

# Managing South Australia's Landscapes

Putting community at the heart of managing our soil, water, pest plants and animals, and biodiversity.



PHOTO: BEN GODDE

## **First Nations acknowledgement**

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





# Overview

The South Australian Government is reforming how our landscapes are managed, putting community at the heart of sustainably managing the state's soil, water, pest plants and animals, and biodiversity.

Underpinning this new approach is the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* (the Act) and the repeal of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* from 1 July 2020.

Eight new regional landscape boards, and a new metropolitan board, Green Adelaide, will administer the Act and partner with government and regional communities.

The new boards are designed to deliver a stronger, back-to-basics system with greater autonomy and flexibility to respond to local issues.

They will support local communities and land managers to be directly responsible for sustainably managing their region's natural resources with an emphasis on land and water management, biodiversity and pest animal and plant control.

The new legislation will give communities and landholders a greater voice in managing their landscapes including the opportunity to elect three out of seven board members from 2022.

Landscape SA also includes a Grassroots Grants program and the flexibility for levy funding to be distributed from Green Adelaide to regional South Australia through a Landscape Priorities Fund.

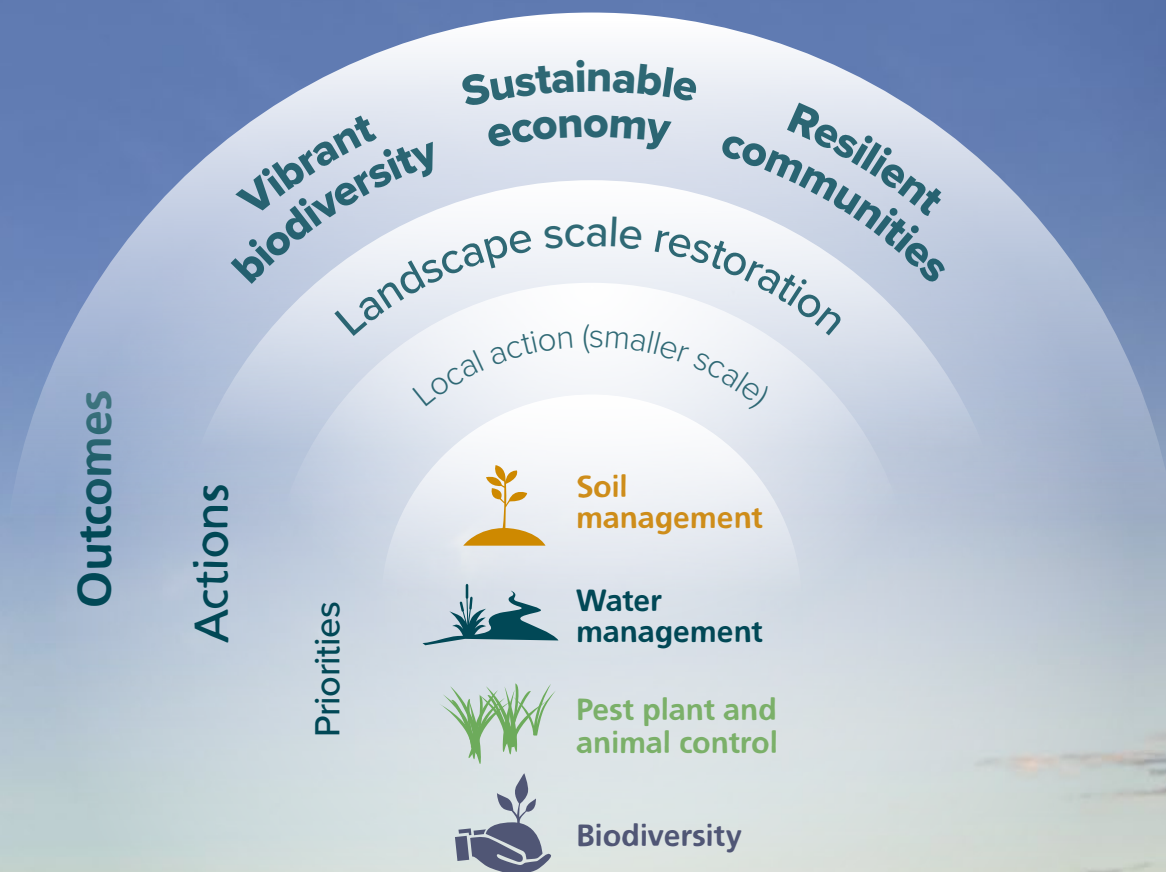
Land and water levy increases have been capped to CPI and more on-ground action will be encouraged so regional communities can become more actively involved in the management of their regional landscapes.



# What's new

- ✓ **Eight regional landscape boards** – with greater autonomy and flexibility to respond to local issues, including managing their own budgets and staff.
- ✓ **Green Adelaide** – a new and innovative organisation charged with transforming Adelaide into a world-leading, sustainable, green and climate resilient city.
- ✓ **Simpler regional plans** – with five priorities that are easy to understand.
- ✓ **Greater community representation** – with three out of seven boards members to be elected from 2022.
- ✓ **Land and water levies capped** – to ease the financial pressures on landowners.
- ✓ **State Landscape Strategy** – to improve coordination between regional and state priorities.
- ✓ **Landscape Priorities Fund** – to support larger statewide management issues, such as bushfire recovery, drought and agricultural resilience.
- ✓ **Stronger focus on climate resilience and biodiversity** – to support the development of resilient landscapes and sustainable primary production.
- ✓ **Grassroots Grants program** – with greater opportunities for volunteers and local community organisations.
- ✓ **Less red tape and simplified compliance** – to enable boards to get the job done more easily.
- ✓ **Stronger partnerships with landholders and Aboriginal communities** – to ensure that the knowledge of our regional communities and First Nations is respected, recognised and used in the management of our landscapes.





# Landscape boards of South Australia

Under the new Act, eight new regional landscape boards will facilitate the sustainable management of our state's landscapes; represented by community members committed to partnering with the community, Aboriginal peoples and landholders.

They will deliver practical, on-ground programs that manage our land, water, pest animals, plants and biodiversity through a range of partnerships, for example, with farming systems groups, environmental non-government organisations, Aboriginal communities and local councils.

The boards will work alongside community members and stakeholders to develop simple and accessible five-year regional landscape plans with five priorities. Other key functions include development of water allocation plans for prescribed water resources, where applicable, and operating as the relevant authority for a range of water, land protection and animal and plant control activities.

Landscape boards consist of seven members, including a presiding member that chairs the board.

Initially all members will be appointed by the Minister, but from 2022 three members will be elected by the community (except in regions where it is determined special circumstances apply, such as the Alinytjara Wilurara board and the specialist Green Adelaide board).

## The eight regional landscape boards include:

- Alinytjara Wilurara
- Eyre Peninsula
- Hills and Fleurieu
- Kangaroo Island
- Limestone Coast
- Murraylands and Riverland
- Northern and Yorke
- South Australian Arid Lands

A ninth region, Green Adelaide, will be governed by an expert, skills-based board, that will be focused on establishing Adelaide as a world-leading, sustainable, green, and climate-resilient city.



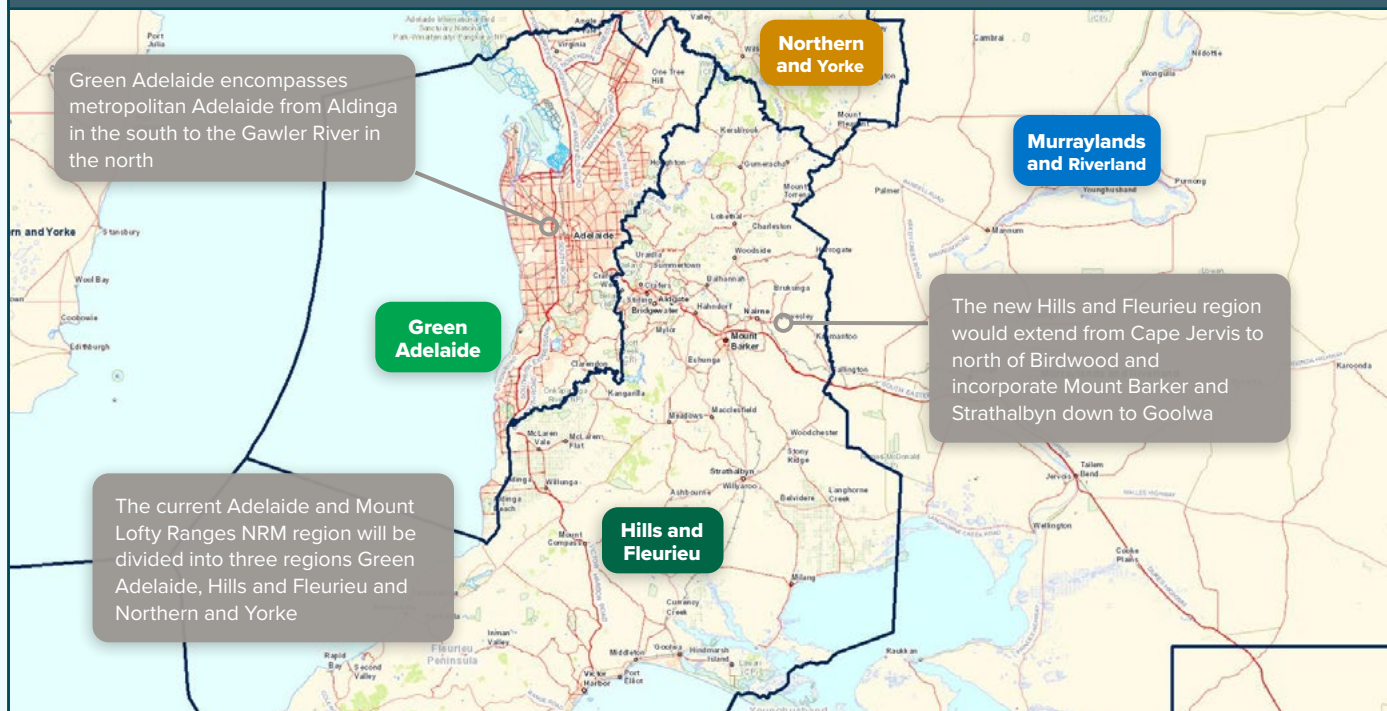


From 1 July 2020, new Landscape regions will be established. These changes will affect landowners previously in the following NRM regions:

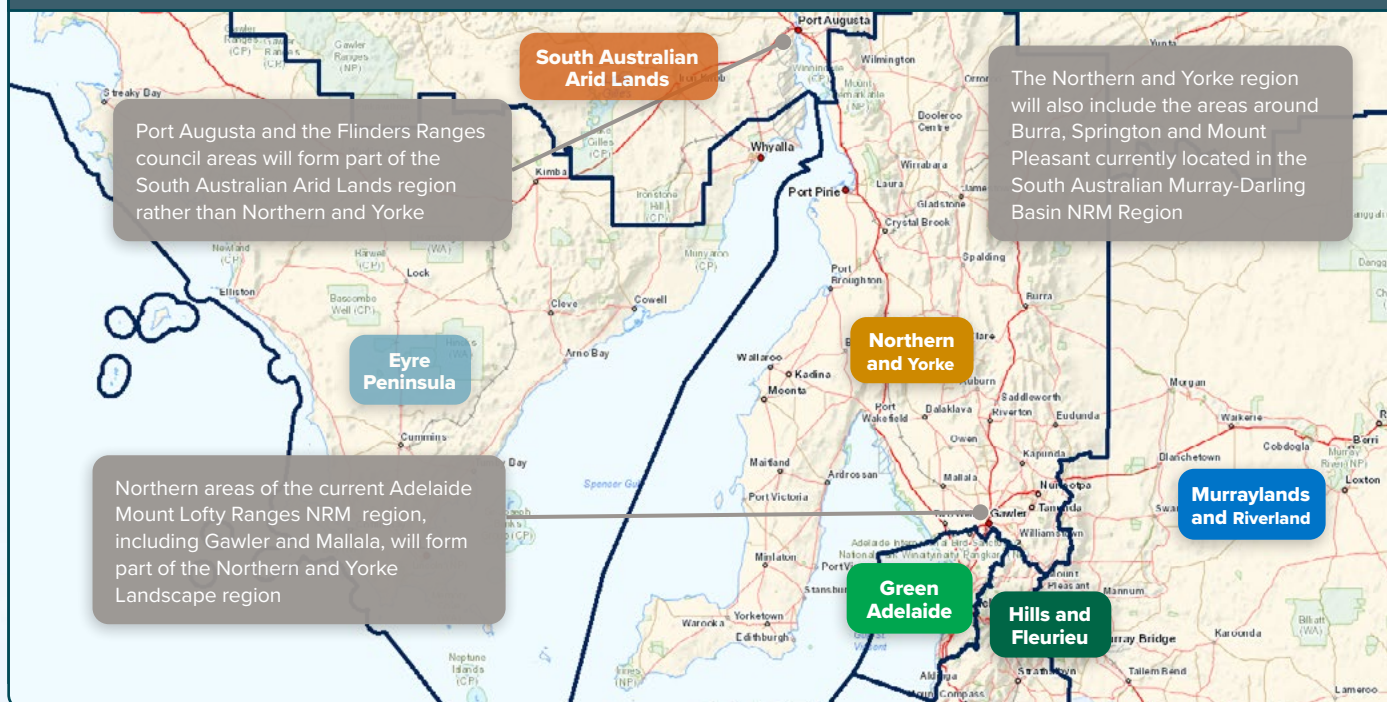
- Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges
- Northern and Yorke region
- South Australian Murray-Darling Basin.

The new landscape board regions, including Green Adelaide, also encompass marine areas adjacent to the coast. View interactive maps via [landscape.sa.gov.au](http://landscape.sa.gov.au)

## Green Adelaide and Hills and Fleurieu



## Northern and Yorke





# GREEN ADELAIDE

A new entity called Green Adelaide has been created under the *Landscapes South Australia Act 2019*, specifically in recognition of the unique environmental challenges faced in urban areas.

It will bring an integrated approach to managing Adelaide's urban environment through increased efforts to rapidly green and cool our backyards, streets and neighbourhoods, enhance biodiversity, and create open and healthy green spaces for everyone.

The new Green Adelaide region spans 17 metropolitan councils and approximately 1.3 million South Australians.

At the heart of Green Adelaide will be its partnership approach across all levels of government and with the Kaurna Nation, industry, NGOs and community groups.

It will partner with state and local government, industry and NGOs to proactively encourage policies to embed greening and water sensitive design into private and public planning and development at every scale.

## Green Adelaide's priorities

Green Adelaide will have the same powers and functions as other regional landscape boards, but will devolve its regulatory functions to other government agencies, local councils, boards or private organisations to enable the board to focus on its seven priorities:



Coastal  
management



Water resources  
and wetlands



Green streets  
and flourishing  
parklands



Biodiversity  
sensitive and  
water sensitive  
urban design



Controlling  
pest plants  
and animals



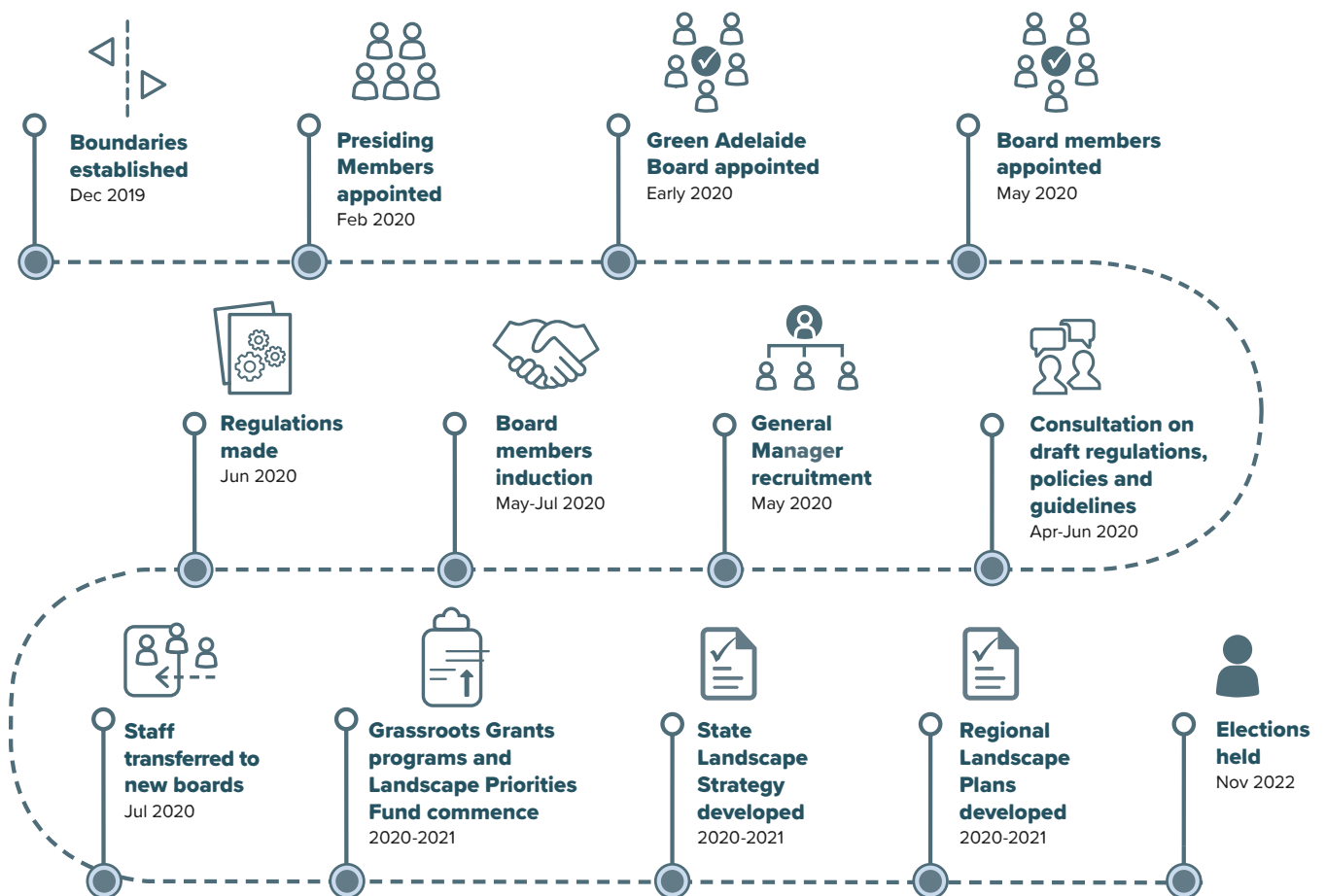
Nature  
education



Fauna, flora  
and ecosystem  
health in  
the urban  
environment



# Timeline





# Principles and benefits

The sustainable management of our landscapes helps to promote prosperous long-term businesses, thriving native species and ecosystems, and resilient communities. Among other benefits, it helps communities, industries and landscapes build resilience to, and recover from, natural disasters like drought and bushfire.

**Decentralised decision making** – inspiring and empowering regional communities to manage their landscapes and support greater flexibility and responsiveness to local issues.



- Boards will have greater autonomy and improved agility, with the power to manage their own budgets and respond to local needs.
- Boards will also have greater control over their workforce through a General Manager, who will be responsible for employing and managing staff.

**A simple and accessible system** – drawing a clear line of sight between funding and on-ground actions and outcomes.



- The new Act is less process-oriented and more flexible, with complex compliance simplified to enable landscape boards and other managers of natural resources to get the job done more easily.
- Regional plans will be simple five-year plans with five priorities, and boards will have to clearly report their spending against the levies and other funding in an annual business plan.
- Pest plant and animal control will be a priority for the new boards, with the current regulatory framework being retained and enhanced through faster processes.
- All land and water levies have been capped by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), helping to address cost of living pressures for households and businesses.
- Land levies will continue to be collected by local councils, but there will be stronger measures to ensure councils are not left out of pocket for unpaid land levies.



**A whole-of-landscape approach** – combining the efforts of land managers, stakeholders and organisations to achieve substantial, visible and long-lasting results.



- The State Landscape Strategy will be informed by whole-of-government strategies and aligned with state and regional priorities – reducing duplication of effort by facilitating statewide coordination.
- A new statewide Landscape Priorities Fund will enable greater investment in regions to manage larger landscape management

issues for our state – such as bushfire recovery, drought and agricultural resilience.

- The Landscape Priorities Fund will also support regional and sub-regional scale projects that can only be achieved by bringing the varied skills, expertise and resources of multiple partners together.

**Keeping community and land owners at the centre of how we manage our landscapes** – building strong partnerships with land users and traditional custodians; valuing their knowledge and understanding of our landscape.



- Each region, including Green Adelaide, will have a Grassroots Grants program to support the community to play a significant role in managing our natural resources, including carrying out on-ground works.
- From 2022, communities and landholders will be able to elect three out of the seven new members of the landscape boards.
- Boards will continue to deliver education as an important part of connecting urban and rural communities with nature, and building awareness of the

importance of sustainable primary production and sustainably managing natural resources.

- For the first time, supporting the interests of Aboriginal people is included in the objects of the Act and will underpin decisions made by the Minister and landscape boards.
- The importance of Aboriginal peoples' traditional knowledge, is also expressly recognised in the Act, with each landscape board required to work collaboratively with Aboriginal communities.

**Back-to-basics** – focusing on practical actions to allow land managers and stakeholders to address the land, water, pests and biodiversity priorities of their communities to complement landscape scale restoration.



- Developing strong partnerships that puts money back in the hands of communities to deliver on-ground programs will be a key priority of the new boards.
- Boards will be able to establish financial partnerships with councils, industry and other

bodies and organisations, such as environmental groups and Aboriginal organisations.

- Boards will focus on investing in practical actions that matter most to regional communities – soil, water, plants, animals and biodiversity.





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