and Water, South Australian Research and Development Institute, Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA), Department for Energy and Mining (DEM) Outback Communities Authority (OCA), Regional Development Australia Far North (RDAFN), National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA), Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water
- Australian Government – Great Artesian Basin Secretariat, and Lake Eyre Basin Secretariat

Regional landscape levy

Consistent with the government's policy, the board's plan proposes that the annual levy increase for 2025/26 is limited to CPI.

For out of council areas in the region, the board has adopted that the basis of the regional landscape levy is maintained as a 'tiered' rate dependent upon the area of rateable land. This aligns with a 'beneficiary pays' principle i.e. larger properties that receive greater support and investment and utilise the region's resources at a larger scale have a higher levy. The property size categories and applicable rates are detailed in **TABLE 4**.

The various land size categories were selected on the basis of the representative land uses for that size of property in the region. Properties over 100,000ha are predominantly used for cattle grazing; those between 100ha and 100,000ha are sheep properties; less than 100ha and greater than 10ha are largely lifestyle blocks that are used for conservation or hobby farming; and blocks of less than 10ha are residential blocks.

A review of property data in 2024 resulted in a number of properties identified as having not being invoiced for a levy. This included newly owned properties in Leigh Creek. As a result, there were a number of properties that received levy notices for the first time in the 2024/25 financial year.

TABLE 4: Out of council levy rates based on rateable land size per property

PROPERTY SIZE	2025/26
<10ha	\$77.02
10ha - <100ha	\$269.57
100ha - <100,000ha	\$539.13
100,000ha or greater	\$924.23

For inside council areas, the regional landscape levy will still be raised and collected by local councils. Councils will continue to contribute to the landscape region and then reimburse themselves through the collection of a regional landscape levy on the basis set in the landscape board's Business Plan.

There are four levy-paying councils in the SA Arid Lands region: the District Council of Coober Pedy, Municipal Council of Roxby Downs, The Flinders Ranges Council, and Port Augusta City Council.

Council's share of the regional landscape levy to be collected is detailed in **TABLE 6**.

Levy transition scheme

Under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, the SA Arid Lands region expanded to include the Flinders Ranges and Port Augusta council areas.

Following the successful transition to a common levy scheme across the SA Arid Lands Region in 2023/24, the 2025/26 council contributions will be based on the land use categories as shown in **TABLE 5**.

TABLE 5: Inside council levy per land use category

LAND USE CATEGORY	2025/26
Residential, Vacant and Other	\$48.07
Commercial/Industrial	\$96.14
Primary Production	\$240.34

TABLE 6: Council contributions to regional landscape levy income, number of rateable properties and council collection fees

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA	2025/26		
	Council contribution to regional landscape levy (\$)	Number of Rateable Properties	Estimated Council Levy Collection Fees. (\$)
Coober Pedy	83,206	1606	3,611.86
Roxby Downs	94,838	1873	3,694.63
The Flinders Ranges	98,780	1198	3485.38
Port Augusta	407,376	7690	5497.90
TOTAL	684,200		16,289.77

Water levy

Water levies are collected by the Department for Environment and Water on behalf of the Minister and paid to the landscape board. In 2025/26, water levies will be raised in accordance with the existing levy basis, to be paid by water licensees in prescribed water resources areas. This excludes water allocated for stock and domestic purposes.

Also excluded from the landscape water levy is water allocated to bore-fed wetlands as defined in the Water Allocation Plan, Far North Prescribed Wells Area.

Revenue from the water levy is variable, largely dependent on the level of industry activity.

For 2025/26 water levy rates will be increased by CPI on the 2024/25 rate for all classes of licence (indicative levy rates are shown in **TABLE 7**).

TABLE 7: Landscape water levy by license type

TYPE OF WATER LEVY	2025/26 LEVY RATE (c/KL)
Mining; including product processing, dewatering, mining camp supply, and associated mining uses	\$0.0835
Co-produced water	\$0.0463
Commercial (including irrigation), Town Water Supply, Industrial, Tourism and Recreation	\$0.0538

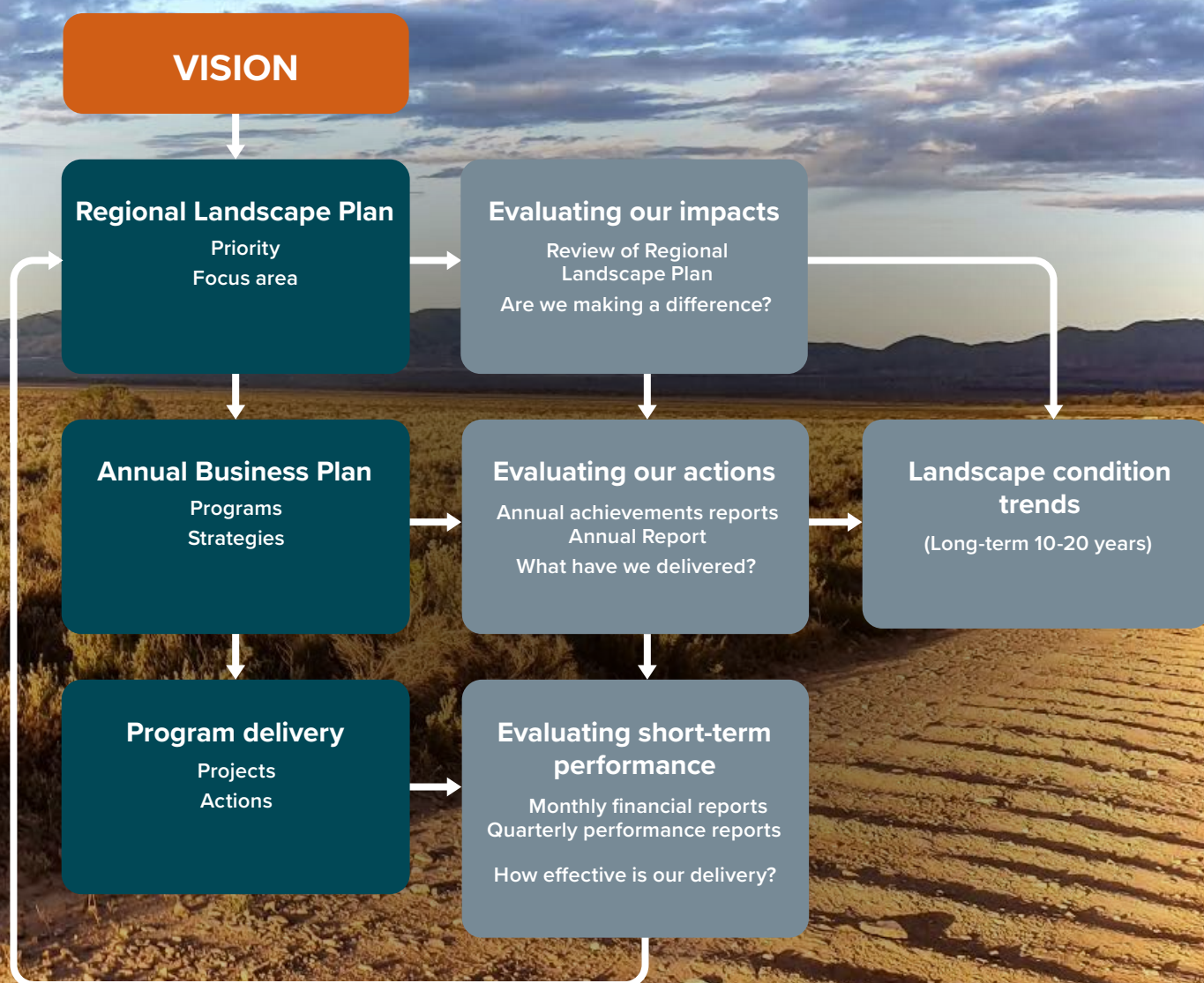


Winninowie Conservation Park, Nukunu Country

Measuring progress

Under the Act, the SAAL Landscape Board is responsible for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of this Plan. The board's performance against priorities in this plan will be assessed and reported in its Annual Report.

Program-specific monitoring plans have been developed for major programs, including Regional Land Partnership projects. An over-arching Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) plan exists alongside the Landscape Plan to support the evaluation of five-year outcomes.





River Red Gum at Big John's
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