

South Australian Arid Lands Landscape Board

Annual Business Plan 2026–2027



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.

Foreword



On behalf of the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board, I present the 2026/2027 Business Plan.

This plan takes effect in alignment with the board's new five year Regional Landscape Plan. You may note subtle changes in both plans, and with input from partners and community, the aspirations of the board and investment priorities remain very similar to previous plans.

The board takes guidance from community, industry and funding partners to inform prioritisation and this plan demonstrates investment across all strategic priorities. The pursuit of additional investment annually to broaden the reach and impact of landscape and water levies, means this plan, as it stands, reflects known income and expenditure at a point in time.

At the time of printing the plan may reflect areas where final funding agreements or contracts are still being negotiated or finalised through Treasury or investment partners.

As is required in Natural Resource Management, adaptive management, flexibility and foresight all remain important to manage existing issues as well as adapt to emerging ones. This has never been more the case, as we continue to leverage investment to harness opportunities and address threats resulting from flooding rains and extreme weather events, on the back of sustained drought conditions.

As always, the plan is only deliverable in partnership with State and Commonwealth governments, levy paying communities and industry, and the on-ground work with key delivery partners. The board thanks all of its delivery partners and community for their contributions to successfully addressing the landscape management and protection needs of the SA Arid Lands in the delivery of this plan.

The board has confidence in its financial position, its delivery capability and the team who deliver against its objectives under the Landscape Act.

Douglas Lillecrapp

Presiding Member
South Australian Arid Lands Landscape Board

Artwork: Marika Davies

Image: Flinders Ranges Euro, Adnyamathanha Country.
Photo: Charlie Eager

Cover image: Australasian Pipit (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*) at Gum Creek, Adnyamathanaha Country. Photo: Alice Allington.

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

- Ensure climate risk is embedded in all board business
- Provide land managers and community with the knowledge and skills they need to prepare, mitigate and adapt to climate change
- Explore adaptation pathways to ensure landscapes and communities are climate resilient



PEOPLE AND PARTNERSHIPS

People and community are central to looking after our landscapes

- Support First Nations people and partnerships for cross-cultural knowledge sharing and fostering Healthy Country outcomes
- Foster a shared responsibility for landscape stewardship
- Raise the profile of the region's natural, heritage, and cultural values
- Support community action to achieve land, water and coastal management outcomes
- Foster, build and maintain strategic partnerships and investment to manage the region's natural resources



WATER MANAGEMENT

The region's water resources are managed judiciously

- Plan, research and leverage investment to support the judicious use of groundwater
- Support the hydrogeological monitoring of Great Artesian Basin springs and other groundwater resources
- Understand and manage surface water systems including the Lake Eyre Basin



ADAPTIVE LAND MANAGEMENT

Land management practices protect soil, vegetation and biodiversity

- Reduce the impacts of pest plants and animals on production systems
- Reduce excessive grazing pressure across all land uses
- Build land managers' capacity in adaptive climate smart agriculture, best practice land management and rehabilitation
- Build knowledge of practices that protect soil health and function



PROTECTING AND ENHANCING BIODIVERSITY

Intrinsic biodiversity values are protected and enhanced

- Manage and monitor current and emerging threats to identified priority natural and Cultural species and places
- Support threatened species and ecosystem recovery
- Partner to maintain and improve the condition of the Great Artesian Basin and water-dependent ecosystems

Landscape planning framework

South Australian State Landscape Strategy

The board's plan aligns with the key enablers of the State Landscape Strategy:

- Bold collaborative leadership
- Targeted and scaled-up investment
- Inspiring stewardship of landscapes
- Building and sharing knowledge

Strategic alignment to:

- Australian Government Natural Heritage Trust priorities
- South Australia's Net Zero Strategy 2024-30
- Far North and Outback SA Climate Change Adaptation Plan
- Outback SA Drought Resilience Plan
- Local Government strategic plans
- Healthy Country Plans
- South Australian Government Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation Actions

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

5 years

South Australian Arid Lands Regional Landscape Plan

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

Monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement (MERI) framework

1 years

South Australian Arid Lands Annual Business Plan

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

Annual reporting

Key supporting resources:

- [Far North Prescribed Wells Area Water Allocation Plan](#)
- [South Australian Arid Lands Water Affecting Activities Control Policy](#)
- [South Australian Arid Lands District Action Plans](#)
- [South Australian Arid Lands Landscape Board Pest Management Strategy](#)
- [South Australian Arid Lands bioregional descriptions](#)
- [South Australian Arid Lands Biodiversity Strategy \(in review\)](#)
- [Statement of Commitment](#)
- [South Australian Arid Lands Landscape Board Biodiversity and Agricultural Natural Capital Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan](#)

Yankaninna Creek, Adnyamathanaha Country. Photo by Alice Allington.

The board's guiding principles

The board is:

- Collaborates and considers community values, knowledge and expertise in decision-making
- Facilitates resilient, integrated and adaptive landscape management resulting in meaningful on-ground change
- 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, technology, and local knowledge that improves understanding of landscape resilience
- Cultural knowledge and expertise is valued in the planning and implementation of its initiatives
- Maximises public return on investment through strategic prioritisation of funds
- 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 2026/27, the SAAL Landscape Board will support 30.9 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions (19.3 FTE funded by regional landscape and water levies and 11.6 FTE funded by external funding). The cost of board and landscape group administration and governance in 2026/27 is \$210,000. The board's office is in Port Augusta.

In 2026/27, 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:

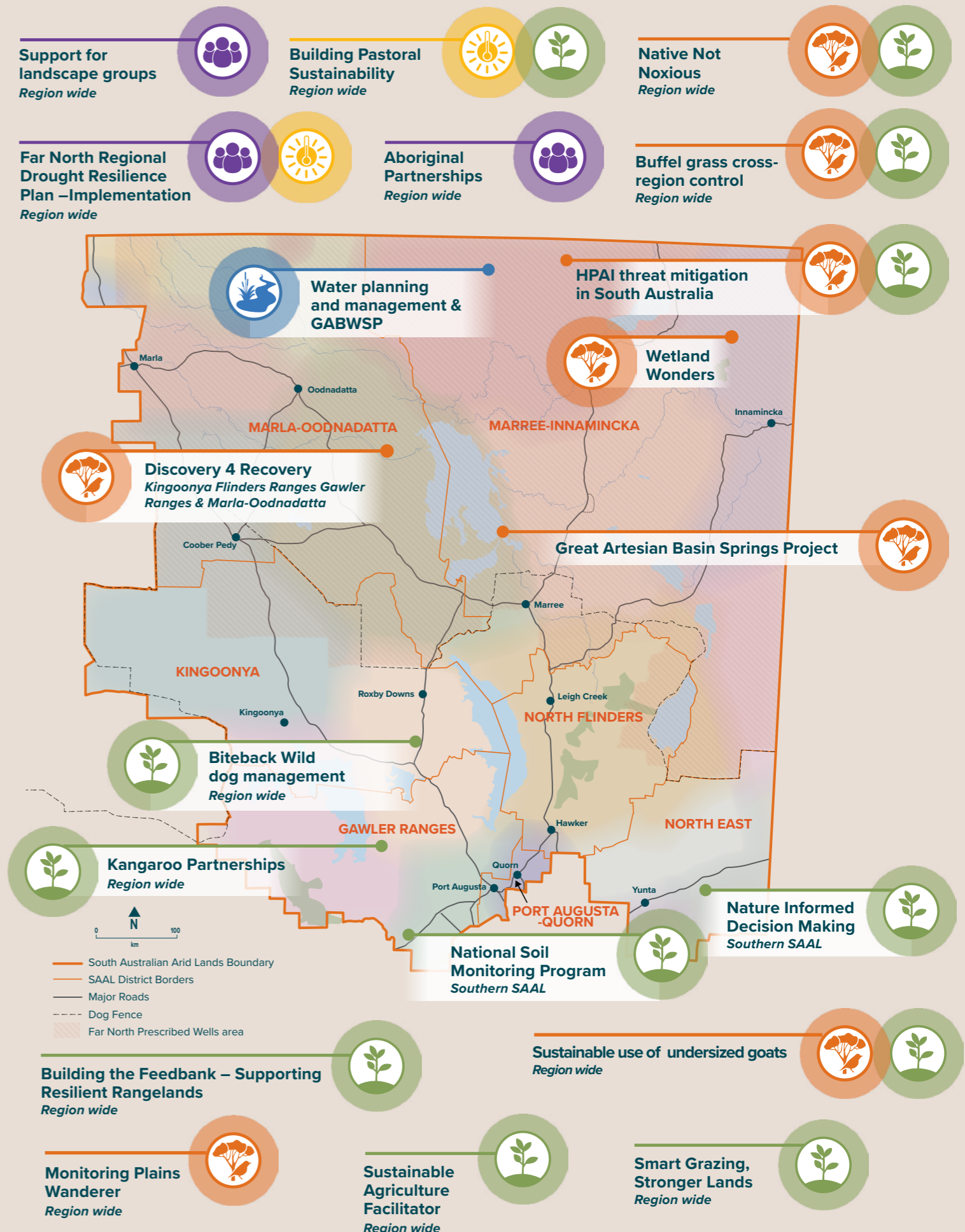
- Marla-Oodnadatta
- Kingoonya
- Marree-Innamincka
- North East
- North Flinders
- Port Augusta – Quorn
- Gawler Ranges

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.



SA Arid Lands Landscape Board members, from left, Jodie Harris, Ellen Litchfield, Sanchia Treloar, Douglas Lillecrapp, Mark Mayfield and Chevahn Hoad. Inset: Scott Michael.

SA Arid Lands Landscape Board Key Projects



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.

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.

National Soils Monitoring Program



The board is supporting the delivery of the National Soils Monitoring Program which aims to monitor agreed national soil health indicators and to use the data to help understand soil condition and trend. The data supports evidence-based decision making to improve soil health at a range of scales. It empowers landholders to prioritise their soil health and strengthen their soil knowledge and capability, increasing stewardship of their land and providing the tools to restore, improve and maintain soil health. In South Australia, the program is led by the Limestone Coast Landscape Board with delivery facilitated by each of the regional Landscape Boards. It is funded by the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust in collaboration with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).

Building the Feedbank – Supporting Resilient Rangelands



This project supports the ongoing work of the board to address the significant threat posed by feral herbivores including pigs, camels, donkeys and horses to biodiversity and pastoral enterprises in the region. As part of an integrated strategy, this project provides an opportunity for additional landholder engagement and control efforts in areas that have been identified as having feral herbivore issues and allows for an expansion of the board's control efforts beyond existing funded areas. This includes work in the North East Pastoral and the Marla Oodnadatta districts. 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 2026/27 is \$76,166.

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.

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.

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.

H5A1 threat mitigation in South Australia



This project focuses on undertaking aerial control of invasive feral pigs and large feral herbivores in and around the Coongie Lakes Ramsar area to enhance ecological resilience and support preparedness against H5 avian influenza outbreaks. By targeting key sites within the Ramsar boundary, and adjoining areas, the project aims to reduce habitat degradation, protect critical waterbird breeding grounds, and minimize disease transmission risks. The project is administered by the Department for Environment and Water and delivered by the board. It is funded by the Australian Government.

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.

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.

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.

Smart Grazing, Stronger Lands



This project assists pastoralists and land managers throughout Australia's Southern Rangelands to adopt proven climate-smart decision support tools and technologies to improve grazing management and ecosystem health. Despite large investments in tool development, adoption has been slow due to time constraints, lack of confidence in technology use, and the need for hands-on support. Covering 1.5 million square kilometres of Australia's southern rangelands, this project builds capacity of regionally-based NRM, grower groups, and community organisations and will deliver tailored, locally driven support through training, peer-to-peer learning, and expert guidance. Demonstration sites build confidence and capacity, showcasing real-world application of tools and technologies. and facilitates pastoralist and land manager adoption of proven rangelands gazing and land management tools and technologies. The project is led by the SA Drought Resilience, Adoption and Innovation Hub and delivered by the regional Landscape Boards. It 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. Another focus is to build knowledge and capacity of pastoralists in the region through peer-to-peer learning, and hosting workshops. This project is funded by the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust.

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. The Biteback project is primarily funded via the Landscape Levy.

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.

Far North Regional Drought Resilience Plan – Implementation



The board is supporting the implementation of the Far North Regional Drought Resilience Plan by delivering a range of projects that directly align with the goals, strategies and opportunities outlined in the plan. These include celebrating volunteers of the SA Arid Lands and expanding the outback SA weather station network. To celebrate volunteers of the SA Arid Lands, the board will host an event in the region to promote their work with the aim of celebrating success, raising the profile of their work and attracting new volunteers. Expansion of an outback SA weather station network will improve access to local, reliable weather data to support drought preparedness, land management and community safety by reducing significant data gaps. Five additional weather stations will be added to the network and targets priority weather-data blackspots. It is funded by the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund and the Government of South Australia.

Nature Informed Decision Making



This project equips land managers and natural resource management extension officers with the foundational skills to monitor grazing pressure from feral goats, rabbits and macropod species. A glovebox guide will specify how to conduct field-based vegetation assessment surveys, and track changes in perennial plant form and browsing intensity over time. While the primary focus will be on the impacts of overgrazing on vegetation, the project also aims to present a broader perspective on the overall impacts of feral goats to strengthen the case for their control as a means to improve land management and support business sustainability. It is funded by the SA Drought Resilience, Adoption and Innovation Hub.

A bale of turtles at Malkumba-Coongie Lakes National Park, Yandruwandha/Yawarrawarrka Country. Photo: Alice Allington.

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.

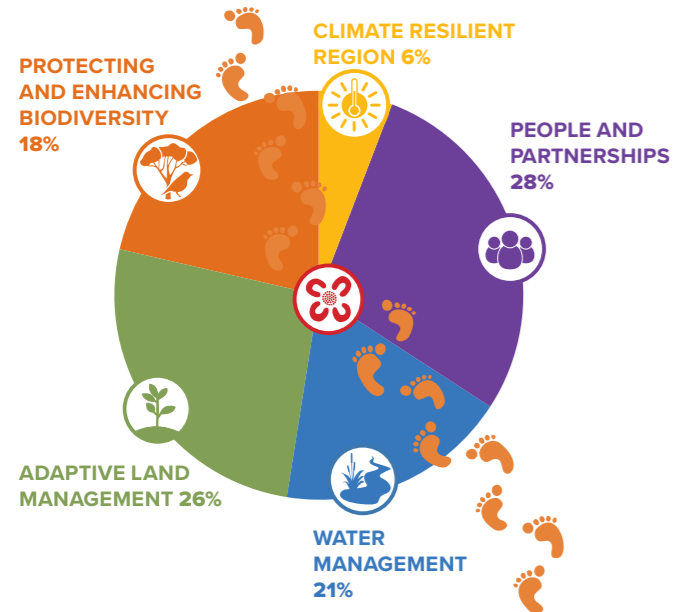
A number of supporting services underpin the delivery of the board's work. Program delivery includes:

- 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 2026/27

Priority	Focus Areas 2026/27	Key Projects/ Activities	Landscape and Water Levies (\$)	External Funds (\$)	State Appropriation (\$)	Total (\$)		
 Climate resilient region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure climate risk is embedded in all board business • Provide land managers and community with the knowledge and skills they need to prepare, mitigate and adapt to climate change • Explore adaptation pathways to ensure landscapes and communities are climate resilient 	Building Pastoral Sustainability		205,859		205,859		
		Joint Delivery Outback Drought Resilience Plan		99,900		99,900		
		Smarter Grazing Stronger Lands		52,500		52,500		
		LPF – Building the Feed Bank		82,750		82,750		
		Program delivery ¹		153,118		153,118		
 People and partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support First Nations people and partnerships for cross-cultural knowledge sharing and fostering Healthy Country outcomes • Foster a shared responsibility for landscape stewardship • Raise the profile of the region's natural, heritage, and cultural values • Support community action to achieve land, water and coastal management outcomes • Foster, build and maintain strategic partnerships and investment to manage the region's natural resources 	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		
		Landholder engagement and land management extension, partnerships and education ⁴	889,144			889,144		
		Community sponsorship	15,000			15,000		
		Invest in partnerships	26,400			26,400		
		National Soils Monitoring		26,895		26,895		
		SAAL Board External Advice	25,000			25,000		
		Program delivery ²	967,239	9,577	277,000	1,253,816		
		 Water management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan, research and leverage investment to support the judicious use of groundwater • Support the hydrogeological monitoring of Great Artesian Basin springs and other groundwater resources • Understand and manage surface water systems including the Lake Eyre Basin 	Implementation of the Far North Prescribed Wells Area Water Allocation Plan	25,000			25,000
Water Affecting Activities assessment and approvals and project support	336,544					336,544		
State Water Planning and Management contribution ³	76,166					76,166		
Bore audit, extension, education and well compliance support	131,335					131,335		
Lake Eyre Basin Riparian Vegetation and Springs restoration				321,000		321,000		
LPF – Monitoring Springs in Flinders Rangers ⁵				196,000		196,000		
Water Security Program				55,000		55,000		
Program delivery ²	214,862			579,917		794,779		
 Adaptive Land Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the impacts of pest plants and animals on production systems • Reduce excessive grazing pressure across all land uses • Build land managers' capacity in adaptive climate smart agriculture, best practice land management and rehabilitation • Build knowledge of practices that protect soil health and function 			Biteback – Wild dog management	194,474	63,000		257,474
				Weed control	131,349			131,349
				Building Pastoral Sustainability		205,859		205,859
		Landscape Priorities Fund – Kangaroo Partnership ⁵		76,000		76,000		
		Landscape Priorities Fund – Statewide Rangeland Goat Management		136,978		136,978		
		Landscape Priorities Fund – Sustainable Land Management ⁵		265,000		265,000		
		Landscape Priorities Fund – Undersized Goats		258,256		258,256		
		Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator		45,000		45,000		
		Smarter Grazing Stronger Lands		52,500		52,500		
		LPF – Building the Feed Bank		82,750		82,750		
		SAAL Pest plant and animal	50,000	100,000		150,000		
		LPF – Resilient Rangelands Two		86,000		86,000		
		Program delivery ²	550,214	90,800		641,014		
		 Protecting and enhancing biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage and monitor current and emerging threats to identified priority natural and Cultural species and places • Support threatened species and ecosystem recovery • Partner to maintain and improve the condition of the Great Artesian Basin and water-dependent ecosystems 	Discovery4Recovery		331,698		331,698
Wetland Wonders				384,993		384,993		
Plains-Wanderer ⁵				85,117		85,117		
Ramsar Strategic Adaptive Management ARC linkage	13,300					13,300		
Pest Control	50,000					50,000		
SAAL Pest plant and animal	50,000					50,000		
HPAI Threat Mitigation ⁵				136,921		136,921		
Ecology	127,007					127,007		
Program delivery ²	167,256			334,263		501,519		
Total expenditure					4,210,290	4,517,650	431,000	9,158,940

1. Total expenditure exceeds income received in 2026-27 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.

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.

5. Project subject to confirmation.

TABLE 2: Future expenditure projections

Priority	Key Projects/ Activities	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 (\$)	2029-30 LANDSCAPE AND WATER LEVIES (\$)	2029-30 EXTERNAL FUNDS (\$)	2029-30 STATE APPROPRIATION (\$)	2029-30 TOTAL (\$)
Climate resilient region	Projects	0	234,475	0	234,475	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
People and partnerships	Projects	1,124,110	0	154,000	1,278,110	1,147,587	0	154,000	1,301,587	1,142,511	0	154,000	1,296,511
Water management	Projects	641,071	304,000	0	945,071	656,473	200,000	0	856,473	672,259	200,000	0	872,259
Adaptive Land Management	Projects	243,886	829,652	0	1,073,538	248,264	135,976	0	384,240	68,750	61,383	0	130,133
Protecting and enhancing biodiversity	Projects	180,182	883,770	0	1,063,952	183,437	0	0	183,437	186,773	0	0	186,773
	Program delivery ¹	1,979,317	814,225	283,925	3,077,467	2,023,675	170,000	291,023	2,484,698	1,717,513	170,000	298,299	2,185,812
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		4,168,566	3,066,122	437,925	7,672,613	4,259,435	505,976	445,023	5,210,434	3,787,806	431,383	452,299	4,671,488

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

Funding sources 2026/27

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.

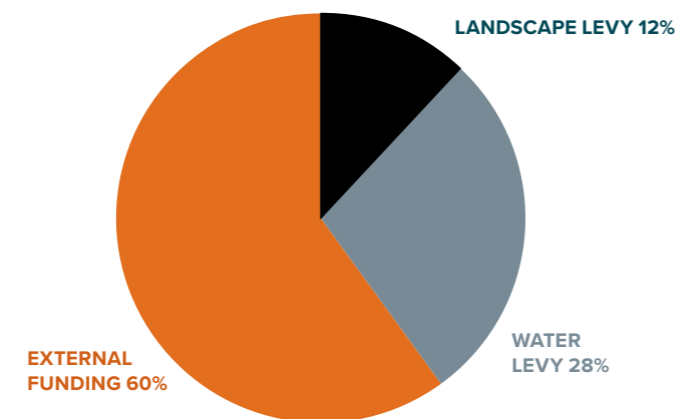
Levies provide a primary source of funding for the management of the region's natural resources, and ensure works can be undertaken to achieve the board's vision. Levies also provide the board with the ability to leverage significant additional government funding to increase the volume of work that can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

TABLE 3: Sources of income

FUNDING SOURCE	2026/27 BUDGET (\$)
Landscape and water levies	
Landscape levy ¹	1,009,032
Water levy ^{1,2}	1,303,172
Levy – co-produced	1,048,716
State Government	
State recurrent ³	431,000
Australian Government	
Discovery4Recovery	352,000
Wetland Wonders	384,993
Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator	235,976
Regional Capacity Services	382,300
Building Pastoral Sustainability	326,717
Plains-Wanderer	85,117
Other	
Landscape Priorities Fund – Building the Feed Bank ³	165,500
Landscape Priorities Fund – Kangaroo Partnerships ³	76,000
Landscape Priorities Fund – Monitoring Springs in Flinders Ranges ³	196,000
Landscape Priorities Fund – Statewide Rangelands Goat Management ³	72,000
Landscape Priorities Fund – Resilient Rangelands Two ³	39,202
Landscape Priorities Fund – Undersized Goats ³	155,000
Water Security Program	55,000
Landscape Boards of SA Governance Project and Policy Team (host region for State program)	318,910
Drought Hub – Smart Grazing Stronger Lands	105,000
National Soils Monitoring Program	26,895
MoAA – Buffel Grass with AW ⁴	70,000
DIT – Roadside Weed Control	570,000
FN Drought Resilience Plan	99,900
HPAI Threat Mitigation Project	136,921
SIF Funding	TBC
Interest	270,000
TOTAL INCOME	7,915,352

1. Landscape and water levy total income to be raised in 2026/27 is based on 2.4% actual CPI rate (September 2025 quarter) increase on the approved 2025/26 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*.

4. Subject to confirmation

* All priority areas include funding for First Nations projects and partnerships

Koonamore Daisy
(*Erodiohyllum elderi*)
at Martin's Well.
Adnyamathanha Country.
Photo: Alice Allington

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), Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT), 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 2026/27 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.

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

PROPERTY SIZE	2026/27
<10ha	\$81.00
10ha - <100ha	\$283.50
100ha - <100,000ha	\$567.01
100,000ha or greater	\$972.01

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 2026/27 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	2026/27
Residential, Vacant and Other	\$49.06
Commercial/Industrial	\$98.12
Primary Production	\$245.30

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

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA	2026/27		
	Council contribution to regional landscape levy (\$)	Number of Rateable Properties	Estimated Council Levy Collection Fees. (\$)
Coober Pedy	83,058	1580	3,620
Roxby Downs	97,258	1882	3,716
The Flinders Ranges	101,799	1206	3,500
Port Augusta	418,479	7743	5,592
TOTAL	700,621		16,428

*As advised by councils in January 2026

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 2026/27, 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 2026/27 water levy rates will be increased by CPI on the 2025/26 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	2026/27 LEVY RATE (c/KL)
Mining; including product processing, dewatering, mining camp supply, and associated mining uses	\$0.0855
Co-produced water	\$0.0474
Commercial (including irrigation), Town Water Supply, Industrial, Tourism and Recreation	\$0.0550

Evaluating the Regional Landscape Plan

- Annual achievements will be reported after the end of each financial year on the board's projects and programs
- Once within the five years of the plan, the board will evaluate how successful it has been in achieving the outcomes outlined against each of its priorities and focus areas
- A detailed monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and improvement framework will be developed and implemented to measure progress and evaluate success
- Learnings will be used to improve the board's program delivery and decision making





Painted Hills Arckaringa, Antakirinja
Matuntjara- Yankunytjatjara Country.
Photo: Dan Duval.

South Australian Arid Lands Landscape Board

1 Jervois Street, Port Augusta SA 5700

Phone: 08 8429 9666

Email: saal.landscapeboard@sa.gov.au

www.landscape.sa.gov.au

