

State Landscape Strategy



Strategy partners

South Australia's landscape boards, peak bodies, local and state government agencies and other stakeholders in managing landscapes have come together to develop this strategy.

We are partners in improving our landscapes through strategic and collective action. We bring our unique capabilities together to deliver on shared outcomes.

The organisations contributing to this strategy include:

- Regional landscape boards
- Green Adelaide
- Primary Producers SA
- Conservation Council of SA
- Local Government Association of SA
- First Nations of SA
- Ag Excellence Alliance
- Ag Bureau of SA
- SA Nature Alliance
- Friends of Parks SA
- Landcare Association of SA
- SA Native Title Services
- Premier's Climate Change Council
- Coast Protection Board
- Native Vegetation Council
- SA Water
- Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA)
- Department for Environment and Water (DEW)

The State Landscape Strategy is a statutory document under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*.

What are landscapes?

Reflecting an integrated hills to sea approach, South Australia's landscapes are made up of three components:

The natural environment

Including our rivers and plains, forests and hills, coasts and seas, as well as the built environment

Our natural resources

Including land, soil, water, native vegetation, animals and ecosystems.

Community values

Relating to the ways people interact with their environment, including environmental, social, cultural and economic values, and First Nations connection to country.

First Nations Acknowledgement

The South Australian Government acknowledges Aboriginal First Nations as our state's first peoples and nations, and that their deep knowledge and relationship with Country continues to be critical in sustainably caring for our lands and waters.

Foreword



The Landscape South Australia reforms have delivered a back-to-basics policy platform to ensure that natural resources management in South Australia delivers for people and for nature.

I have been incredibly pleased with the way that this reform has gone. From my perspective a significant amount of goodwill has been rebuilt between boards and levy payers and each board has built a strong capacity to deliver for its region, putting authentic community engagement at the heart of all they do. This approach has seen the forging of new partnerships with land managers, councils, environmental NGOs, traditional owners and individuals who are passionate about a healthy thriving landscape across our state's diverse geography.

The Landscape Boards have been in operation since 2020 and the State Landscape Strategy brings together seven high level priorities that all the boards and their communities can work towards achieving. These priorities recognise that while practical on-ground action usually happens at a local level, there are a range of significant themes which can and should be driven at a statewide level.

Statewide coordination of policy development, innovation, investment and advocacy will all assist in making progress towards these priorities and a whole-of-state effort will be more likely to see measurable positive change for the resilience and health of our natural environment.

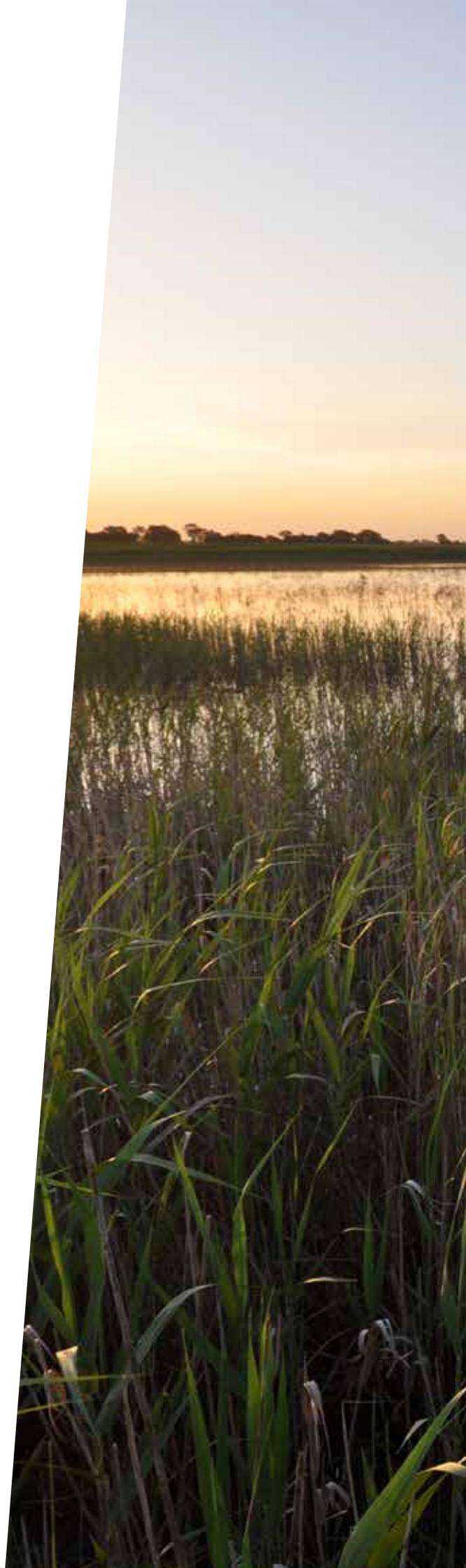
I wish to thank everyone who has contributed towards this strategy. It is an excellent piece of work which sets an ambitious foundation for the care of South Australia's natural world.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Speirs', with a horizontal line underneath.

David Speirs MP
Minister for Environment and Water

Contents

Foreword	1
Introduction	4
Statewide Priorities	8
Sustainable primary production	9
Soils.....	10
Water	11
Pest plant and animal management.....	12
Impact-causing native species.....	13
Nature conservation and biodiversity.....	14
Fire, flood and drought recovery	16
Commitments	17
Climate Change.....	18
First Nations participation	19
Community	19
Implementing the Strategy	20
Regional Priorities	23



Vision

South Australia's landscapes support healthy ecosystems, prosperous businesses and resilient communities – now and for future generations.

The Strategy will:

- 1** Lead, inspire and coordinate action to improve landscape and community outcomes
- 2** Guide joint efforts by partner organisations on our shared priorities
- 3** Invite current and new partners to join us and invest in South Australia to lead exemplary landscape management

Introduction

This ten-year Strategy sets our collective vision and guides the individual and collective efforts of all landscape partners to tackle our shared priorities.

This Strategy provides a framework to bring together the combined capacity of regional communities, private landholders, landscape boards, state and local governments, industry, the conservation sector and First Nations, to jointly tackle the big issues.

This Strategy sets our joint vision, identifies major challenges we all share, and marks out key directions we will take to address these challenges over the next ten years. It outlines seven statewide priorities requiring our shared effort and three foundational commitments for how we will collectively deliver on our priorities. It outlines mechanisms for implementation, including principles for the Landscape Priorities Fund and a monitoring and evaluation framework.

Partnerships are the foundation to our success. By working together, we will achieve more meaningful outcomes for our landscapes, for our communities and for South Australia.

Through the combined efforts of many organisations, we aim to collectively implement the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, to promote sustainable and integrated management of the State's landscapes, and protect the State's natural resources.

While the Strategy primarily assists those partner organisations to coordinate their efforts, it also informs the broader community about the breadth and focus of landscape management action across the state.

The need for action now

Healthy and resilient landscapes are fundamental to our prosperity and wellbeing. They are critical to our capacity to adapt to the many challenges and opportunities we face in coming years.

Our natural systems have been under pressure for many years. While some systems are healthy, others are in decline. Climate change will add pressure to these systems, and to our industries and communities. Economic growth, demographic change, technology and the increasing consumer demands for sustainability will continue to transform our landscapes as we harness emerging opportunities and adapt to unexpected changes.



South Australians have a proud history of working together to tackle complex environmental and social challenges, including: our ability to manage scarce water resources for all; dramatically reducing soil erosion over the past 70 years; and more recently, demonstrating how local policy and action can address global climate challenges. We need to keep working together to maintain and enhance the health of our landscapes, so that our communities and economy can continue to prosper.

The next ten years

We are at a crucial moment. Every year matters, every choice matters and every person matters. The challenges are complex, but we can tackle them if we act now and if we act together. We can achieve a bright future for our state and for the health of our landscapes.

The United Nations has declared 2021-2030 as the Decade for Restoration, aiming to protect and revive the ecosystems that support life on earth. These are the years that scientists say will count most in the fight to avert climate change and the loss of millions of species.

This strategy is focused on these critical next ten years. It also provides a framework that will support long-term resilience and prosperity for future generations.

Local, regional & state action

Regional communities are at the centre of our collective efforts, as the engine room that drives landscape management (including land, water, coast and marine environments). Local managers know best the challenges they face and how to tackle them. Regional voices are powerful in driving community action and collaboration, and in unifying efforts to not only address the complexities of landscape challenges, but also to bring additional funding and expertise to the table.

This Strategy draws from the priorities of each regional community, expressed through their regional landscape plans, and helps to inspire and guide a range of organisations in managing landscapes at all levels. The priorities from each regional plan can be found on page 24-25. As regional plans are revised over time, they will also take this Strategy into account.

But not all issues can be addressed at local and regional levels. We need to complement these efforts with cross-regional and statewide action. This Strategy sets out the priorities and directions we need to pursue together to protect, restore and enhance our landscapes across the state.

How we work together: Partnerships

Partnerships are the foundation required to achieve the vision and goals of this Strategy. We cannot face future challenges, or maximise our opportunities, alone. We need to harness new thinking and approaches that a diversity of partners can bring.

The stakeholders who have developed this Strategy will pursue meaningful partnerships that are:

Collaborative and mutually beneficial

Partnerships go beyond contracts and agreements – they enable shared ownership and decision-making.

Built on trust

Partners have genuine conversations, respect differences, and contribute openly and transparently to actions and outcomes.

Diverse

Partners bring diverse skills, perspectives, connections and influence to achieve our goals.

Accountable

Partners have clear expectations on their responsibilities, their scope of influence, and what success for the partnership looks like.

Continuously improving

Partners evaluate our work, learn from experience, and share what we learn.

Current landscape condition and trends

We monitor the health of our landscapes to enable adaptive management. A snapshot of statewide indicators in 2020 is included below – these may look very different from region to region. Statewide and regional indicators help to inform planning and action by partners, and informs state of the environment reporting.

Indicator	Condition	Trend
 Agricultural land (days protected from erosion)	 Good	 Stable
 Agricultural land acidity	 Fair	 Getting worse
 Wetlands	 Fair	 Stable
 Groundwater	 Fair	 Stable
 Aquatic ecosystem condition	 Fair	 Unknown
 Invasive species	 Fair	 Stable
 Land (native fauna)	 Fair	 Getting worse
 Land (native flora)	 Fair	 Getting worse
 Land (protected areas)	 Fair	 Getting better
 Seagrass	 Poor	 Stable
 Fish stocks	 Good	 Stable
 Rainfall	 Fair	 Getting worse
 Temperature	 Fair	 Getting worse

Source: data.environment.sa.gov.au/Trend-and-condition-reports

Drivers of change in South Australia's landscapes

South Australia's landscapes, communities and our way of living will always face change. Whilst this strategy is focused on the next ten years, we need to provide a framework that will support resilience and prosperity for future generations. The drivers of change we consider today will help decision making for the future, including:

Climate change

Our landscapes, industries and communities will need to adapt to reduced rainfall in spring and autumn, higher temperatures, longer and more severe drought, more dangerous fire seasons, and an increased spread of new and existing weeds. Opportunities will also emerge from decarbonisation and adaptation, including new industries and jobs.

Economic Growth

South Australia aims to achieve significant growth in value generated from tourism, food, wine, agribusiness, forestry, energy and mining. This can create exciting new opportunities, however it is everyone's responsibility to consider and carefully manage the corresponding pressures on our landscapes and natural resources, such as potential damage to ecosystems.

Demographic changes

Population growth in some areas, and people moving away from other areas, is changing local landscapes in different ways as communities adapt to changing economic and social conditions. There are significant environmental, social and economic impacts in peri-urban areas, where habitat loss and increasing weeds and pest animals are major challenges. Decreasing populations in some communities creates different impacts, especially from a loss of capable landscape managers.

Technology

We need to embrace and harness new technology and practices that can increase the sustainability, productivity and health of our landscapes. GPS systems, drones, new pest control methods, higher yield crops, the circular economy, plant-based proteins, reintroducing native predators and real time monitoring of our landscapes can all assist in achieving our vision. However, we must keep an eye on any additional pressures or unexpected consequences.

Sustainability

South Australians, regulators and international markets are demanding more sustainable practices, ethical and sustainable financial mechanisms, and greater involvement of First Nations in our economy and industries. This provides a huge opportunity, and expectation, on how we support land managers to manage their landscape.

The scale and pace of change of many of these drivers will continue to increase. Other risks are also becoming more likely, including biosecurity threats to human health, the environment and primary industry, and shifts in trade opportunities for a range of industries.

Statewide Priorities

We have identified seven priorities across the state requiring our shared effort to address over the next ten years.

1 Sustainable primary production

Goal: Greater prosperity and wellbeing is attained from sustainable and productive landscapes

Context

Sustainable primary production is central to our economy, the health of our landscapes and community wellbeing. It relies on healthy landscapes and ecosystem functions including pollination, soil health, pest control, nutrient cycling, water purification and climate moderation. These systems are under increasing pressure due to climate change.

Sustainable primary production benefits surrounding landscapes and communities and is critical to achieving our vision. A significant proportion of our native vegetation, water catchments and soil carbon sequestration capacity exists in primary production landscapes.

Key links

- Future Drought Fund
- National Landcare Program
- Growth State – Food, Wine and Agribusiness Plan for Growth
- Australian agricultural industry sustainability frameworks

Focus for 2022-32

- Support primary producers to develop and continuously improve best practice within modern production systems to respond to emerging issues, use productive, climate resilient, sustainable and regenerative practices, and to adopt innovative techniques and AgTech solutions.
- Increase the number of primary producers and First Nations gaining recognition and commercial value from the stewardship of natural resources, including market access and premiums; stewardship payments (eg. biodiversity and carbon markets); improved productivity and profitability; and resilience to climate change and associated shifts in local and global conditions.
- Work with the fishing and aquaculture industry to maintain and enhance the health of aquatic habitats and facilitate long-term ecologically sustainable development aimed at long term sustainability.

Achieved through projects like:



Wildlife for Wine

Hills and Fleurieu with Northern and Yorke

Enhancing biodiversity and productivity in vineyards by implementing Biodiversity Action Plans on individual properties.



National Agricultural Stewardship Program Eyre Peninsula

Conducting pilot programs, including: Carbon + Biodiversity, Enhancing Remnant Vegetation, and the Australian Farm Biodiversity Certification scheme.

2 Soils

Goal: Soils are healthy and resilient, underpinning primary production, ecosystem function and wellbeing

Context

Healthy soils underpin healthy ecosystem function and environmental services, and sustainable primary production. They provide resilience to the challenges of seasonal variations, natural disasters and climate change, they sequester carbon, they support our wellbeing, and they are essential for food production.

Primary producers have improved land management practices and techniques, achieving healthier soils and lower erosion. However, climate change is placing added pressure on soils, with extreme weather events and prolonged dry conditions. It's important that we continue to emphasise soil health as a foundation for healthy, resilient landscapes.

Key links

- National Soil Strategy
- National Landcare Program
- Carbon Farming Roadmap for South Australia

Focus for 2022-32

- Maintain focus on managing degrading processes, overcoming soil constraints and improving soils.
- Optimise soil health for production, conservation, and human health outcomes.
- Regenerate soil ecosystem services for carbon storage, water storage and filtration, nutrient cycling and storage, flood mitigation, microbial resources and functions.
- Address soil acidity where it is getting worse.
- Manage the increased risk of wind and water erosion due to climate change.
- Modernise soil information systems to support informed decision-making.
- Recognise that priorities in each region will be tailored to local conditions for example to address salinity issues that are getting worse in some landscapes.

Achieved through projects like:



Carbon Farming Limestone Coast

Developing a roadmap for the adoption of carbon smart land management in the region.



Soil Health and Regeneration Murraylands and Riverland

Studying the effectiveness of soil improvement treatments like regenerative practices, companion planting and organic matter amendment, soil acidity and dry saline soil remediation, wind erosion mitigation through increased biomass and mallee seep mitigation.

3 Water

Goal: Enhanced water security supports economic growth, human wellbeing and environmental resilience in a drying climate

Context

Ongoing, reliable and affordable access to water is vital to South Australia. It underpins our economy, our environment and our communities. Water is also of spiritual, social, customary and economic significance to First Nations.

South Australia has a history of adapting well to the challenges facing our water resources and is recognised internationally for its capabilities in water resource management.

Water availability is projected to decline across the state as the climate changes, putting our water supplies at risk and placing pressure on natural ecosystems. There is also increasing demand for water to support growth in agriculture, mining and energy, and to support community wellbeing and growing towns and cities.

Key links

- National Water Initiative
- Murray-Darling Basin Plan
- Water Security Statement (currently being finalised)
- Regional water allocation plans and water affecting activities policies

Focus for 2022-32

- Landscape boards will continue to lead work with stakeholders on water allocation planning to manage the take and use of water, environmental water requirements and water for critical human needs, and to recognise Aboriginal water interests.
- DEW will work with stakeholders to develop targeted water security strategies for priority areas, considering future water demand, new or augmented water sources and new technologies.
- Better support water supplies for critical human needs in at-risk self-supplied remote communities.
- Continue to drive full implementation of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan for a healthy River Murray.
- Drive innovation and competition in the water sector and water-dependent industries.
- Optimise use of all urban water sources to support growth, greening and liveable towns and cities, more efficient water use, and release water for productive use outside of urban areas.

Achieved through projects like:



Making Every Drop Count Limestone Coast

Taking a new holistic approach to water security in the Limestone Coast, to sustain community, environment, First Nations people and industry in a changing climate.



Barossa Water Security Planning Northern and Yorke

Developing an integrated water security strategy to support current demand and future growth in the Barossa region, and to address water scarcity by harnessing alternative water sources and increase resilience to future drought.

4 Pest plant and animal management

Goal: Improve the value of natural systems and primary production through coordinated state, regional and local programs to prevent, contain, or eradicate priority weeds and pest animals

Context

Pest plants and animals have cost Australia's primary production sector \$299 billion since 1960. They impact natural environments as a leading cause of species extinction, through predation, suppressing native vegetation, altering marine and freshwater ecosystems, and altering fire intensity and behaviour.

Many pest plants and animals are established in South Australia and cannot be eradicated using the technology and tools available today. By prioritising efforts based on risk and feasibility, we can coordinate large scale control programs to reduce the impacts of pests that are already established, contain or eradicate new incursions, and prevent new pests entering the state.

Key links

- Australian Weeds and Pest Animal Strategies 2017-2027
- South Australia's Biosecurity Policy 2020-2023
- State Declared Animal and Declared Plant Policies

Focus for 2022-32

- Coordinate programs at state, regional and local levels to prevent, eradicate or contain pest plants and animals, with specific timelines.
- Priority pests at the state-wide level include wild dogs, rabbits, deer, unpalatable invasive grasses and new pest animals and weeds that are not yet established.
- Priority pests in each region vary according to regional circumstances and community expectations.
- Invest in technology to collect and share information on pest identification, distribution and control.
- Invest in the development and use of new control tools, including biological controls and gene drives.
- Support First Nations involvement in pest plant and animal control.

Achieved through projects like:



Camel & Buffel Grass Control

Alinytjara Wilurara

Working with key stakeholders to support landholding Authorities to control priority pest plants and animals.



Feral Cat Management

Kangaroo Island

Working with project partners to eradicate feral cats from Kangaroo Island. So far, over 1000 cats have been culled through trapping, hunting, and annual baiting programs. If successful, Kangaroo Island will become the largest inhabited island in the world, free of feral cats.

5 Impact-causing native species

Goal: Reduce adverse impacts of native animals on the environment, primary production and people

Context

Native species are important parts of our ecosystems and landscapes. However, native animals can sometimes adversely impact people and natural environments. We see this in primary production losses, damaged habitats for threatened native flora and fauna, damaged property and revegetation works, and impacts on people's wellbeing. We adopt a living with wildlife approach, to help people and native animals co-exist.

Landholders, industries, local councils, regional landscape boards and the Department for Environment and Water all have important roles to help manage these impacts in different ways.

Key links

- South Australian Commercial Kangaroo Management Plan 2020 - 2024
- South Australian Koala Conservation and Management Strategy
- Department for Environment and Water Permit to Destroy Wildlife Policy

Focus for 2022-32

- Identify the highest priority impact-causing native species and build collaborative partnerships to tackle them at landscape scales.
- Deliver policy, planning, and targeted landscape-scale restoration and management programs, to provide alternative habitat or manage impacts of priority species in particular locations.
- Share information, education and advice on the living with wildlife approach and management options for native species to equip landholders to decide how best to manage impacts from these species.
- Develop policy and trial programs for ecosystem approaches (eg. reintroducing native predators and sustainable harvest industries).

Achieved through projects like:



Optimising Kangaroo Management in South Australia

SA Arid Lands

A new partnership project to explore approaches to kangaroo management, aiming to recognise the true value of kangaroos as a resource, and to reduce the known impacts of over-abundance on production and biodiversity values, and animal welfare.



Understanding Corella Flock Movements to Improve Management Strategies

Green Adelaide with Murraylands and Riverland, and Hills and Fleurieu

A collaboration between state government, landscape boards and the University of Adelaide that will satellite tag and track little corellas from flocks across Adelaide, the greater Mt Lofty Ranges and Fleurieu Peninsula. The project will determine the fine scale movement patterns of little corella flocks to improve impact management strategies.

6 Nature conservation and biodiversity

Goal: Biodiverse landscapes are protected, restored, enhanced and climate resilient

Context

Complex and dynamic ecosystems with abundant biodiversity are the foundation for all life on Earth. Our social and cultural identities – as well as our tourism and agriculture sectors – are underpinned by nature, our landscapes and biodiversity.

As plant and animal species respond to the changing climate, the ecosystems they make up will change too. Nature provides us with ecosystem services such as food, clean air and water, grazing systems and climate control. Biodiversity is vital to ecosystem health and is critical in the ongoing provision of these ecosystem services. Our wellbeing, survival and prosperity depend on maintaining healthy and diverse natural systems.

Focus for 2022-32

- Programs to protect, restore and enhance natural assets at a whole-of-landscape scale, including matters of national environmental significance, through collaboration between primary producers, conservation groups, First Nations, all levels of government, and communities.
- Programs to investigate the best ways to help landscapes and ecosystems adapt to climate change, and share our insights.
- Green Adelaide will focus on making a cooler, greener, wilder and climate-resilient metropolitan South Australia in partnership with local and state government organisations, community members and Kurna people.
- Align policies on greening urban areas and biodiversity sensitive urban design with other uses for these spaces to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.
- Support private land conservation, including its integration within productive landscapes.
- Coordinate conservation and restoration of coastal and marine environments.
- Support decision-making that aligns rules, values and knowledge (scientific, traditional and local).
- Programs to support our connection to nature.

Key links

- Australia's Strategy for Nature 2019-2030
- Australian Government Threatened Species Strategy 2021-31
- National Landcare Program
- South Australian Nature Conservation Directions Statement 2020

Achieved through projects like:



Bounceback (and Beyond) SA Arid Lands

A long term conservation program supporting the recovery of landscapes and species through land-scape scale threat management and reintroductions. Threatened species, such as the Yellow-footed Rock Wallaby and Western Quoll (Idnya), are a focus for monitoring effectiveness.



Hooded Plover Recovery Green Adelaide with Hills and Fleurieu

Adelaide's beaches are home to Australia's most threatened beach nesting bird - the hooded plover. A cross-regional conservation program run with Birdlife Australia, multiple partners and volunteers to deliver monitoring and education, as well as community events to recover these birds.

7 Fire, flood and drought recovery

Goal: Communities are prepared and supported to recover from natural disasters and rebuild landscapes that are more resilient to future events

Context

South Australia experiences a range of natural disasters, including fire, flood and drought, which profoundly affect people, industries and environments. In a hotter, drier climate we are likely to experience even more extreme events, including intense storms, significant rainfall events and heatwaves.

Long-term sea-level rise and increased inundation from the ocean will also impact on critically important coastal systems and estuaries. These impacts need to be managed to protect internationally important natural assets, social and cultural values, and billions of dollars of economic and community infrastructure.

Key links

- Future Drought Fund
- National Drought Agreement
- State and national disaster resilience and recovery frameworks

Focus for 2022-32

- Work with communities to support natural and primary production systems to be more resilient to a range of pressures including climate variability, drought, fire and flood.
- Enable management of landscapes in line with First Nations cultural values and practices and fire ecology to enhance biodiversity and reduce hazards to community and industries.
- Trial nature-based solutions to strengthen the resilience of landscapes and ecosystems to natural disasters.
- Support communities to prepare for and recover from extreme events, including through supporting the restoration of impacted landscapes and helping communities understand the potential drivers of future risk.

Achieved through projects like:



Coastal Flood Mapping Tool

Eyre Peninsula

Identifying areas on Eyre Peninsula and the Limestone Coast that may be vulnerable to coastal flooding due to storm surge and sea level rise, in an online platform.



Cudlee Creek Local Economic and Catchment Recovery

Hills and Fleurieu

Strengthening local economies and landscape resilience in bushfire affected areas (eg. Cudlee Creek and Cherry Gardens) by supporting communities with landholder grants, on-ground action and training to control pest animals and weeds, and to restore pastures, creeks, paddock trees and habitats.



Commitments

Together, we make these foundational commitments for how we will collectively deliver on our strategic priorities.

Climate Change

Commitment: Pursue resilient landscapes by mitigating and adapting to climate change

Context

Climate change presents both tremendous challenges and opportunities for innovatively managing our landscapes. We are committed to practical, meaningful climate action to create jobs and prosperity, protect the environment, and support community wellbeing.

South Australia aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 50% by 2030 (from 2005 levels), and to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. All sectors, including the primary production and resources sectors, and other industries that depend on our landscapes, have a significant role to play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and creating a climate resilient future.

In taking climate action, there are opportunities to grow climate smart and low emissions industries, and to create new jobs and attract additional investment, particularly to regional areas.

Key links

- Australia's Long-Term Emissions Reduction Plan
- South Australian Government Climate Change Action Plan 2021-25
- Carbon Farming Roadmap for South Australia
- Blue Carbon Strategy for South Australia

Focus for 2022-32

- Ensure that consideration of climate change risks and opportunities are embedded in all landscape plans and programs, including through adaptation and mitigation measures.
- Support regional partnerships to pursue coordinated investment in climate resilient landscapes, industries and communities, and opportunities to reduce emissions, including to deliver a cooler, greener and wilder Green Adelaide.
- Support expansion of carbon farming, blue carbon initiatives, and carbon sequestration opportunities in land and marine environments, including on conservation land, and greening of urban areas.
- Build locally-relevant knowledge, skills and capability to adapt to climate change, to reduce emissions, sequester carbon and participate in sustainability markets.
- Ensure secure, climate resilient regional and urban water supplies.
- Enhance coastal planning and management to mitigate and adapt to climate impacts on the natural and built environment.



First Nations participation

Commitment: Realise practical opportunities and outcomes for Aboriginal communities and businesses, by bringing more Aboriginal voices into decision-making

Context

Aboriginal people have deep knowledge of and relationship with country which continues to be critical to caring for our lands and waters. Practical connection with, and active involvement in, managing natural resources and landscapes is vital for the wellbeing and prosperity of First Nations.

First Nations want to participate more deeply in the management of landscapes to fulfil their obligations to culture and country. They want to partner with other landholders, build on ongoing employment programs, and lead the design and implementation of future initiatives. Expected outcomes include improved connection to country, improved landscapes, economies, health and wellbeing.

On parks, community-held and private land, First Nations can use their knowledge and skills in managing natural resources to care for country. This will directly build sustainable employment and businesses in tourism, food, pastoralism, bush medicine and emerging industries.

Key links

- Closing the Gap
- Landscape Boards Aboriginal and Torres-Strait Islander Statement of Commitment

Focus for 2022-32

- Realise practical opportunities and outcomes for Aboriginal communities and businesses by bringing more Aboriginal voices into decision-making, including through landscape board commitment to partnering with First Nations.
- Involve First Nations in state-level landscape policy and programs.
- First Nations, landscape boards, and other organisations will continue to develop better ways to bring traditional knowledge and values together with scientific knowledge, regulation and other value systems to better manage our landscapes.

Community

Commitment: Enhance the role of communities in leading landscape management

Context

Communities are the heart of landscape management. Those who work on, live on and care for the land are well placed to sustain our environment. Thousands of volunteers contribute their time and expertise to restore their local landscapes.

We value their knowledge and deep understanding of the landscape and bring this into decision-making to learn from their experiences. It is the role of government and landscape boards to listen to and work alongside communities, conservation groups and land managers, providing support and advice where needed.

Key links

- Better Together principles
- Volunteering Strategy for SA

Focus for 2022-32

- Involve regional communities, land managers and industry in on-ground delivery, and provide support mechanisms, to strengthen the skills, knowledge and capacity of people to sustainably manage landscapes.
- Coordinate collective efforts to build leadership and operational capacity of landscape boards and other partners, with succession planning, mentoring, and enabling Aboriginal and young people to engage more effectively in decision-making.
- Deliver nature education programs to connect communities with nature.
- Promote continuous improvement and best practice at national, state and regional levels through effective leadership, collaboration and sharing learning with partners.

Implementing the Strategy

This Strategy is a high level, ten year document that sets our collective vision and guides the individual and collective efforts of all landscape partners to tackle our shared priorities.

The Minister for Environment and Water is responsible for establishment and high-level oversight of the Strategy. Implementation of the Strategy will be overseen by the Landscape Board Chairs Forum, with involvement of peak bodies and key government agencies.

Implementation will occur through our individual and collective efforts, set out in the business plans of individual organisations and a range of other strategies and programs, and the efforts of communities and individuals throughout the state.

To ensure this is a living Strategy, its implementation is supported by flexible statewide tools that can be updated regularly as we learn from our efforts and adjust course:

Collaborative action

The Landscape Board Chairs Forum will work with partner organisations to develop and pursue a rolling three-year plan of priority shared initiatives that require focused collective efforts to directly address the Strategy's priorities.

Landscape Priorities Fund

A statutory fund for investing in large-scale, multi-year integrated landscape management projects that align with the principles laid out in this Strategy, below.

State Landscape Policy Library

A new virtual policy library that will connect a range of policies and guidelines to achieve the goals of the Strategy and the Landscape South Australia Act 2019.

Statewide Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

A framework for monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the trend and condition of South Australia's landscapes and natural resources. Information will be available to all partners and the wider community, and we will promote active sharing of lessons learned. It will also inform state of the environment reporting.

Landscape Priorities Fund Principles

Partnerships

Initiatives should be delivered through partnerships between regional landscape boards, communities, organisations and individuals who can help to drive action and, where possible, co-invest.

Landscape scale

Initiatives should focus on achieving landscape scale restoration and rehabilitation, and, if relevant, provide or test methods that can be scaled up.

Regional Governance

Regional landscape boards are responsible for business and financial oversight of initiatives, monitoring outcomes, and partnership decision-making and delivery.

Tangible Outcomes

Initiatives should deliver tangible, long-term, on-ground outcomes that are transparent, attainable and agreed upon by all collaborating stakeholders.

Strategic and aligned

Initiatives should be well planned, take a long-term view, and align with the State Landscape Strategy and regional landscape plans.

Learning

Initiatives should support innovation, and include funding to evaluate performance so that stakeholders can learn, adapt, and share lessons with others.

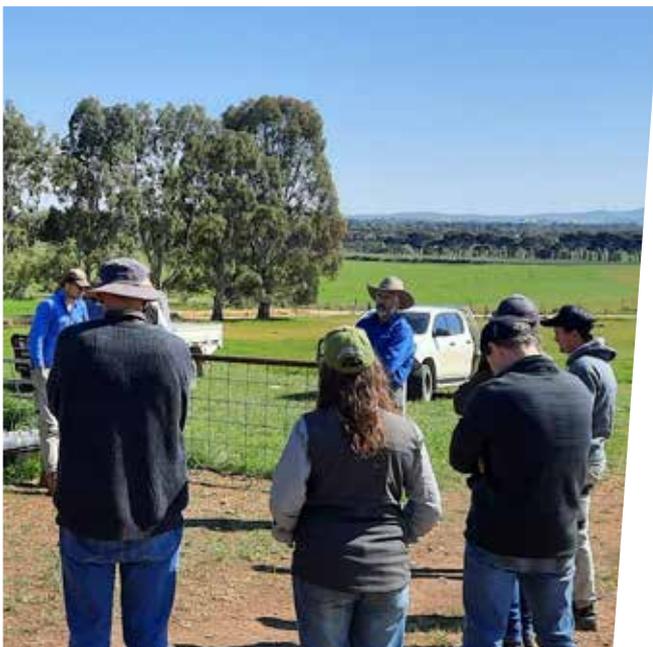
Co-investment

Landscape board and government investment, including substantial investment from the Australian Government, is critical in generating co-investment in landscape-scale improvements that benefit multiple stakeholders. We have seen the best returns on investment when boards and government leverage co-investment and action from a range of stakeholders – including industry, NGOs, Aboriginal groups, local government and primary producers.

Our next generation of investments in landscape management will develop and deepen alliances with current and new investors, including national and international philanthropic and corporate investors. We will support the rollout of sustainable investment models from the finance sector (e.g. natural capital based investment, green and climate bonds etc.), and improve coordination across funding bodies to achieve larger scale, longer term investments.

We will support development of consistent national standards, like data and monitoring protocols, required to provide confidence in the operation of sustainability markets, particularly for carbon and biodiversity.

We will make investments more transparent for communities by reporting at regional and state levels on what landscape levies are collected and spent on, including through the Landscape Priorities Fund.



How we will know the Strategy is working

The Landscape Board Chairs Forum, with involvement of peak bodies and government agencies, will be responsible for monitoring implementation of the Strategy. They will assess progress and report to the Minister each year against the following indicators:

1. Lead and inspire action at local, regional and state levels

Feedback from key stakeholders on the usefulness of this Strategy in guiding their individual actions

2. Guide joint efforts by partner organisations on our shared priorities

Progress in delivering shared actions to achieve priority goals

3. Invite and leverage investment from current and new partners

Value of new funding co-invested in landscape management in South Australia

Individual organisations will continue to assess their programs and initiatives to determine if they are delivering the expected goals.

We will continue to share our learnings, with a focus on activities that have created impact, and that can be replicated or scaled up.

The Strategy will be reviewed after five years to assess whether our collective efforts are achieving progress towards our shared vision, and if any changes are needed.

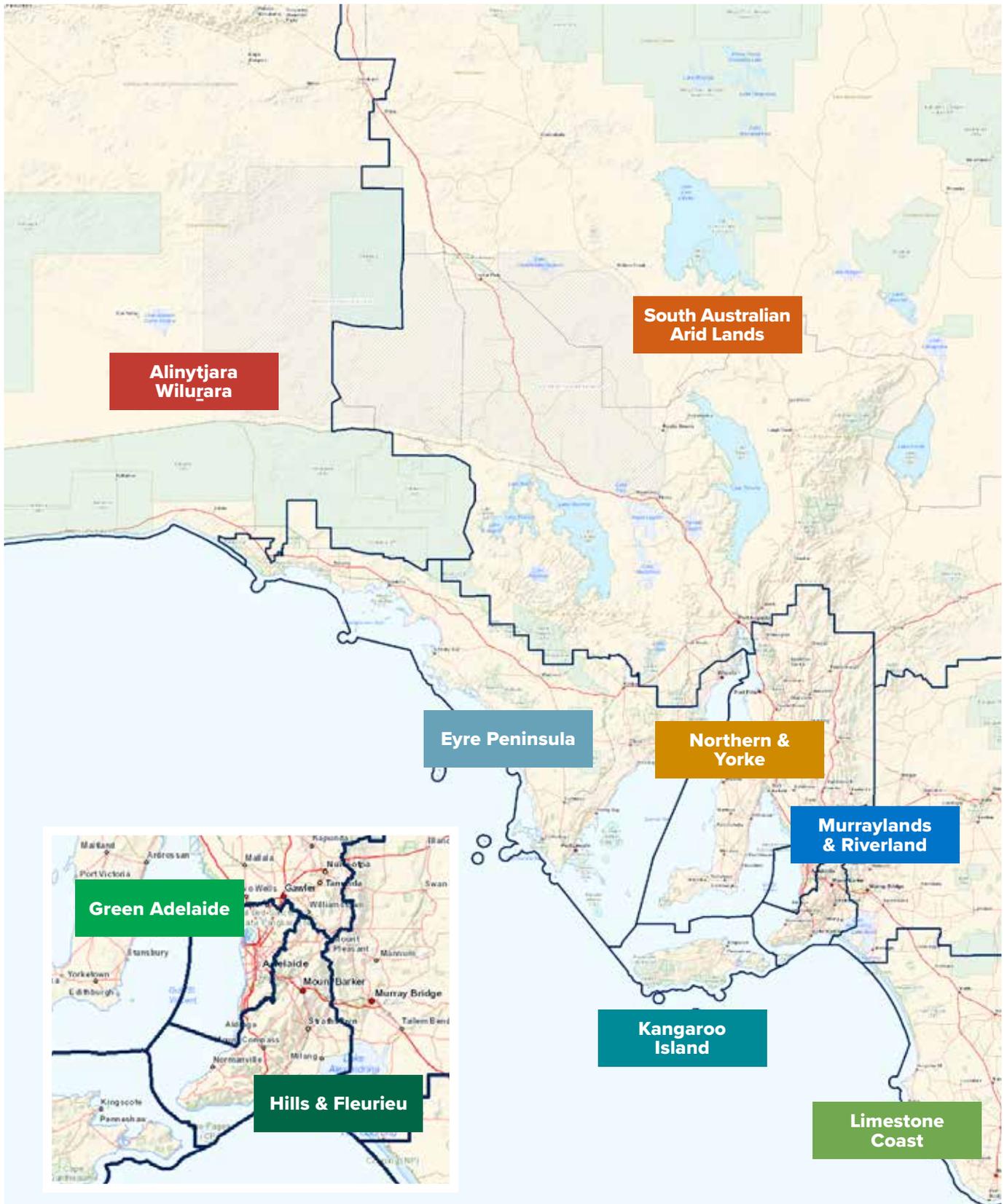
Monitoring and review of the Strategy's implementation will complement the broader statewide monitoring and evaluation framework that informs our ongoing assessment of the trend and condition of the landscape.

The Minister may amend the Strategy at any point, if the Landscape Board Chairs Forum and partner organisations recommend such a change. The Minister will consult the Landscape Board Chairs Forum and partner organisations before making any substantive amendments to the Strategy. Minor changes (such as updating references to outdated plans or programs) may be made without formal consultation.



Regional Priorities

This Strategy draws from the priorities of each regional community, expressed through their regional landscape plans. The priorities from each regional plan are set out here.



Landscape boards

For more detail on the priorities in each board's regional landscape plan, visit the board's website via www.landscape.sa.gov.au

Alinytjara Wilurara

- Board and Community Leadership – Be strong leaders to make effective decisions by exploring options to deliver better outcomes
- Healthy Soils – Work with all traditional landholders and key stakeholders to keep country strong, productive and healthy
- Pest Plant and Animal Control – Keep country strong by managing towards eradication of weeds and feral animals
- Land and Sea Biodiversity – Keeping Country healthy for native plants and animals to be strong and plenty for everyone now and in the future
- Water Management – Taking care of water for our people and country

Eyre Peninsula

- Water
- Sustainable agriculture
- Pest plants and animals
- Biodiversity
- Community

Green Adelaide

- Coastal management – Conserve and restore coastal and marine habitats and biodiversity
- Water resources & wetlands – Water resources deliver environmental, economic, social and cultural benefits
- Biodiversity sensitive and water sensitive urban design – Build industry and community capacity to design cooler and greener urban infrastructure
- Green streets & flourishing parklands – Increase the extent and quality of urban green cover
- Fauna, flora and ecosystem health in the urban environment - Conserve, restore and expand habitats for native flora and fauna
- Controlling pest plants and animals – Manage the impacts of pests and overabundant native species
- Nature education – Inspire communities to value, connect with, and care for nature

Hills & Fleurieu

- Land – Regenerating biodiverse and highly productive landscapes
- Water – Managing water resources sustainably
- Nature – Conserving natural places, ecosystems and wildlife
- Climate – Becoming a carbon neutral and climate resilient region
- Community – Everyone caring for our landscapes

Kangaroo Island

- Community – A connected community at the centre of decision-making
- Biodiversity – Healthy terrestrial and marine ecosystems and biodiversity
- Economy – Sustainable primary production and the island's economy
- Water – Effective water management
- Pests – Effective terrestrial and marine pest management

Limestone Coast

- Working collaboratively to manage pest plants and animals
- Protecting and balancing our region's water resources
- Educating and partnering to sustainably manage our landscapes
- Growing sustainable primary production
- Conserving and enhancing our region's biodiversity

Murraylands and Riverland

- Sustainable agricultural and pastoral landscapes
- Sustainable water use
- Healthy rivers, lakes and wetlands
- Healthy natural landscapes
- People at the heart of landscape management

Northern & Yorke

- Communities – Active Informed. Knowledgeable
- Biodiversity – Protected Improved. Restored
- Water management – Efficient Sustainable. Monitored
- Sustainable agriculture – Adaptive. Resilient. Healthy
- Pest plant and animal control – Targeted. Coordinated. Collaborative

SA Arid Lands

- Climate resilient region – Resilient landscapes, communities and enterprises are mitigating and adapting to climate change
- Water management – The region's water resources are managed judiciously
- Sustainable land management – Land management practices protect soil, vegetation and biodiversity
- Protecting and enhancing biodiversity – Intrinsic biodiversity values are protected and enhanced
- People and partnerships – People and community are central to looking after our landscapes



With the exception of the Piping Shrike emblem, other material or devices protected by Aboriginal rights or a trademark, and subject to review by the Government of South Australia at all times, the content of this document is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 Licence. All other rights are reserved.

© Crown in right of the State of South Australia 2021 | FIS 828374

landscape.sa.gov.au

