

South Australian Arid Lands Board
Regional Landscape Plan
2026-2031

Explanatory Guide

PURPOSE

Under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* (LSA Act), the South Australian Arid Lands Landscape Board (the board) is required to review its Regional Landscape Plan (RLP) once every five years and report on the success of the plan in maintaining, protecting, improving and enhancing the state of landscapes within the SA Arid Lands. The LSA Act specifies that the board must set five strategic priorities that consider local priorities and needs, scientific and other relevant expert information and advice, Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge, and other relevant information, evidence and factors.

The revised plan

The format of the RLP, as agreed by the board in June 2025, is to remain high-level, with clear principles and objectives, alongside a level of agility to adapt to changing needs or priorities that may be informed by climate, policy, industry and stakeholder values. There is an expansion of some sections to better reflect the board’s current and future aspirations based on feedback from stakeholders and partners throughout the life of the existing plan, and to set the strategic direction for the board over the next five years. The board has several other strategies, plans and resources which support the RLP.

COVER IMAGE: Brilliant Hopbush (*Dodonaea microzyga*) on Adnyamathanha and Wilyakali Country. Photo by Ryan Hayward.

Approach to consultation

As part of the RLP review, and to confirm the board’s five strategic priorities, the board members, staff, and each of the seven district Landscape Groups (LGs) were consulted to review the RLP 2021-26 to assist in the development of the next five-year RLP. A timeline of tasks completed to date and planned consultation for finalisation of the RLP 2026-31 is indicated in Figure 1.

The board currently engages extensively with community via its district Landscape Group model and its Community Landscape Officers and extension staff. The seven Landscape Group members represent their district and provide regular feedback to the board from community via meetings and planning processes that directly align with the board’s RLP (i.e. ground-up approach). With a designated Engagement Officer for each district, this model is unique to the SA Arid Lands region and provides a regular connection and touchpoint to the community. This enhances the board’s legislated responsibilities for review of its RLP



FIGURE 1: Key tasks and timeline for development of the South Australian Arid Lands Landscape Board’s Regional Landscape Plan 2026-31. The red arrow indicates the current phase of the process.

and means the board does not only engage once every five years to gauge community needs, values or its success, but on a continual basis. Community and stakeholder input is gathered at board events, and other engagement activities. The board also facilitates regular meetings with several key stakeholder groups that provide feedback on regionwide and statewide initiatives and objectives as well as co-design of projects and regional activities. The board's staff understand community priorities and issues. Consequently, input from the board's staff, the board, and each of the seven district Landscape Groups to date has provided the foundation for this revised draft plan and leveraged from other regional engagement strategies to shape plans that complement this draft plan.

Layout and proposed changes to the plan

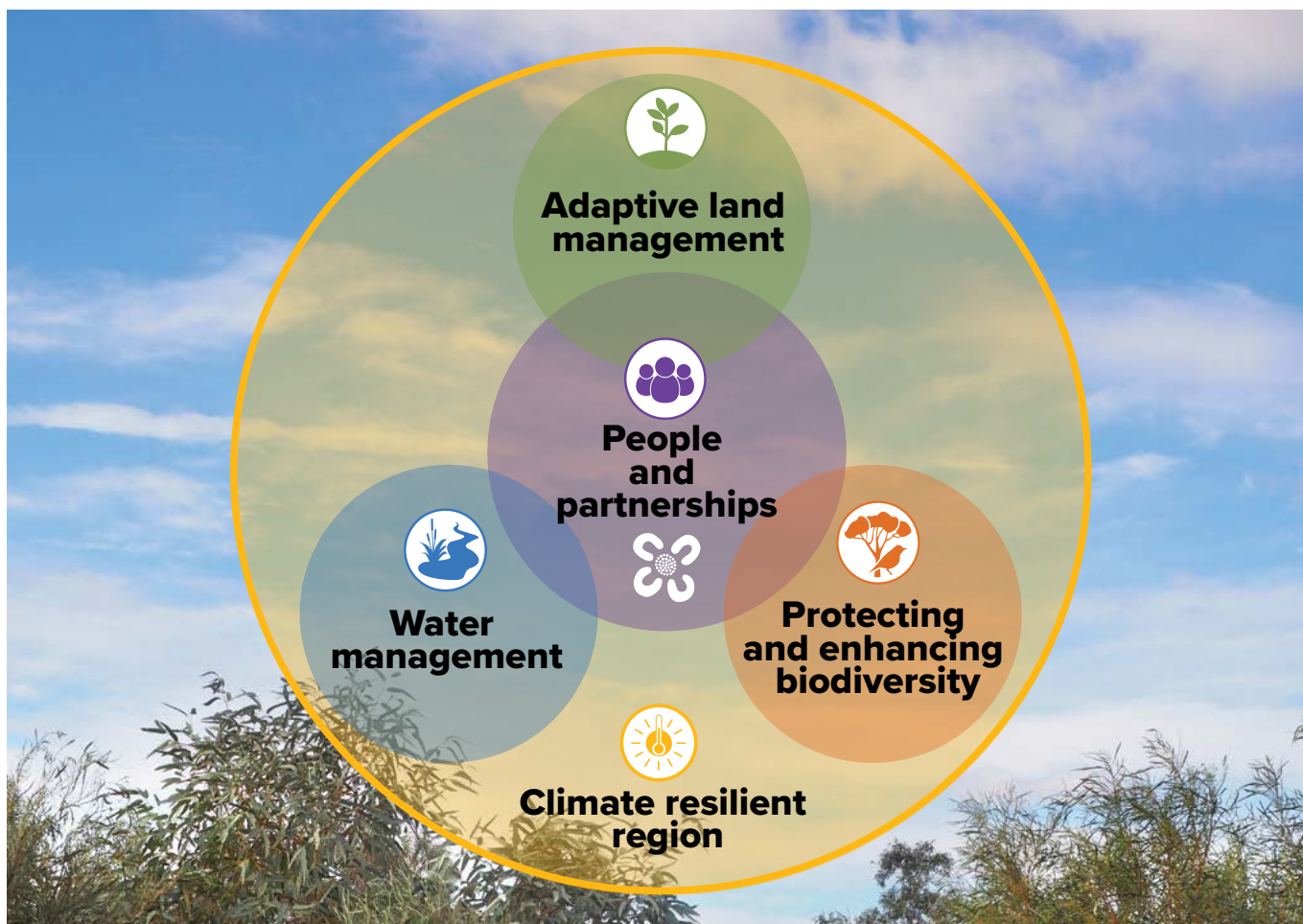
The following summary has been designed to provide an overview of the plan, proposed changes or enhancements, and outline any key points of interest with page references.

South Australian Arid Lands Landscape Region and stats and facts (page 2) – a map including Native Title areas with up-to-date regional information and demographic data.

Board vision, priorities and focus areas (page 3) – the board vision, priorities and focus areas are listed. Here, and throughout the plan, Sustainable Land Management was renamed as Adaptive Land Management. This change was made as it was more reflective of the board's current and future work and that of land managers within the region. It also better captures the broader work of the board that aligns to this priority (i.e. agriculture and biosecurity).

Priorities diagram (page 4) – the five board priorities have been visualised as cross-cutting and connected (Figure 2). This change was made as this was more reflective of the integrated nature of the board's priorities with people and partnerships at the centre of the board's work, and climate being a fundamental driver and consideration across all priorities.

FIGURE 2: Draft diagram that depicts the five South Australian Arid Lands Landscape Board priorities as cross-cutting and connected.



Why our landscapes matter (page 5) – supporting information relating to districts and bioregions document is referenced that provides a detailed evidence-base for the importance of the landscapes of the region, major ecological systems, state context, biodiversity and cultural values of the region, main industries, and townships. It also recognises the responsibility of all sectors and land users for managing landscapes.

Challenges and enablers for landscape management (page 6) – the key challenges and enablers for the region are identified based on internal feedback during the plan review process, the state of resources (environmental, social, cultural, economic), and current statewide and national strategies. Although challenges can be considered enablers, it is important to keep these separate to recognise some of the “wicked” problems that may be beyond just the board to address or within the life of the plan. Some of the more prominent challenges and enablers include, but are not limited to, innovative climate-smart agriculture, recognition of natural capital and investment in nature to drive nature positive outcomes, circular economic approaches to address total grazing pressure, existing and emerging diseases impacting native and domestic animals and ecosystems, and gaining the social licence needed to manage landscapes that support biodiverse and productive areas.

Climate projections for South Australian Arid Lands (page 7) – a diagram has been included to highlight the key climate impacts and latest climate projection information for the SA Arid Lands in a visually engaging format given this underpins all decisions and is a key overarching priority.

Role of the board (page 8) – outlines the board’s role to undertake, promote and integrate the management of natural resources (land, water, plants, and animals) in the SA Arid Lands. This includes how the board works with community and within a compliance framework to deliver its responsibilities under the LSA Act.

The board’s guiding principles (page 9) – outlines the principles that guide the board’s work within the SA Arid Lands region.

Landscape planning framework (page 10) – a framework that indicates the strategic alignment and key supporting resources that sit alongside, and support, the board’s plans (RLP and Business Plan), including the iterative monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement processes.

Delivery of this plan (page 11) – includes information on the investment responsibilities of the board and reporting, and how the board intends to deliver its projects and partnerships through successful relationships with community, other organisations, and its funding partners.

Five board priority areas (page 12-19) – includes the priority, goal, description and reasoning for inclusion in the plan, threats (where relevant), references, the focus areas, and planned five-year outcomes for each of the focus areas.

Evaluating the plan (page 20) – a summary of the key points of evaluation and timelines, used by the board.

References and resources (page 20-21) – reference list and key resources are included, providing links to the latest climate information and key board webpages and documents, as requested during the plan review process.

Next steps

The board is seeking feedback on the draft RLP 2026-31 which will be open from the 14 November 2025 to the 31 January 2026. Individuals or organisations can provide feedback either by:

- 1) Completing a survey,
- 2) Submitting a written response to the board directly via email (SAALLandscapeBoard@sa.gov.au), or
- 3) Contacting the board’s office on 8429 9666

Sunrise on Kokatha and Kuyani Country. Photo by Tori Love.