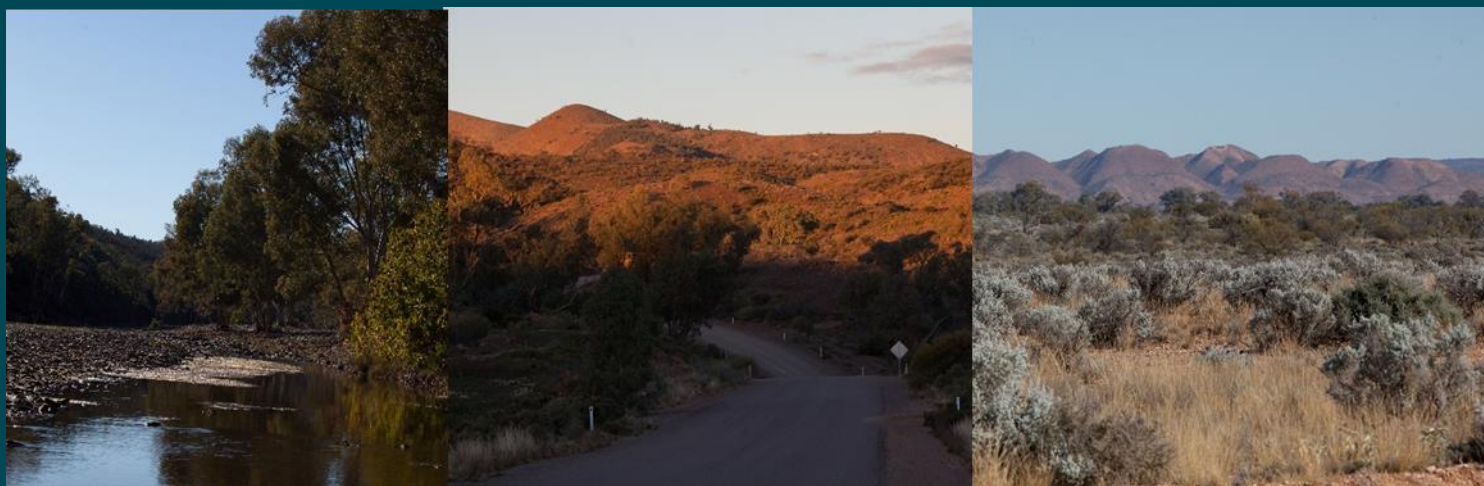


# North Flinders District Plan

2024 – 2026



June 2024

## 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 are of three bioregions are also present of Stony Plains, Gawler and Broken Hill Complex

**Size:** 38,098km<sup>2</sup> (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)

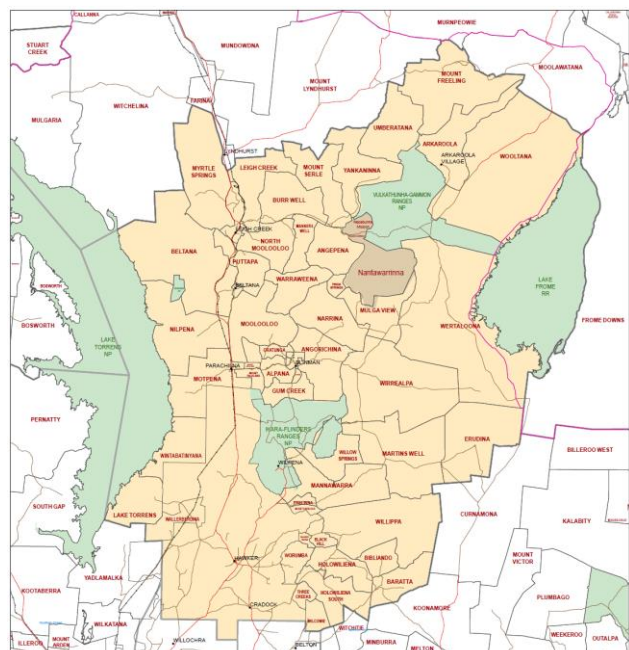
**Land use:** Aboriginal land, pastoralism (predominantly sheep), mining and energy, tourism, conservation (public and private lands), recreation, service centres, towns.

**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 in 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. The group provides the community with educational opportunities through the delivery of workshops and other events in the district.

## 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. This plan was then reviewed in late 2023.

## 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**
<b>Pest carnivores</b>	Impacts on livestock and biodiversity. Includes wild dogs, foxes and cats	High	
<b>Pest herbivores</b>	Added grazing pressure in the landscape. Includes goats, rabbits and kangaroos	High	
<b>Tourism impacts</b>	Damage to the landscape, rubbish, safety	High	
<b>New &amp; Emerging Pest Species</b>	New species establishing themselves in the district. For example feral pigs, new weed species.	High	
<b>Infrastructure and services</b>	A lack on infrastructure limiting diversification and industry growth in the region	High	
<b>Soils and erosion</b>	Lack of on ground knowledge and understanding of soils and erosion dehydrating landscapes	Med	
<b>Weeds</b>	Displacing native vegetation and impacting production and biodiversity.	Med	
<b>Town water supplies</b>	Impacts on viability of businesses, capacity to expand and people ability to live in the region	Med	
<b>Carbon Farming &amp; Biodiversity credits</b>	Growing interest and potential future driver influencing land management decisions	Med	
<b>Ground water management</b>	Ground water resources becoming less reliable, drying up more often and reducing in quality	Med	
<b>Alternative Sheep Breeds</b>	Impacts on vegetation with different grazing patterns, fencing challenges, impacts on townships and biosecurity risks.	Low	
<b>Springs and Waterholes</b>	Degradation of sites, impacts on native species and ensuring we maintain cultural access to water	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
 <b>Climate Resilient Region</b>					
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.	<b>Current</b> /2018-2023	SAAL LB	C2, L3
		<i>Carbon Farming workshops</i>	<b>Current</b> /Ongoing	SAAL LB, PIRSA	C2, C3
		<i>Drought Hub</i> (Future Drought Fund program)	<b>Current</b> /2021-?	PIRSA, UoA, SAAL LB	C2
 <b>Water Management</b>					
Ground water management	Medium	<i>Water Affecting Activities Control Policy (on-going)</i> - Monitor Water Affecting Activities and promote awareness	<b>Current</b> /Ongoing	SAAL LB	W1
		<i>Water Infrastructure Rebate</i> for landholders	<b>Current</b>	PIRSA	W1
		Exploring technologies to find portable ground water for livestock	<b>Current</b>	Landholders/ SAAL LB grants	W1
Springs and Waterholes	Low	Spring monitoring	<b>Current</b>	SAAL LB/Volunteers	
 <b>Sustainable Land Management</b>					
Weeds	High	<i>Cactus Control Program</i>	<b>Current</b> /Ongoing	SAAL LB, Landholders, Volunteers	L3
		Leigh Creek Weeds Survey	<b>Complete</b>	SAAL LB, PIRSA	L3
Kangaroos	High	<i>Kangaroo Management Partnership</i>	<b>Current</b> /2021-2023	SAAL LB	L2
Wild dogs	High	<i>Biteback</i> wild dog control program	<b>Current</b> /Ongoing	SAAL LB, PIRSA	L1

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



## North Flinders Landscape Group Actions

District priority	Opportunity/Issue	Action/s (for Group)	When	Collaborate	Status
<b>Climate Resilient Region</b>					
Ground water management/town water supplies	<i>Anecdotal reports of ground water supplies becoming less reliable and lack of awareness from tourists about the availability of high quality potable water</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increase the groups knowledge on ground water through having guest speakers attend future meetings</li> <li>2. Add messaging about water availability into travel tips messaging</li> </ol>	<p>September 2024</p> <p>By April 2025</p>	SAAL water team & DEW	Complete
<b>Sustainable Land Management</b>					
Pest Herbivores	<i>Added grazing pressure from rabbits</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conduct an awareness campaign to encourage reporting of rabbit numbers via feral scan</li> <li>2. Encourage landholders to send in carcasses of suspected RHD/Calici deaths for testing and ensure landholders are aware test kits are available.</li> <li>3. Investigate if the group can subsidise the cost of RHDV1 K5 for landholders to release</li> </ol>	Spring 2024	Biosecurity team, NSW DPI	
<b>Protecting and enhancing biodiversity</b>					
Pest Carnivores	<i>Feral cats in townships and on properties impacting biodiversity</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pending the outcomes of the Marree trial, see if we can replicate it in a North Flinders town</li> <li>2. Work with progress associations to see what town would be in most need of cat control</li> </ol>	<p>September 2024</p> <p>TBC</p>	Biosecurity, OCA, progress associations	



District priority	Opportunity/Issue	Action/s (for Group)	When	Collaborate	Status
		3. Discuss with OCA			
<b>People and partnerships</b>					
Tourism Impacts	<i>Reduce the environmental impacts of travellers and improve safety for visitors</i>	1. Continue promotion of top 10 travel tips  3. Develop more digital/web based information  4. Incorporate information about electric car changing into the travel tips  5. Add use of drones into travel tips		FROTOA, other landscape groups, tourism businesses	1. ongoing  2. Ongoing

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

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SA Arid Lands Landscape Board