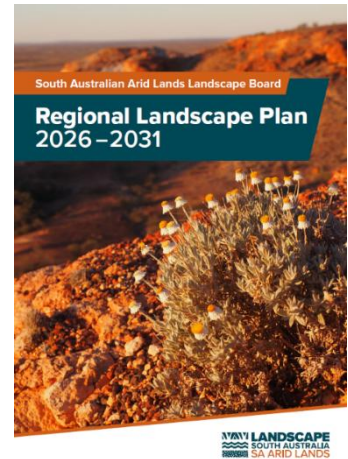


## Communique #35 March 2026

Water flows across the region after record breaking rains in late summer was a topic of discussion across many agenda items this meeting. While celebrating the good for the region, pastoralism and the environment, the board worked through some of the matters relating to damage, looming large scale weed management, feral and native animal population growth and access issues for SAAL program delivery. Taking the wins with the challenges – this is NRM!

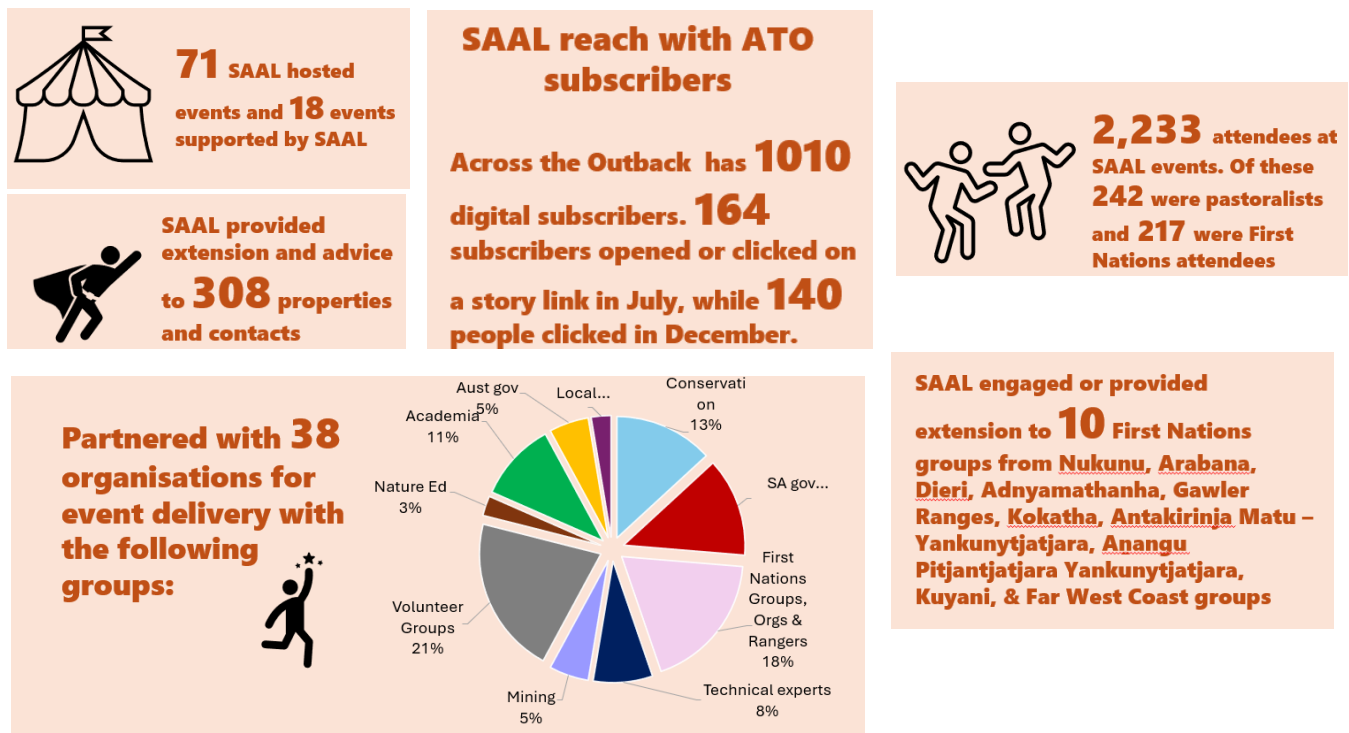
### Endorsed Plan on its way to the Minister

After an extensive consultation process, the board reviewed an edited draft plan and consultation report and has now endorsed the next five-year *SA Arid Lands Regional Landscape Plan 2026-2031*. Community and stakeholder input saw inputs and minor amendments to a plan that reflects stakeholder sentiments gathered throughout the review process. The new draft plan is mostly refreshed and modernised as opposed to markedly changed and will be presented to the new Minister, with a view of sign off and adoption by July 2026.



### Community Engagement data, events and functions

Communication and meaningful engagement underpins the success and impact of the board’s work. A comprehensive report on the 2025 communications and engagement data was presented to the board and showcased the reach and engagement across the breadth of the board’s business.



## Pigs

A regular issue at board meetings, feral pigs remain a significant risk, despite the relentless pursuit to reduce the growing numbers. The board discussed the threat, and the plans for future actions. The significant rainfall experience in February and March has hampered control efforts and has made it difficult to undertake aerial control. Trapping sites, while successful to date in the North East Pastoral, have seen a halt to progress with the rains causing some submersion of the traps. These will be reactivated as access is possible with the water subsiding. Additionally, the aerial control across other key channels and sites where pigs have been reported, will commence again when safe access and ground support for aerial control is again possible. The board will continue to work with other stakeholders including the Invasive Species Council to advocate for flood recovery funding to stay on top of the likely spread and increased populations of pigs owing to the sustained water in the environment. As vectors for disease and knowing the scale of the issue in neighbouring states, this issue remains one the board will remain focused on. Landholders are advised that any sightings must be reported and that pigs are declared for destruction. Support for landholders is available and a coordinated approach necessary to maximise the impact of all ground and aerial operations.

## Water Affecting Activities

The board received enquiries on Water Affecting Activities, due to recent floods where dams and watercourses were significantly impacted and may need repair or works to remediate sites. It is a timely reminder to land managers that activities which may change or impact the natural flows of water through the landscape could require a Water Affecting Activities Permit. While often no permit is required, land managers are advised that if in doubt, a quick discussion with the SAAL water team will provide some confidence and clarity. Beyond the recent floods, exercising caution on any actions that change existing structures, or create new ones, through reviewing the policy or reaching out to staff is advised. Staff are always happy to work through the options, solutions and the best course of action.

## EVENTS

**8 May 2026 - [Marree Innamincka Landscape Group Meeting 80](#)**

**13 May 2026 - [Marine Discovery Centre Visit](#)**

**15 May 2026 - [Wildlife Encounters with Animals Anonymous](#)**

**16 May 2026 - [Family & Community Day Mungerannie](#)**

**23-25 June 2026 – SAAL Regional Board Meeting in the Port Augusta-Quorn district**

**3 August 2026 - [Indigenous Ranger Gathering](#)**

[Please click here for details of events](#)