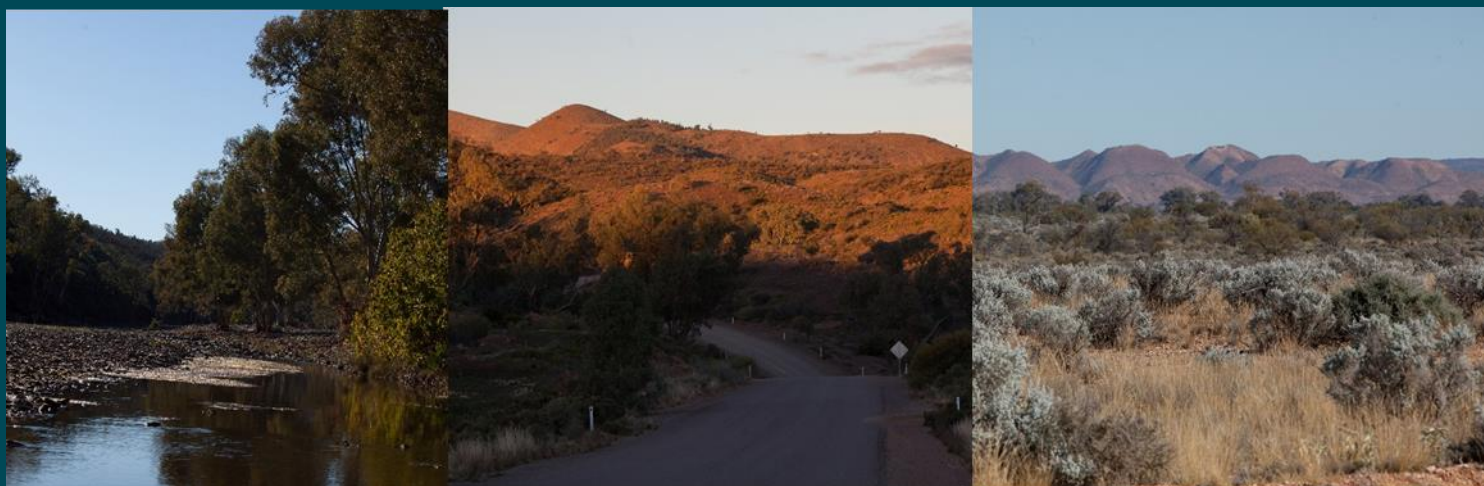


North Flinders District Plan

2021 – 2023



January 2022

District overview

The North Flinders district is located in the central eastern area of South Australia.

Landscape Features

The district is comprised of one major bioregion, the Flinders Lofty Block.

Smaller areas of three bioregions are also present: Stony Plains, Gawler and Broken Hill Complex.

Size: 38,098km² (7.24% of the SAAL region)

The District: The North Flinders district is comprised of over 100 properties, primarily used for pastoralism, tourism and conservation. Townships in the region include Hawker, Cradock, Leigh Creek, Copley, Blinman, Beltana and Parachilna. The district's population swells in the cooler months (April-October) with visiting tourists.

Traditional Owners: Adnyamathanha (majority of district); Kokatha (portions of Lake Torrens)

Land use: Aboriginal land, pastoralism (predominantly sheep), mining and energy, tourism, conservation (public and private lands), recreation, service centres, towns.

Catchment and key waterways: Predominantly Lake Torrens and Lake Frome catchments but some linkage to Lower Murray and Willochra Creek. Numerous ephemeral creeks and waterways. Numerous permanent and ephemeral springs and waterholes are present across the district.

National Parks and Reserves: Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park – Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park Co-management Board; Vulkathunha Gammon Ranges National Park – Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park Co-management Board; Nilpena Ediacara National Park; Lake Frome Regional Reserve; part of Lake Torrens National Park

Key stakeholders:

- First Nations organisations
- Pastoralists
- Conservation sector
- Tourism industry
- Outback Communities Authority
- Flinders Ranges Council
- Schools
- Townships
- Volunteers
- Mining industry
- National Parks and Wildlife Service

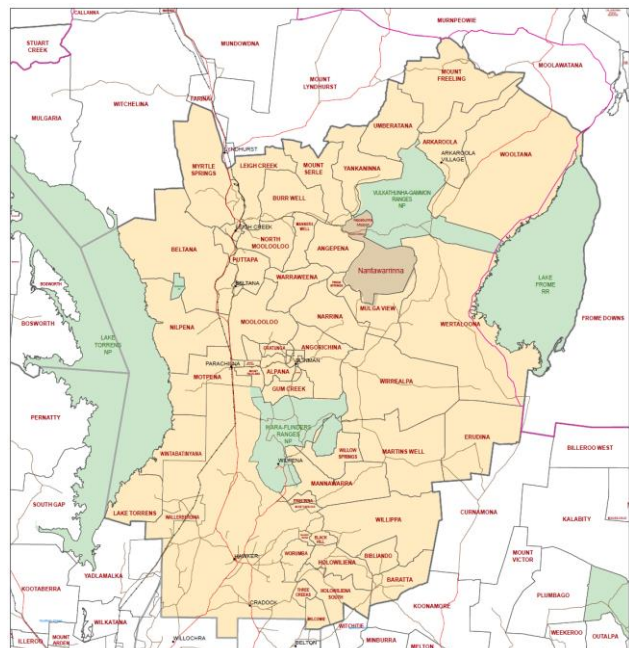


Figure 1: Map of the North Flinders district

Role of the Board

Under the Landscape South Australia (LSA) Act 2019, the Board's role is to undertake, promote and integrate the management of natural resources. Particular reference is given to land management, water resource management and pest animal and plant control. The Board operates as the relevant authority for a range of water, land protection and animal and plant control activities and works with the community in delivering its responsibilities under the LSA Act. Its roles include education and awareness raising aimed at practice change and adoption, encouraging and supporting legislative compliance, and enforcement when needed.

Role of the North Flinders Landscape Group

Landscape Groups are an important conduit for community input to landscape planning and design of the Board's programs. Groups work with local communities, to support the implementation of the Regional Landscape Plan and increase community awareness of Board programs within a Group's area.

Landscape Planning Framework



How this plan was developed

This plan was developed with involvement of the North Flinders Landscape Group during a number of planning sessions in late 2021. Information was drawn from past planning documents, current projects and stakeholder knowledge.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This district plan will be reviewed each year with the North Flinders Landscape Group to evaluate progress against priorities and plan for the next year of activities.

VISION

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

SA Arid Lands regional priorities

Priorities

Focus areas



CLIMATE RESILIENT REGION

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

- C1** Ensuring climate risk is embedded in all Board business
- C2** Providing land managers with the knowledge and skills they need to mitigate and adapt to climate change
- C3** Exploring adaptation pathways to ensure communities are climate resilient



WATER MANAGEMENT

The region's water resources are managed judiciously

- W1** Planning, research & leveraging infrastructure investment to support the judicious use of groundwater
- W2** Maintaining hydrogeology to protect Great Artesian Basin springs and groundwater-dependent ecosystems
- W3** Understanding and managing surface water systems including the Lake Eyre Basin



SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT

Land management practices protect soil, vegetation and biodiversity

- L1** Effective pest plant and animal control protecting production systems
- L2** Addressing the threat of excessive total grazing pressure
- L3** Building land managers' capacity in adaptive agriculture, best practice land management and rehabilitation



PROTECTING AND ENHANCING BIODIVERSITY

Intrinsic biodiversity values are protected and enhanced




















- B1** Managing key threats to protect natural values
- B2** Taking action for threatened species and ecosystem recovery
- B3** Maintaining and improving the condition of Great Artesian Basin springs and water-dependent ecosystems



PEOPLE AND PARTNERSHIPS




People and community are central to looking after our landscapes.



- P1** First Nations partnerships supporting cross-cultural knowledge sharing and landscape management outcomes
- P2** Supporting Landscape Groups to lead community action and education
- P3** Raising awareness of the region's natural values and connecting people to nature
- P4** Supporting community action to achieve land, water and coastal management outcomes

Priorities*	Landscape impacts	District Ranking^	Alignment to Regional Priorities**
Wild Dogs	Impacts on livestock production	High	
Goats	Grazing pressure from high goat numbers	High	
Rabbits	Added grazing pressure and preventing plant recruitment	High	
Kangaroos	Added grazing pressure	High	
Tourism impacts	Damage to the landscape, rubbish, safety	High	
Weeds – Cactus	Easily spreads, can harm livestock and native animals, can make land difficult to manage	High	
Weeds – existing	Displacing native vegetation and impacting production and biodiversity	High	
Weeds – New & Emerging	New species establishing themselves in the district	High	
Cultural access to water	Ensuring we maintain access to water for cultural purposes	High	
Soils	Lack of on ground knowledge and understanding of soils	High	
Infrastructure	A lack on infrastructure limiting diversification and industry growth in the region	Med	
Feral Cats	Impact on biodiversity	Med	
Soil erosion	Dehydrating landscapes	Med	
Town water supplies	Impacts on viability of businesses, capacity to expand and people ability to live in the region	Med	
Carbon Farming	Growing interest and potential future driver influencing land management decisions	Med	
Ground water management	Ground water resources becoming less reliable, drying up more often and reducing in quality	Med	
Community education	Ensuring the community has the knowledge and skills they need to manage the landscape	Med	
Alternative Sheep Breeds	Impacts on vegetation with different grazing patters, fencing challenges, impacts on townships and cross contamination.	Low	
Springs and Waterholes	Degradation of sites, impacts on native species	Low	

* Priorities include both threats and opportunities ranking. ^Priority ranking for the district considers the **magnitude** of the threat or opportunity (how **severe/influential** and how **widespread/ relevant**) it is, as well as the **reversibility** of its impacts. ** Some district priorities may not be regional priorities for the Board.

North Flinders - Current programs and opportunities

District priority	District Ranking	Current programs and opportunities	Status	Who	Regional Focus Area
 Climate Resilient Region					
Carbon Farming	Med	<i>Building Pastoral Sustainability (BPS) Project:</i> Building pastoral sustainability and climate adaptation through workshops, property management planning, grants, sticky beak tours, and field days.	Current /2018-2023	SAAL LB	C2, L3
		<i>Carbon Farming workshops</i>	Current /Ongoing	SAAL LB, PIRSA	C2, C3
		<i>Drought Hub</i> (Future Drought Fund program)	Current /2021-?	PIRSA, UoA, SAAL LB	C2
 Water Management					
Ground water management	Medium	<i>Water Affecting Activities Control Policy (on-going)</i> - Monitor Water Affecting Activities and promote awareness	Current /Ongoing	SAAL LB	W1
		<i>Water Infrastructure Rebate</i> for landholders	Current	PIRSA	W1
		Exploring technologies to find potable ground water for livestock	Current	Landholders/ SAAL LB grants	W1
		New technologies to locate water	Potential		W1
Springs and Waterholes	Low	Spring monitoring	Current	SAAL LB/Volunteers	
 Sustainable Land Management					
Weeds	High	<i>Cactus Control Program</i>	Current /Ongoing	SAAL LB, Landholders, Volunteers	L3
		Leigh Creek Weeds Survey	Current /Ongoing	SAAL LB, PIRSA	L3
					L3

District priority	District Ranking	Current programs and opportunities	Status	Who	Regional Focus Area
Kangaroos	High	<i>Kangaroo Management Partnership</i>	Current /2021-2023	SAAL LB	L2
Wild dogs	High	<i>Biteback</i> wild dog control program	Current /Ongoing	SAAL LB, PIRSA	L1
		<i>Dog fence re-build</i>	Current / 2021-?	PIRSA	L1
 Protecting and enhancing biodiversity					
Rabbits	High	<i>Rabbit disease releases</i>	Current /Ongoing	PIRSA	B2
Feral Cats	Med	<i>Bounceback and Beyond – Baiting trials around reintroduction sites</i>	Current /2018-2023	SAAL LB	B2
 People and partnerships					
Tourism Impacts	High	Top 10 travel tips promotion	Current /Ongoing	SAAL LB, FROTOA	P1, P3
Community Education	Medium	Workshops and training opportunities	Current /Ongoing	SAAL LB	P4
		School programs	Current /Ongoing	SAAL LB	P4

North Flinders Landscape Group Actions

District priority	Opportunity/Issue	Action/s (for Group)	When	Collaborate	Status
Climate Resilient Region					
Mitigating and adapting to climate impacts	<i>Understanding the barriers to towns and tourism operators water supplies</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Invite DEW to talk at next meeting on cultural mapping of springs 2. Conduct a survey of towns and large tourism businesses current water supply and issues 3. Generate a report from survey findings 4. Collaborate with other agencies to increase awareness of water supply issues in the region 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. October meeting 2. TBC 3. TBC 4. TBC 	Board, industry	October meeting to include visit to Yappala IPA to look at the spring.
Water Management					
Sustainable Land Management					
Soils	<i>Lack of knowledge and understanding of soils and impacts on land management</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Investigate soil mapping project from the Desert Uplands Landcare group. How were maps used, are they still utilised and how did they do it 2. Have a focus on soils at the wirrealpa workshop in June 3. Have a soils workshop in 2023 learning about soil pits 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Talk about this project at February meeting 2. June 1 3. 2023 		1. Complete
Weeds	<i>Risk of new and emerging weeds coming from abandoned yards in Leigh Creek</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organise another weeds survey in Spring 2022. 2. Engage with the community where possible in the process and encourage locals to be on the lookout for new weeds. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Spring 2022 or in response to a large rainfall event 	PIRSA, State Herbarium, Leigh Creek Progress Association	
Protecting and enhancing biodiversity					

District priority	Opportunity/Issue	Action/s (for Group)	When	Collaborate	Status
People and partnerships					
Infrastructure	<i>Increase awareness of infrastructure issues in the district</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engage with World Heritage Community Reference group on future tourism infrastructure needs. 2. Advocate for the region and identify issues to raise with the relevant agencies. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss at each meeting with World Heritage Group. 2. ongoing 	Government Agencies, World Heritage Reference Group	
Tourism Impacts	<i>Reduce the environmental impacts of travellers and improve safety for visitors</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue promotion of top 10 travel tips 2. Advocate for the region 3. Develop the top 10 travel tips poster into a brochure 	Develop travel tips brochure for the upcoming tour	FROTOA, other landscape groups, tourism businesses	
Community Education and Training	<i>Provide relevant and accessible training opportunities for the district</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a workshop program of two workshops per year 2. Develop a roster of group members to attend events 3. Develop a list of topics for ATO articles 	<p>April – Neville Bonney Workshop</p> <p>June – Wirrealpa soil workshop</p>		

Prepared by the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board on behalf of the
North Flinders Landscape Group
November 2021

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SA Arid Lands Landscape Board