

# North East Pastoral District Plan

2024 – 2026



## Introduction

This plan provides an overview of the features of the North East Pastoral district. It is one of seven regions that are managed by the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board. The key opportunities and issues relating to landscape management, priorities and actions for the North East Pastoral Landscape group can be found in this document.

Geographically the area is located in the central eastern area of South Australia. Small townships are situated along the Barrier Highway which runs through the centre of the district. The district is predominately pastoral sheep country, with the inclusion of Bimbowrie Conservation Park and Boolcoomatta Reserve. The district is home to the Olary Ranges which run east from the mid north of the state to the New South Wales Border. The Olary Ranges provides habitat for the famous Yellow Footed Rock wallaby.

### Linked bioregions

A bioregion is an ecologically and geographically defined area with common characteristics such as geology, landform patterns, climate, ecological features and plant and animal communities. The district is comprised of two major bioregions:

- Flinders Lofty Block
- Broken Hill Complex

**Size:** 31,445 km<sup>2</sup> (6% of SAAL)

**Towns (population):** Yunta – 104 (increased since 2001), Mannahill – ~8 (no trend information available), Olary – ~8 (no trend information available), Cockburn – 9 (increased since 2001)

**Aboriginal Nations:** Adnyamathanha (north-west); Wilyakali (south-east); Ngadjuri (south-west)

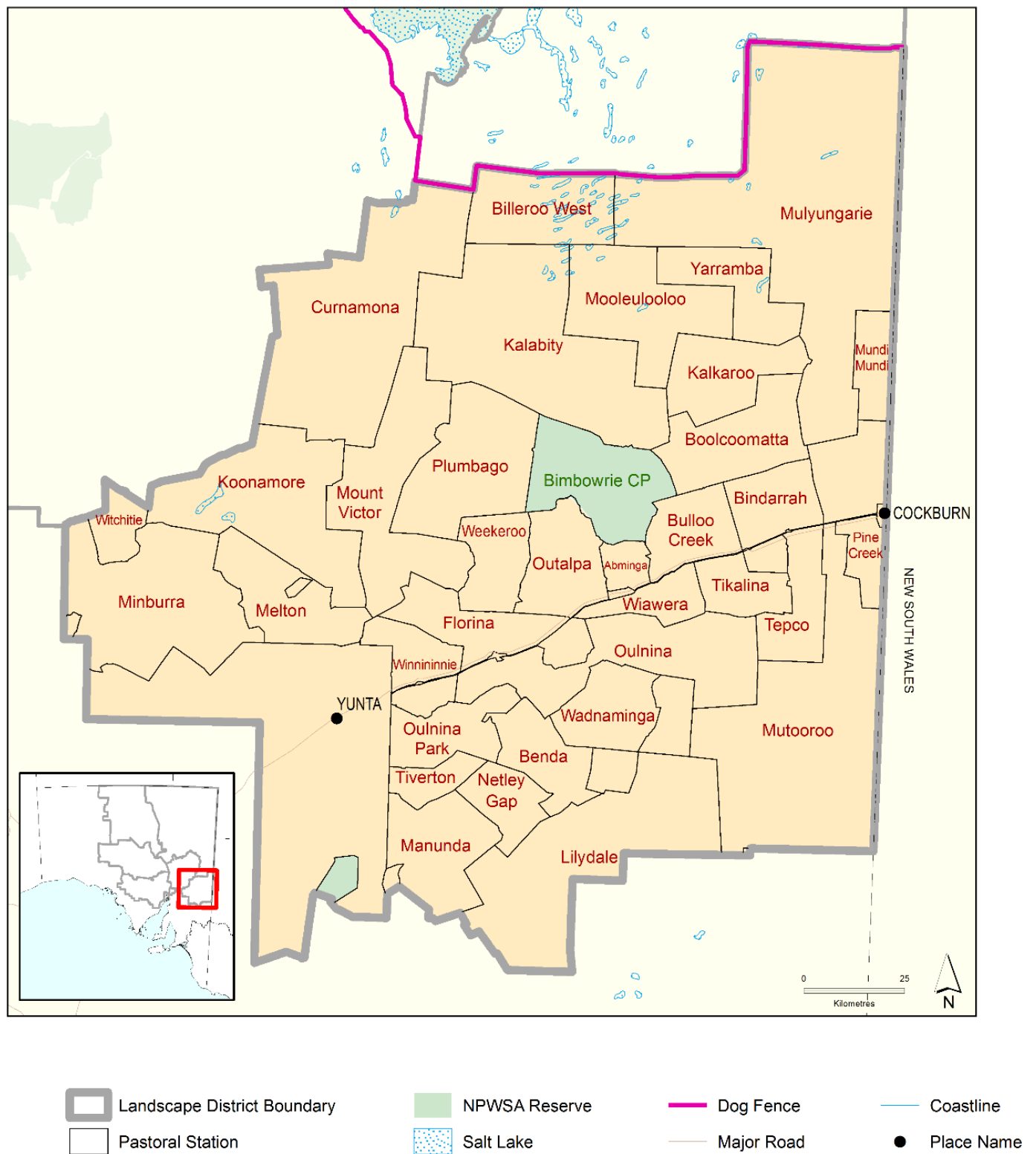
**Land use:** Pastoralism (predominantly sheep), mining and energy, conservation (public and private lands), recreation, service centres, towns.

**Catchment and key waterways:** Water resources are not a particular feature of the North East District. In the range country within the area are fractured rock groundwater aquifers with some spring outlets between Yunta and Olary. For the most part, however, there are very few reliable natural waters. The southern area falls within the Murray Darling catchment.

**National Parks and Reserves:** Boolcoomatta Reserve , Bimbowrie and Pualco Range Conservation Parks

### Key stakeholders:

- First Nations organisation – Ngadjuri, Adnyamathanha, Wilyakali, Native Title Aboriginal Corporation NAWNTAC
- Pastoralists
- Bush Heritage Australia
- University of Adelaide
- Tourism
- Outback Communities Authority
- Schools
- Townships
- Volunteers
- Mining industry
- National Parks and Wildlife Service



**Figure 1: Map of the North East Pastoral 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 East Pastoral 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 through a series of planning sessions with the North East Pastoral Landscape Group in 2024. 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 East Pastoral 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



## North East Pastoral District priorities for landscape management




Priorities*	Landscape impacts	District Ranking ^	Alignment to Regional Priorities**
<b>Total Grazing Pressure</b>	High levels of total grazing pressure including livestock, overabundant native herbivores and introduced herbivores lead to loss of biodiversity, ground cover, and increased erosion. Impacts include land degradation, habitat and species loss, and agricultural productivity loss where over grazing occurs.	HIGH	
<b>Loss of Social Licence &amp; Nature and Cultural Knowledge and Awareness</b>	Bridging the gap between rural and urban communities through increased awareness of land management practices. Support more knowledge and awareness in the younger generation about the importance of local culture and biodiversity. Promote greater understanding of historical landscape management.	HIGH	
<b>Erosion and Landscape Rehydration</b>	Landscape rehydration improves carbon stocks and soil biological activity for drought resilience and pasture recovery after drought, benefitting production, biodiversity and climate mitigation. Support correct grading techniques that impact track erosion causing tracks and roads becoming creeks.	HIGH	 
<b>Feral Predator Control – Fox, Cats, Pigs, Wild Dogs. Disease Vectors</b>	Predation by foxes, cats, wild dogs result in loss of native fauna, disruption to ecosystem processes and also impacts to livestock - particularly lamb mortality. Increasing numbers of Feral Pigs in the district causing risk of disease to livestock and humans.	HIGH	 
<b>Supporting Community Action</b>	Support opportunities for building community capacity and community-led action through grants and events. More resilient and adaptable communities	MED	
<b>Mitigating and adapting to climate impacts</b>	Climate change predictions for the district are for higher temperatures, declining rainfall, more extreme weather events and increased salinity. Support opportunities to adapt to harsher climate conditions, diversify livelihoods and offset carbon emissions.	MED	
<b>Weed Control</b>	Weeds displace native vegetation with flow-on effects to native fauna and impact on stock management/pastoral production.	MED	 
<b>Industry Development Impacts</b>	Vegetation clearance by industry developments such as mining, pastoralism, energy and	MED	

	infrastructure, decrease biodiversity and disrupt ecosystem processes. Support restoration through revegetation to increase habitat, vegetation connectivity, and restore ecosystem processes. Includes restoration of riparian, plains, ranges habitat and existing road management.		
<b>Water Over Extraction</b>	Over extraction or diversion of ground and surface water requires management of water affecting activities. Impacts may include landscape dehydration, draw down on ground water and cultural desecration	MED	
<b>Respect and acknowledgement of Traditional Owner beliefs, language and cultural sites</b>	Impacts include loss of understanding of landscape management, cultural heritage loss and desecrated cultural sites	MED	
<b>Rubbish and Pollution</b>	Illegal dumping ends up degrading the landscape and compromising biodiversity. Explore signage in the district, Keep the Outback Clean	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 East Pastoral District - Current programs and opportunities

Issue	District Ranking	Current programs and opportunities	Status	Who	Regional Focus Area
 <b>Climate Resilient Region</b>					
Mitigating and adapting to Climate Impacts	High	<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.	<b>Current</b> /2018-2023	SAAL LB	C2, L3
		<i>Carbon Farming workshops &amp; forums</i>	<b>Current</b> /Ongoing	SAAL LB, PIRSA	C2, C3
		<i>Drought Hub</i> (Future Drought Fund program)	<b>Current</b> /Ongoing	PIRSA, UoA, SAAL LB	C2
 <b>Water Management</b>					
Landscape Rehydration	High	Landscape Literacy Workshop	<b>2024 Completed</b>	SAAL LB, DEW, BH	W3
Water Over-extraction	Low	<i>Water Affecting Activities Control Policy (on-going)</i> - Monitor Water Affecting Activities and promote awareness	<b>Current</b> /Ongoing	SAAL LB	W1
 <b>Sustainable Land Management</b>					
Grazing pressure - Rabbits	High	<i>Rabbit disease releases</i>	<b>-Potential on outcome...</b>	PIRSA, SAAL LB, NSW DPI	B2
Grazing pressure - Goats		<i>Review of goat management</i>	<b>Ongoing/LPF</b>	SAAL LB	L2
Grazing pressure - Kangaroos		<i>Kangaroo Management Partnership Co-ordinator</i>	<b>Current</b> /2021-2023	Sevenses Creative (Coordinator) SAAL LB	L2
		<i>Kangaroo Monitoring surveys</i>	Ongoing	DEW	
Soil Erosion and Rehabilitation		<i>Koonamore/Osborn Reserve workshop</i>	<b>Completed</b>	SAAL LB, Landholder,	L3



Issue	District Ranking	Current programs and opportunities	Status	Who	Regional Focus Area
				University of Adelaide	
Weed Control		<i>Cactus Control Project</i>	<b>Current</b> /Ongoing	SAAL LB, Landholders, Volunteers	L3
		<i>District Weed Strategy</i>	<b>Completed</b>	SAAL LB	L3
		<i>Chemcert Refresher Course</i>	<b>Completed/Planning next course</b>	SAAL LB	L3
Disease Vectors & Feral Predator Control - Feral pigs	Medium	<i>Pig surveys and control project</i>	<b>Current</b> /Ongoing	SAAL LB	L1, L2, L3
 <b>Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity</b>					
Feral predator control - Wild dogs	High	<i>Biteback wild dog control program</i>	<b>Current</b> /Ongoing	SAAL LB, PIRSA	L1
		<i>Wild dog trapper workshop</i>	<b>Completed</b>	SAAL LB, PIRSA	L1
		<i>Dog fence re-build</i>	<b>Current</b> / ongoing	PIRSA	L1
Feral predator control - Cats		<i>Bounceback and Beyond – monitoring cameras and baiting assessments</i>	<b>Complete</b> /2018-2023	SAAL LB	B2
Feral predator control - Foxes, cats		Fox control programs inc baiting	Look into cats,	PIRSA	B1
Feral predator control - Foxes, cats		Bounceback	Ongoing	DEW	B1
Damage to Cultural Sites	Medium	Cultural site mapping, monitoring and protection	Potential		P3
Tourism impacts - Rubbish & pollution		Top 10 travel tips promotion	<b>Current</b> /Ongoing	SAAL LB, FROTOA	P1, P3
Inappropriate Fire	Low		Potential		
Industry development impacts	Not specified		Potential		

Issue	District Ranking	Current programs and opportunities	Status	Who	Regional Focus Area
 <b>People and Partnerships</b>					
Education	High	<i>Yunta North East News contributions</i>	<b>Current/</b> ongoing	SAAL LB	P3
		<i>Workshops and training opportunities</i>	<b>Current/</b> ongoing	SAAL LB	P3
Nature and Cultural Knowledge Awareness		<i>Increased engagement with Ngadjuri Adnyamathanha Wilyakali Native Title Aboriginal Corporation (NAWNTAC) with view to project development</i>	<b>Ongoing</b>	SAAL LB, NAWNTAC	P1
Loss of Social Licence					L3
Diversification					L3
Supporting Community Action		<i>Face-to-face landholder engagement and property visits</i>	<b>Current/</b> ongoing	SAAL LB, Stakeholders	P4
		<i>Landscape Group support</i>	<b>Current/</b> ongoing	SAAL LB, LG Group	P4
		<i>Progress Association support</i>	<b>Current/</b> ongoing	SAAL LB, Progress Associations	P4
		<i>Ladies Day/ Succession planning workshop</i>	<b>Complete</b>	SAAL LB	P4
		<i>Face-to-face grant writing workshop</i>	<b>Complete</b>	SAAL LB	P4
		<i>Rabbit Control workshop at Minburra</i>	<b>2023-24</b> Ongoing	SAAL LB	
All and Sundry Access	Med	<i>4wd access (tourism education)</i>  <i>-Plan, promote OTC</i>	Ongoing		

Issue	District Ranking	Current programs and opportunities	Status	Who	Regional Focus Area
Lack of Knowledge of Cultural Sites	Not specified	<i>Increased engagement with NAWNTAC with view to project development/increased educational opportunities</i>		SAAL LB, NAWNTAC	P1
Access to Cultural Sites	Not Specified	<i>Increased engagement with NAWNTAC with view to project development</i>		SAAL LB, NAWNTAC	P1

## North East Pastoral District Landscape Group actions

District Issue	Opportunity	Actions	When	Collaborate	Status
Climate Resilient Region					
Mitigating and adapting to climate impacts	Supporting community action to explore carbon opportunities	Host Carbon farming workshops in Yunta and Olary.	Early 2025/26	SAAL	
Water Management					
Landscape Rehydration	Supporting community action to achieve land management outcomes	Host / Collaborate another Landscape Rehydration workshop.  SAAL review previous/historic landscape rehydration work in the district. Host workshop with landholder sharing successes and failures, understand the history (stickybeak /field day) possibility to host with another landscape rehydration day.	TBC 25/26	SAAL, Bush Heritage, DEW, Mulloon Institute	
Water affecting activities		Host water affecting activites workshop. Understanding the policies and education around WAA.	Early – Mid 2025	SAAL Water Team	
Sustainable Land Management					
Pest / Weed Control	Weed Control Native Fauna & Fauna	Overabundant native fauna. Maintain advocacy role and involvement in the Kangaroo Partnerships Program KPP.	Ongoing 24/25/26	SAAL	Ongoing

District Issue	Opportunity	Actions	When	Collaborate	Status
	Training	Noogoora Burr specific information session. Workshop with key stakeholders and Government agencies. Understanding the production cycle and characteristics of Noogoora Burr.	Mid 2025 and 2026	SAAL, PIRSA, State Herbarium	
		Host weeds workshop, weeds of the NEP district.	Late 2025	SAAL, State Herbarium	
		Promote Cochineal to the district for further cactus control.	Ongoing		Ongoing
		Promote Drill and Fill machine to the district.	Ongoing		Ongoing
		Work with Northern and Yorke Landscape Board with Cactus issues.	Ongoing	Northern and Yorke Landscape Board	Ongoing
		Increase connections with traditional owners, cultural awareness for native flora and fauna species.	TBC Ongoing		Ongoing
		Annual Planet Ark National Tree Day, July each year in different communities.	July 24/25/26 Ongoing	SAAL, Toyota, Planet Ark	Ongoing
		Host ChemCert Certification. NEP Group to fund half of total cost.	Late 2024 / Mid to late 2025		

District Issue	Opportunity	Actions	When	Collaborate	Status
Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity					
Conservation	Supporting community action to achieve land management outcomes	Investigate volunteer group prospects for the assistance of pest weed control.	TBC 25/26	SAAL, 4x4 Groups, volunteer groups	
		Host Native plant workshop, sharing knowledge and potential plant giveaway.	(Spring) 2025	SAAL, Plant Expert	
		Host feral animal control workshop with landscape group funds.	Mid to late 2025/26	SAAL Biosecurity team, PIRSA	
People and Partnerships					
Education, communication & collaboration	Supporting community action to achieve land and water management outcomes	Social media promotion, promoting positive pastoralism and regional success stories. Language used to educate people, key messages, resources to unkind language to pastoral practices.	Ongoing 24/25/26	SAAL	Ongoing
		Host Grant writing workshop with landscape group funds.	Early 2024 or 2026		
		SAAL NEP Newsletters / Yunta North East News (YNEN) provide district updates and positive news stories.	Ongoing 24/25/26	SAAL, YNEN	
		Coordinate install of Top 10 Travel Tips sign at Cockburn and Yunta information bays.	Late 2024 Early 2025	SAAL, Progress associations	



District Issue	Opportunity	Actions	When	Collaborate	Status

Prepared by the North East Pastoral Landscape Group on behalf of the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board 2021. Reviewed July 2024.

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