

# South Australian Arid Lands Annual Business Plan

2021-2022





## 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.

Artwork: Marika Davies

## FOREWORD

It is with pleasure I present to you the Boards 2021/22 annual Business Plan.

This plan delivers on our new Strategic Landscape Plan 2021-2026, developed under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*. It reflects the now complete transition to the new Board which is at arm's length from government, with respect to both staffing and project delivery.

This year we will proceed with implementation of the recently adopted Far North Prescribed Wells Area Water Allocation Plan (WAP) and support community and landholders with new and innovative practices for judicious water use. The facilitation of the Improving Great Artesian Basin Drought Resilience Project will also continue, supporting landholders in their alignment with the WAP and providing access to Australian Government investment that is dollar matched to improve and repair infrastructure in the GAB region.

The range of programs we deliver through our partnership with the Australian Government's National Landcare Program continues this year. With its focus on Sustainable Agriculture and Environment, the Board is pleased with these projects and their long term intent for our region.

The priorities Climate, Water, Sustainable Agriculture, Biodiversity and People and Partnerships identified in our new Strategic Plan will see sustained investment across all areas of the Act. Addressing key issues identified by our community such as total grazing pressure, over abundant native animals, and pest plants and animals is a focus of the Board. Our Biteback program is progressing in accordance with land manager feedback and alongside the new dog fence build.

You, the community, our partners and stakeholders will continue to have opportunities to be involved with the Board's work, through our district Landscape Groups, community events such as field days, education and training workshops and community grants.

The Board thanks you for your ongoing support and remains committed to investing your levy wisely as well as leveraging further investment to protect, sustain and prosper from our natural resources in the SA Arid Lands region.

### **Ross Sawers**

Presiding Member  
South Australian Arid Lands Landscape Board



Cover image: Short-tailed grasswren



## Minister's endorsement

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 South Australian Arid Lands Landscape Board.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Speirs'.

**Hon. David Speirs MP**  
Minister for Environment  
and Water

Date: 13/07/21



# OUR VISION

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



## REGIONAL PRIORITIES

### CLIMATE RESILIENT REGION

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

## OUR FOCUS AREAS

- 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 development)
- Australian Government National Landcare Program priorities
- South Australian Government Climate Change Action Plan 2021-25
- Far North and Outback SA Climate Change Adaptation Plan
- Local Government strategic plans

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

## South Australian Arid Lands Regional Landscape Plan

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

## Landscape Board 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 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 that 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 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. While all community members' appointments are based on their skills, many work in key industries (pastoralism, mining etc.), while others have specific expertise relevant to the region. From 2022, three of the seven Board members will be community elected.

Projects and services are implemented by a team of dedicated staff who work on behalf of the Landscape Board. Staff are public sector employees and are employed by a General Manager who manages the Board's operations. In 2021/22, the SAAL Landscape Board will support 26 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions (17 FTE funded by regional landscape and water levies and 9 FTE funded by external funding). The cost of Board and Landscape Group administration and governance in 2021/22 is \$298,000. The Board's business base is in Port Augusta.

In 2021/22, 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 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. There are seven Landscape Groups in the SAAL region:

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

Landscape Group members live in and/or 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.



SA Arid Lands Landscape Board members: Sanchia Treloar, Kurt Tschirner, Ross Sawers, Douglas Lillicrapp, Ellen Litchfield, Scott Michael and Tim Flowers

## SA Arid Lands Landscape Board KEY PROJECTS





## Key projects

### Biteback – Wild dog management



The Board runs a comprehensive Wild Dog Management Program in partnership with PIRSA, landholders, Livestock SA and other investors such as the Australian Government and Sheep Industry Fund. The Board supports the 21 wild dog local area groups in the region to implement strategies in the the ‘Wild Dog Management Best Practice Guidelines’.

### 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 2021/22 is **\$67,320**.

### Support for landscape groups



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, can initiate Group area projects, and provide an important project community liaison role. The strategic priorities identified by each Group are used both in regional planning and in Board support for Group activities. Landscape Groups can access funds for a wide range of projects through the Board.

The core responsibility of the Board’s funded Community Landscape Officers is to 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 delivery of the Australian Government’s Regional Land Partnership projects.

### Building Pastoral Sustainability



The goal of this project is to build pastoralists’ capacity to respond to SAAL’s highly variable climate through adaptation, innovation and diversification. The project is delivering property management planning support, customised trials, on-ground works, and learning opportunities focused on practices and technologies that can improve land condition, sustainability of production and the resilience of pastoral enterprises.

*This project aligns to the Australian Government’s National Landcare Program Outcome 6, also contributing to Outcome 5.*

### Coongie Wetland Wonders



The Coongie Lakes Ramsar Wetlands are internationally recognised for their ecological values. The site provides habitat for native fish and a number of endangered animals such as the Dusky Hopping Mouse, and Crest-Tailed Mulgara. This Regional Land Partnership project focuses on protecting Ramsar values, by controlling pest animals – particularly feral pigs and large feral herbivores that cause damage to waterholes and vegetation, and invasive weeds, including Buffel Grass and Mimosa Bush. Populations of key native species are being monitored, and acoustic surveillance is being used to determine the presence of the Night Parrot.

*This project aligns to the Australian Government’s National Landcare Program Outcome 1.*

### Bounceback and Beyond



This project builds on the successes of the Department for Environment and Water’s long-running Bounceback Program, delivering conservation gains for a number of threatened animal species, through coordinated, landscape-scale threat management across the Flinders, Gawler, Olary and Gammon Ranges. The project focuses on protection of Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby, Western Quoll, Malleefowl, Flinders Ranges Purple-spotted Gudgeon, Slender Bell-fruit, and Xerothamnella but will benefit many native plants and animals.

Control of foxes, feral cats and feral goats is a key focus of the project. Data gathered through animal surveys over the five-year project will inform on whether effective management of predators at landscape scales improves residency and detectability of the threatened species in arid regions.

Threatened plant species assessments are undertaken to track long-term trends for the Slender Bell-fruit, Menzell’s Wattle, Purple-wood Wattle, Xerothamnella parvifolia, Spidery Wattle, Ooldea Guinea-flower and West Coast Mintbush and will assess the threat posed by introduced herbivores in areas where control is undertaken compared with unmanaged areas.

*This project aligns to the Australian Government’s National Landcare Program Outcome 2.*

### Living Flinders



This Regional Land Partnership project focuses on maintaining the productivity and sustainability of pastoralism in the southern Flinders Ranges though the management of pest plants and animals, and provision of extension and key support services. Project activities in the Arden Vale area, now in the SAAL landscape region, will continue to be delivered by the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board, by agreement with the Australian Government and the SAAL Landscape Board.

*This project aligns to the Australian Government’s National Landcare Program Outcome 5.*

## NATIONAL LANDCARE PROGRAM – INVESTING IN THE SA ARID LANDS

The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board is proud to partner with the Australian Government in delivering projects and services funded by the National Landcare Program. There are six priorities under the program, five of which are relevant to the SA Arid Lands region.

### Environmental Outcomes:

OUTCOME 1: By 2023, there is restoration of, and reduction in threats to, the ecological character of Ramsar Sites, through the implementation of priority actions.

OUTCOME 2: By 2023, the trajectory of species targeted under the Threatened Species Strategy, and other EPBC Act priority species, is stabilised or improved.

OUTCOME 4: By 2023, the implementation of priority actions is leading to an improvement in the condition of EPBC Act listed Threatened Ecological Communities.

### Agriculture Outcomes:

OUTCOME 5: By 2023, there will be increased awareness and adoption of land management practices that improve and protect the condition of soil, biodiversity and vegetation.

OUTCOME 6: By 2023, there is an increase in the capacity of agriculture systems to adapt to significant changes in climate and market demands for information on provenance and sustainable production

As the Australian Government’s approved service provider for the SA Arid Lands region, the Board may negotiate with the Australian Government under this partnership agreement to deliver additional services that meet shared priorities.

BOARD GOVERNANCE AND PROGRAM SUPPORT

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 support includes:

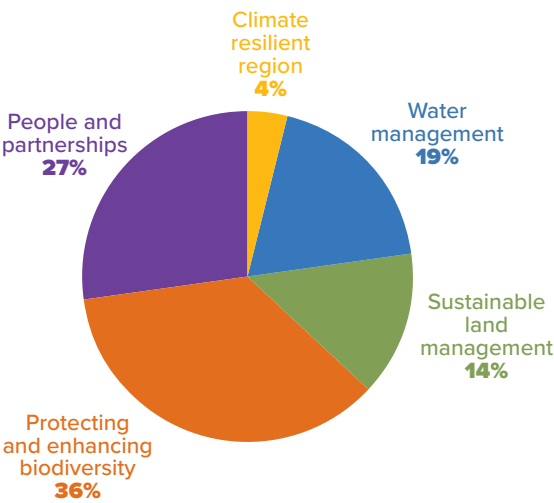
- Landscape planning support to facilitate community involvement in prioritising management actions, and to support board delivery of key priority areas.
- Monitoring, evaluation and reporting on program delivery to facilitate a culture of learning and improvement in order to leverage further investment 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.

Information on the proposed Board expenditure by investment area for 2021/22 is provided in **FIGURE 1** and **TABLE 1**.

FIGURE 1: Proposed expenditure by investment priority



Program expenditure

TABLE 1: Proposed Board expenditure by priority area for 2021/22

PRIORITY	FOCUS AREAS 21/22	KEY PROJECTS/ ACTIVITIES	LANDSCAPE AND WATER LEVIES (\$)	EXTERNAL FUNDS (\$)	STATE APPROPRIATION (\$)	TOTAL (\$)
<div>Climate resilient region</div> <div></div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensuring climate risk is embedded in all Board business</li><li>• Providing land managers with the knowledge and skills they need to mitigate and adapt to climate change</li><li>• Exploring adaptation pathways to ensure communities are climate resilient</li></ul>	Building Pastoral Sustainability (Regional Land Partnership project)		155,071		155,071
		Program support <sup>1</sup>		34,085		34,085
<div>Water management</div> <div></div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Planning, research and leveraging infrastructure investment to support the judicious use of groundwater</li><li>• Maintaining hydrology to protect Great Artesian Basin springs and groundwater-dependent ecosystems</li><li>• Understanding and managing surface water systems including the Lake Eyre Basin</li></ul>	Water Allocation Plan implementation	25,000			25,000
		Water Affecting Activities assessment and approvals	77,731			77,731
		State Water Planning and Management contribution <sup>3</sup>	67,320			67,320
		Bore audit, extension, education and well compliance support	177,576			177,576
		Improving Great Artesian Basin Drought Resilience – sustainable water use projects	40,000			40,000
<div>Sustainable land management</div> <div></div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Effective pest plant and animal control protecting production systems</li><li>• Addressing the threat of excessive total grazing pressure</li><li>• Building land managers’ capacity in adaptive agriculture, best practice land management and rehabilitation</li></ul>	Program support <sup>1</sup>	385,469			385,469
		Biteback – Wild dog management	168,750	TBC		168,750
		Other pest and weed control	30,000			
		Optimising kangaroo management		175,000		175,000
		Building Pastoral Sustainability (Regional Land Partnership project)		155,072		155,072
<div>Protecting and enhancing biodiversity</div> <div></div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Managing threats to Coongie Ramsar wetland values</li><li>• Taking action for Yellow-footed Rock Wallaby, other threatened species recovery in the Gawler, Ikara-Flinders, Olary, and Vulkathanha-Gammon ranges</li><li>• Maintaining and improving the condition of Great Artesian Basin springs and water-dependent ecosystems</li></ul>	Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator (Regional Land Partnership project)		142,000		142,000
		Program support <sup>1</sup>	197,643	65,298		262,941
		Bounceback and Beyond (Regional Land Partnership project)		729,794		729,794
		Coongie Wetland Wonders – Ramsar wetland protection (Regional Land Partnership project)		488,376		488,376
		Ramsar Strategic Adaptive Management ARC linkage	30,000			30,000
<div>People and partnerships</div> <div></div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• First Nations partnerships supporting cross-cultural knowledge sharing and landscape management outcomes</li><li>• Supporting Landscape Groups to lead community action and education</li><li>• Raising awareness of the region’s natural values and connecting people to nature</li><li>• Supporting community action to achieve land, water and coastal management outcomes</li></ul>	Rangelands ecology	89,998			89,998
		Program support <sup>1</sup>	119,330	267,759		387,089
		Landscape Group governance			84,000	84,000
		Local projects/ events/ initiatives			70,000	70,000
		Grassroots grants	100,000			100,000
<div>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</div>		Landholder engagement and land management extension, partnerships and education <sup>2</sup>	788,528			788,528
		Program support <sup>1</sup>	883,580		227,000	1,110,580
			3,180,925	2,212,455	381,000	5,774,380

1 Program support 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.

2 Investment in people and partnerships includes community engagement and capacity building, and landholder extension across all of the Board’s priority areas.

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.



# Funding sources 2021/22

## 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 (formerly NRM 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*.

## 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 Agriculture, Water and Environment are provided in **TABLE 2**.



## Industry Partnerships Program

The Board continues to seek industry investment as it believes that more appropriate and efficient outcomes are achieved through joint funding and delivery of projects where we are all depending on shared natural resources.

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 5 year Landscape Plan which forms the investment priorities detailed within this plan.

TABLE 2: Sources of income

FUNDING SOURCE	2021-22 BUDGET (\$)
Landscape and water levies	
Landscape levy <sup>1</sup>	\$773,883
Water levy <sup>1,2</sup>	\$ 1,908,024
State Government	
State recurrent allocation – State Administration Fund <sup>3</sup>	\$381,000
Australian Government	
NLP2 Core Services	\$509,000
NLP2 Bounceback and Beyond	\$729,794
NLP2 Coongie Wetland Wonders	\$488,376
NLP2 Building Pastoral Sustainability	\$310,143
Other	
Industry Partnerships Program <sup>4</sup>	TBC
Landscape Priorities Fund	\$175,000
TOTAL INCOME	\$5,275,220

1 Landscape and water levy income to be raised in 2021/22 is based on 1.0% actual CPI rate (September 2020 quarter) increase on the approved 2020/21 income. Outside council areas is levied based on property size.

2 Subject to variation through licence application and approval.

3 The State Administration Fund is a statutory fund established by the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*.

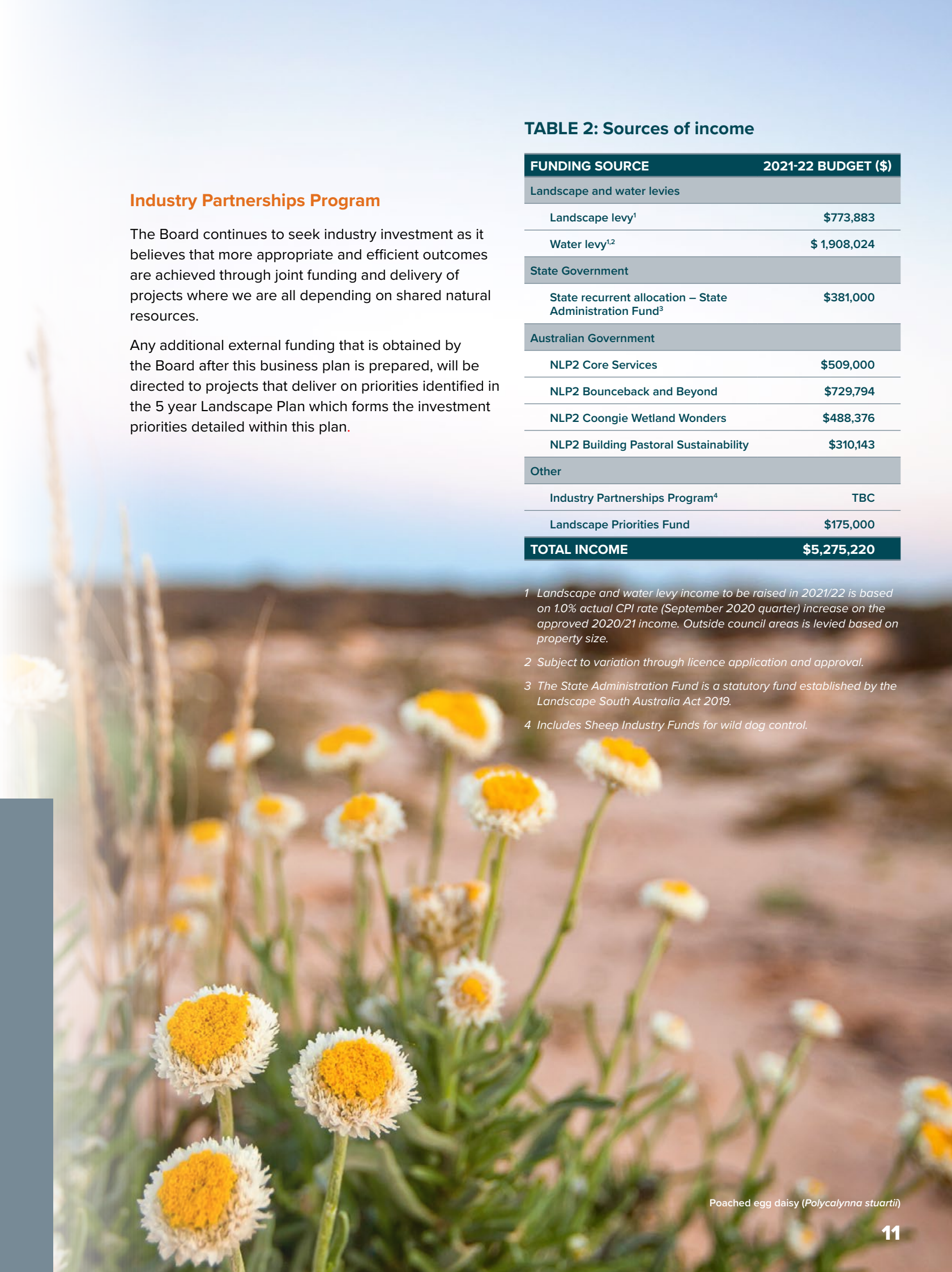
4 Includes Sheep Industry Funds for wild dog control.

## OUR DELIVERY PARTNERS

- The Board engages with partners in almost all it does.

Our 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, body corporates, Parks Co-management Boards and Advisory committees, Indigenous Protected Areas,
  - peak bodies and industry groups – including Pastoral Board of SA, Livestock SA., Meat and Livestock Australia, (MLA), Flinders Ranges and Outback Tourism SA, Kangaroo Management Reference Group, SA Professional Field Processors Organisation, SA Chamber of Mines and Energy
- community groups and progress associations
  - environmental organisations, including Greening Australia, Nature Foundation of SA, Bush Heritage Australia, Conservation Management, Nature Conservation Society of SA, Conservation Council of SA, Foudation for Australias Most Endangered Species (FAME), Arid Recovery, Ecological Horizons Landcare SA, PEW
  - volunteer groups
  - All SA Landscape Boards
  - Academic institutions and research organisations
  - Schools, School of the Air and Isolated Parents and Childrens Association (ICPA)
- National partners NRM Regions Australia, Rangelands Alliance
  - local, State and Australian Government including;
  - Port Augusta City Council, Flinders Ranges Council, Coober Pedy Council, Roxby Downs Council, Department for Environment and Water, Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA), Department for Energy and Mining (DEM) Outback Communities Authority (OCA) RDA Far North, National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA), Department for Agriculture, Water and Environment
  - Australian Government – Great Artesian Basin Secretariat, and Lake Eyre Basin Secretariat



Poached egg daisy (*Polycalynna stuartii*)

Regional landscape levy

The Board is not proposing to change the basis of the levy for any properties in its region in 2021/22.

Consistent with the government’s policy, the Board’s plan proposes that the annual levy increase for 2021/22 is limited to CPI.

For out of council areas of the region, the Board has recommended that the basis of the regional landscape levy is maintained as a ‘tiered’ rate dependent upon the area of rateable land. This is viewed as having stronger alignment with a ‘beneficiary pays’ principle i.e. larger properties that receive greater support and investment have higher levy rates. The property size categories and applicable rates are detailed in **TABLE 3**.

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.

Collection of the regional landscape levy from land owners outside council areas was previously undertaken by the Department for Environment and Water but will now be undertaken directly by the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board.

TABLE 3: Out of council levy rates based on rateable land per property size

PROPERTY SIZE	2021/22
<10ha	\$64.94
>10 ha – <100ha	\$216.44
>100ha – <100,000ha	\$432.94
>100,000 ha	\$757.79

For inside council areas, the regional landscape levy will still be raised and collected by local councils in the same way as the NRM levy has been collected in the past. 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 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.

For Coober Pedy and Roxby Downs council areas, this is a **fixed rate commensurate with the <10ha out of council levy rate**. Where multiple allotments form a single enterprise, the levy will only be charged once based on the aggregated area of the multiple allotments.

For Port Augusta and The Flinders Ranges council areas, the levy remains on a **capital value basis**.

Council’s share of the regional landscape levy to be collected is detailed in **TABLE 4**.

Levy transition scheme

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

The effect of boundary changes on land levies is being managed through a levy transition scheme approved and gazetted by the Minister for Environment and Water.

The transition scheme provides for council contributions to be set consistent with 2019/2020 rates, adjusted annually by CPI. This will provide for consistency in the levy rates paid by ratepayers, noting that the number of rateable properties also influence council contributions and levy rates. A consistent basis for the landscape levy within council areas will be achieved by 2023/24.

TABLE 4: Council contributions to regional landscape levy income, council collection fees and estimated average levy contribution per property for 2021/22

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA	2021/22		
	Council contribution to regional landscape levy 2021/22 <sup>1</sup> (\$)	Estimated levy per property (\$)	Estimated Council Levy Collection Fees <sup>1</sup>
Coober Pedy	104,940	53.08	3,051.25
Roxby Downs	122,026	61.44	3,053.50
The Flinders Ranges	46,943	21.70	3,097.75
Port Augusta	289,540	35.00	4,625.00
TOTAL	\$563,449		\$13,827.50

1 Based on CPI increase of 1.0% (September 2020 quarter) from 2020/21 rates

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 2021/22, 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 2021/22 water levy rates will be increased by CPI on the 2020/21 rate for all classes of licence (indicative levy rates are shown in **TABLE 5**).

TABLE 5: Proposed Landscape water levy increases by Licence Type – 2021/22

TYPE OF WATER LEVY	2021/22 LEVY RATE (C/KL)
Mining; including product processing, dewatering, mining camp supply, and associated mining uses	6.88
Co-produced water	3.81
Commercial (including irrigation), Town Water Supply, Industrial, Tourism and Recreation	4.43



GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR DECISION-MAKING ON LANDSCAPE LEVIES

The SAAL Landscape Board has a vision for regional natural resource management which provides for a shared responsibility by all citizens for individually and collectively managing the natural resources which underpin a shared prosperity. In this way, all residents of the region are natural resource beneficiaries and managers.

The Board will invest the levies to benefit the maximum number of communities and landholders. However there will be instances where resources will be dispersed across the highest priorities of the region, as identified through planning with the community. Noting this, the below principles are used by the Board to determine how regional landscape levies are determined/raised.

1. BENEFICIARY PAYS – implies that the people who are the beneficiaries of natural resources management both indirectly and directly in the region should contribute accordingly.

2. EQUITY – no single person, organisation or group of organisations is treated more or less favourably than others.

3. CERTAINTY – the levy arrangement should deliver a certain outcome for both the managers of the natural resources of the region and the ‘users’ of the natural resources, so they can plan and budget accordingly.

4. FLEXIBILITY – the levy arrangements should accommodate any unusual volatility in the resource managers’ funding requirements in a controlled manner.
5. RESOURCE USE EFFICIENCY – the basis for determining the levy should encourage efficient and sustainable use and the protection and enhancement of the region’s natural resources.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE EFFICIENCY – the basis for determining the levy should ensure that the levy collection and management procedures are undertaken in a manner that minimises costs.

7. ACCOUNTABILITY – The Board as a natural resource manager financed by the levy should be publicly accountable for its use of funds.

8. ENTERPRISE BASED – where contiguous land parcels and combined to form single enterprises levies will be applied to the whole enterprises rather than to individual land parcels.

The Board has also resolved that when determining the levy income quantum to:

- a) Share the budget implications of reductions in water allocations across all water levy payers;
- b) Add the value of increases resulting from the issue of new water allocations to the levy income quantum;
- c) Increase the land and water levy income by CPI or as needed to meet the work plan priorities of the Board considering the impact of changes to income;
- d) Review the rates of the regional landscape levies annually.

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 is being developed alongside the Landscape Plan to support the evaluation of five year outcomes.

Resource condition trends  
(10-20 years)

- As reported in:
- SA trend and condition report cards
  - State of the Environment reports (national)
  - Other data sources







Innamincka Causeway

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