

South Australian Arid Lands Landscape Board

Annual Business Plan

2022-2023



Acknowledgement of Country

The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board acknowledges Aboriginal people as the First Peoples and Nations of the lands and waters of our region. We pay our respects to the Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and respect the deep spiritual connection and the relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to Country, and commit to working together to look after our landscapes.

Artwork: Marika Davies

FOREWORD

I am pleased to present the 2022/23 SA Arid Lands Landscape Board Business Plan.

Implementation of the Far North Prescribed Wells Area Water Allocation Plan is underway, and our board's investment in capacity and expertise in water management has increased. Additionally we have leveraged further investment to support a better understanding of technology that supports water accounting and judicious water use in the outback.

The board has leveraged its levy income to attract funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund, including the National Soils Strategy, The Drought Resilient Soils and Landscapes program, Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub, Priority (Threatened) Species Program and Lake Eyre Basin and Great Artesian Basin Partnerships. We continue to deliver the fifth and final year of the Regional Land Partnership projects funded through the National Landcare Program.

The board values the co-investment in our on-ground projects from the Sheep Industry Fund and Primary Industries and Regions SA and the Department for Environment and Water.

Critical to our program delivery is the ongoing collaboration with other Landscape Boards, land managers, industry and peak bodies to address issues such as wild dogs, feral goats, feral pigs, buffel grass, feral deer and kangaroos at a landscape scale.

Our community and partners have engaged across the many events, projects and programs delivered by the board's staff assisting in shaping our work program through input to the seven district action plans, overseen by each of the landscape groups.

In administering the *Landscape SA Act 2019*, we can confidently leverage and invest your land and water levies into the prosperity and stewardship of the SA Arid Lands region. The board remains committed to ensuring the stability of trusted ongoing service to the region to optimise and protect the natural resources that support our lives, livelihoods, cultural values and environment.

Ross Sawers

Presiding Member
South Australian Arid Lands Landscape Board



Minister's endorsement

I, Susan Close, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, after taking into account the requirements of section 51, and in accordance with Schedule 5, clause 95(3)(c), of the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, hereby approve the Business Plan 2022-23 for the South Australian Arid Lands Landscape Board.

A handwritten signature in white ink on a dark background.

Susan Close
Minister for Climate, Environment and Water

Date: 18/06/2022

Cover image: Painted dragon. Photo by Kris Bell.

OUR VISION

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



REGIONAL PRIORITIES

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

OUR FOCUS AREAS

- Ensuring climate risk is embedded in all board business
 - Providing land managers with the knowledge and skills they need to mitigate and adapt to climate change
 - Exploring adaptation pathways to ensure communities are climate resilient
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- Planning, research & leveraging infrastructure investment to support the judicious use of groundwater
 - Maintaining hydrogeology to protect Great Artesian Basin springs and groundwater-dependent ecosystems
 - Understanding and managing surface water systems including the Lake Eyre Basin
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- Effective pest plant and animal control protecting production systems
 - Addressing the threat of excessive total grazing pressure
 - Building land managers' capacity in adaptive agriculture, best practice land management and rehabilitation
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- Managing key threats to protect natural values
 - Taking action for threatened species and ecosystem recovery
 - Maintaining and improving the condition of Great Artesian Basin springs and water-dependent ecosystems
-
- First Nations partnerships supporting cross-cultural knowledge sharing and landscape management outcomes
 - Supporting landscape groups to lead community action and education
 - Raising awareness of the region's natural values and connecting people to nature
 - Supporting community action to achieve land, water and coastal management outcomes

Landscape planning framework

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT TO:

- South Australian State Landscape Strategy
- Australian Government National Landcare Program priorities
- South Australian Government Climate Change Action Plan 2021-25
- Far North and Outback SA Climate Change Adaptation Plan
- Local Government strategic plans

It is recognised that this plan aligns to a number of other national, state and regional strategies and plans, and vice versa.

South Australian Arid Lands Regional Landscape Plan

- Vision for the region
- 5 strategic priorities
- Board's focus areas

Landscape Board Annual Business Plan

- Board income
- Investment priorities
- Key projects, services and partnerships
- Board staffing arrangements

SUPPORTING RESOURCES:

- Monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement (MERI) framework
- Far North Prescribed Wells Area Water Allocation Plan
- South Australian Arid Lands Water Affecting Activities Control Policy
- South Australian Arid Lands District Plans
- South Australian Arid Lands Landscape Board Pest Management Strategy
- South Australian Arid Lands bioregional descriptions
- South Australian Arid Lands Biodiversity Strategy (in review)

THE BOARD'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The board is:

- Collaborative, considers community values and involves people in decision-making
- Facilitates resilient and adaptive landscape management
- Is accountable, transparent, adaptive, innovative and action-oriented
- Takes a best-practice systems approach to regional planning
- Employs evidence-based decision making that incorporates the best available science, local and cultural knowledge that improves understanding of landscape resilience
- Maximises public return on investment
- Complies with legislation

The board and staff

The board's key role is to undertake, promote and integrate the management of natural resources in the SA Arid Lands (SAAL) region to build resilience in the face of change, and facilitate biodiversity conservation. Particular reference is given to land management, water resource management and pest animal and plant control.

The South Australian Arid Lands Landscape Board consists of community members appointed on a skills basis. Many work in key industries (pastoralism, mining etc.), while others have specific expertise relevant to the region.

Projects and services are implemented by a team of dedicated staff who work on behalf of the Landscape Board. Staff are public sector employees and are employed by a General Manager who manages the board's operations. In 2022/23, the SAAL Landscape Board will support 28.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions (19 FTE funded by regional landscape and water levies and 9.5 FTE funded by external funding). The cost of board and landscape group administration and governance in 2022/23 is \$298,000. The board's business base is in Port Augusta.

In 2022/23, the board will receive contracted Corporate Service support (including Information Technology Service Design and Operating, Treasury Relationship Services, Accounts Receivable Services and Landscape Services Governance advice) through the South Australian Department for Environment and Water.

Our delivery

The board's investment will be delivered through a range of projects and approaches including direct investment, contracts for works or services, and grants to community organisations.

Landscape groups

The SAAL Landscape Board will continue to work with landscape groups within the region to address local natural resource management needs. Landscape groups provide a conduit between landholders and the work of the board, influence the investment priorities, and support delivery of board programs with landholders and the broader community. There are seven landscape groups in the SAAL region:

- Marla-Oodnadatta
- Kingoonya
- Marree-Innaminka
- North East
- North Flinders
- Port Augusta - Quorn
- Gawler Ranges

Landscape group members live in and/or are involved in the SAAL Region, providing the board with a social and local context for delivery of its programs and encouraging broader community engagement and awareness of local projects and levy investment.



SA Arid Lands Landscape Board members: Sanchia Treloar, Kurt Tschirner, Ross Sawers, Douglas Lillecrapp, Ellen Litchfield, Scott Michael and Tim Flowers

SA Arid Lands Landscape Board KEY PROJECTS



Key projects

Building Pastoral Sustainability



The goal of this project is to build pastoralists’ capacity to respond to SAAL’s highly variable climate through adaptation, innovation and diversification. The project is delivering property management planning support, customised trials, on-ground works, and learning opportunities focused on practices and technologies that can improve land condition, sustainability of production and the resilience of pastoral enterprises. Diversification pathways, and improving understanding of weather and climate information are a focus for 2022/23.

This project delivers on the Australian Government’s National Landcare Program Outcome 6, also contributing to Outcome 5.

BPS – Supporting regenerative grazing practices

‘From the ground up’ is a new project supporting regenerative grazing practices in South Australia’s rangelands to enhance pastoral productivity, protect soils and biodiversity, and build drought resilience. The project aims to support industry leaders in building and sharing knowledge of rest-based grazing systems using demonstration sites, peer-to-peer learning and training courses.

This project is funded by the Australian Government’s Future Drought Fund – Drought Resilient Soils and Landscapes Program

BPS – Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub

The board is a partner in the Port Augusta node of the South Australian Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub. The hub aims to help land managers adopt innovative tools to become more drought resilient, through the delivery of a range of co-designed projects.

The SA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub is funded through the Australian Government’s Future Drought Fund.



Coongie Wetland Wonders



The Coongie Lakes Ramsar Wetland is internationally recognised for its ecological values. The site provides habitat for native fish and a number of endangered animals such as the Dusky Hopping Mouse, and Crest-Tailed Mulgara. This Regional Land Partnership project focuses on protecting Ramsar values, by controlling pest animals – particularly feral pigs and large feral herbivores that cause damage to waterholes and vegetation, and invasive weeds, including Buffel Grass and Mimosa Bush. Populations of key native species are being monitored, and acoustic surveillance is being used to determine the presence of the Night Parrot.

This project delivers on the Australian Government’s National Landcare Program Outcome 1.

Bounceback and Beyond



This project builds on the successes of the Department for Environment and Water’s long-running Bounceback Program, delivering conservation gains for a number of threatened animal species, through coordinated, landscape-scale threat management across the Flinders, Gawler, Olary and Gammon Ranges. The project focuses on protection of Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby, Western Quoll, Malleefowl, Flinders Ranges Purple-spotted Gudgeon, Slender Bell-fruit, and Xerothamnella but will benefit many native plants and animals.

Control of foxes, feral cats and feral goats is a key focus of the project. Data gathered through animal surveys over the five-year project will inform on whether effective management of predators at landscape scales improves residency and detectability of the threatened species in arid regions.

Threatened plant species assessments are undertaken to track long-term trends for the Slender Bell-fruit, Menzell’s Wattle, Purple-wood Wattle, Xerothamnella parvifolia, Spidery Wattle, Ooldea Guinea-flower and West Coast Mintbush and will assess the threat posed by introduced herbivores in areas where control is undertaken compared with unmanaged areas.

This project delivers on the Australian Government’s National Landcare Program Outcome 2.

NATIONAL LANDCARE PROGRAM – INVESTING IN THE SA ARID LANDS

The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board is proud to partner with the Australian Government in delivering projects and services funded by the National Landcare Program. There are six priorities under the program, five of which are relevant to the SA Arid Lands region.

Environmental Outcomes:

OUTCOME 1: By 2023, there is restoration of, and reduction in threats to, the ecological character of Ramsar Sites, through the implementation of priority actions.

OUTCOME 2: By 2023, the trajectory of species targeted under the Threatened Species Strategy, and other EPBC Act priority species, is stabilised or improved.

OUTCOME 4: By 2023, the implementation of priority actions is leading to an improvement in the condition of EPBC Act listed Threatened Ecological Communities.

Agriculture Outcomes:

OUTCOME 5: By 2023, there will be increased awareness and adoption of land management practices that improve and protect the condition of soil, biodiversity and vegetation.

OUTCOME 6: By 2023, there is an increase in the capacity of agriculture systems to adapt to significant changes in climate and market demands for information on provenance and sustainable production

As the Australian Government’s approved service provider for the SA Arid Lands region, the board may negotiate with the Australian Government under this partnership agreement to deliver additional services that meet shared priorities.

Biteback – Wild dog management



The board runs a comprehensive Wild Dog Management Program in partnership with PIRSA, landholders, Livestock SA and other investors such as the Australian Government and Sheep Industry Fund. The board supports the 21 wild dog local area groups in the region to implement strategies in the the 'Wild Dog Management Best Practice Guidelines'.

State water planning and management



The South Australian Government recovers water planning and management costs from each Landscape Board in a similar approach to the National Water Initiative which recovers costs on an 'impactor pays' basis. An 'impactor' is defined as a beneficiary of the activity.

These activities are undertaken by the Department for Environment and Water and include water science, planning, licensing, monitoring and compliance activities.

The amount the SAAL region will be required to contribute in 2022/23 is **\$69,340**.

Optimising kangaroo management



Kangaroo over-abundance is a threat to the environmental and economic sustainability of rangelands areas. This two-year project brings together key stakeholders from across the region and state to find and test new approaches to kangaroo management that can reduce the impacts of kangaroo over-abundance on ecosystem health, livestock production and animal welfare.

This project is funded by the South Australian Government's Landscape Priorities Fund.

Lake Eyre Basin springs restoration



This project aims to restore culturally and ecologically significant Lake Eyre Basin Riparian Vegetation and Springs. Methods include pest and weed control, use of livestock exclusion fencing and alternative water points, capture of traditional ecological knowledge and information sharing.

This project is funded through a Lake Eyre Basin Intergovernmental Agreement.

Support for landscape groups



The region's seven landscape groups have an integral role in supporting regional programs and conducting specific local projects in each district. They help assess and prioritise project proposals, initiate group area projects, and provide an important project community liaison role. The strategic priorities identified by each group are used in regional planning and in board support for group activities. Landscape groups access funds for a wide range of projects through the board.

Community Landscape Officers provide support to groups, and keep the community involved and connected with the work of the board through volunteer support, First Nation partnerships, education, community events, Grassroots Grants and land management extension. These roles are central to community capacity building and are an extension of the core services that underpin the board's work, including delivery of the Australian Government's Regional Land Partnership projects.

In 2022/23, the board has made available additional funding through its Grassroots Grants program for flood recovery projects that address pest, weed or erosion threats resulting from the January 2022 flood event.

Safeguarding the Arckaringa Daisy



This new project will implement short and long-term safeguards for the endangered Arckaringa Daisy across its known range in South Australia. Working in partnership with pastoralists, First Nations custodians and community organisations, it will involve herbivore exclusion sites, seed collection, propagation trials, and population surveys, which will improve our understanding of the species and provide a foundation for longer term protection.

This project is funded by the Australian Government's ERF – Threatened Species Strategy Action Plan – Priority Species Program.

Improving Great Artesian Basin Drought Resilience



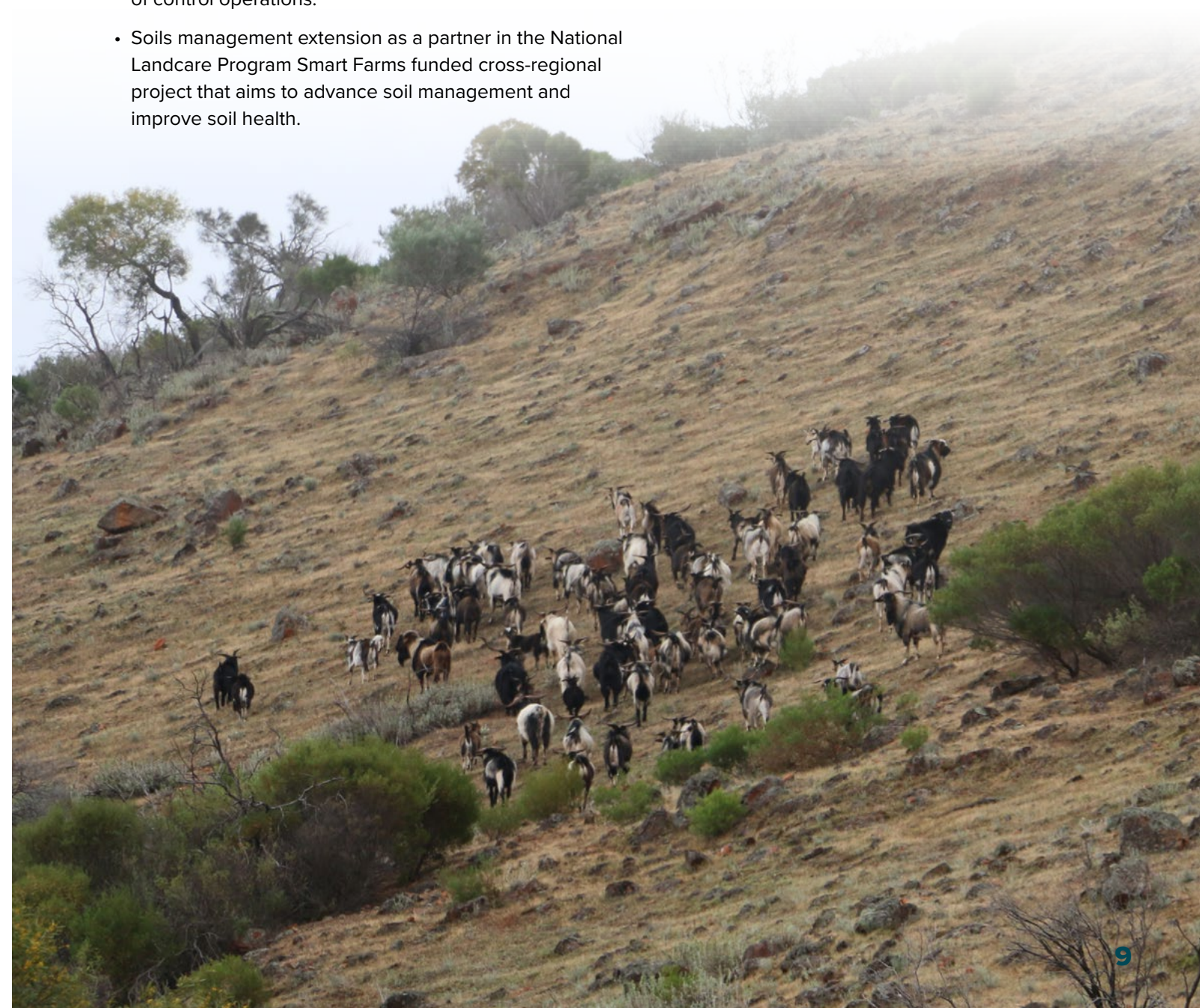
This cooperative program funded by the Australian Government is providing resources for the installation and maintenance of wells and associated distribution networks on a cost-share basis with landholders. The board is partnering with the Department for Environment and Water to deliver the program in South Australia.

Eligible works include GAB water management initiatives and activities to promote best practice approaches to maintaining water infrastructure and minimising wastage.

Other focus areas

In 2022/23 the board will also focus on:

- Progressing a review of the region's goat management strategy, including an economic and environmental cost-benefit analysis of management options, review of legislative alignment, and stakeholder survey in partnership with landscape boards, industry and government.
- Education and action for Buffel Grass management, to reduce its spread and impact in the region, in partnership with Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board and Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board.
- Supporting control efforts for other pests and weeds, including feral pigs, camels, and Opuntoid cactus, through landholder capacity building and coordination of control operations.
- Soils management extension as a partner in the National Landcare Program Smart Farms funded cross-regional project that aims to advance soil management and improve soil health.



BOARD GOVERNANCE AND PROGRAM DELIVERY

Board governance expenditure covers board meeting costs, general administration and related administration salaries not directly attributed to board project investments or support to groups.

A number of supporting services underpin the delivery of the board's work. Program delivery includes:

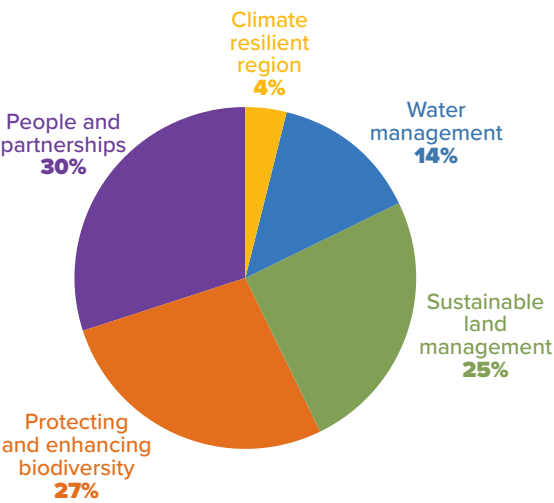
- Landscape planning support to facilitate community involvement in prioritising management actions, and to support board delivery of key priority areas.
- Monitoring, evaluation and reporting on program delivery to facilitate a culture of learning and improvement in order to leverage further investment and achieve reporting obligations.
- Regional communications, publications, promotion, education and awareness raising, multimedia and engagement platforms.
- Business and operations support – Finance, HR, ICT, fleet management, WHS, Risk and Audit, customer service, contract management.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND LAND

The board owns no infrastructure or land.

Information on the proposed board's expenditure by investment area for 2022/23 is provided in **FIGURE 1** and **TABLE 1**.

FIGURE 1: Proposed expenditure by investment priority



Program expenditure

TABLE 1: Proposed board expenditure by priority area for 2022/23

PRIORITY	FOCUS AREAS 22/23	KEY PROJECTS/ ACTIVITIES	LANDSCAPE AND WATER LEVIES (\$)	EXTERNAL FUNDS (\$)	STATE APPROPRIATION (\$)	TOTAL (\$)
Climate resilient region 	• Ensuring climate risk is embedded in all board business • Providing land managers with the knowledge and skills they need to mitigate and adapt to climate change • Exploring adaptation pathways to ensure communities are climate resilient	Building Pastoral Sustainability (Regional Land Partnership project)		153,450		153,450
		Grassroots grants – flood recovery		100,000		100,000
		Program delivery ²		28,268		28,268
Water management 	• Planning, research and leveraging infrastructure investment to support the judicious use of groundwater • Maintaining hydrology to protect Great Artesian Basin springs and groundwater-dependent ecosystems • Understanding and managing surface water systems including the Lake Eyre Basin	Implementation of the Far North Prescribed Wells Area Water Allocation Plan	25,000			25,000
		Water Affecting Activities assessment and approvals and project support	280,192			280,192
		State Water Planning and Management contribution ³	69,340			69,340
		Bore audit, extension, education and well compliance support	175,142			175,142
		Improving Great Artesian Basin Drought Resilience – sustainable water use projects	50,000			50,000
		Future Drought Fund – Ideas Grant – Assessment of metering and monitoring options for pastoral water points		45,455		45,455
		Program delivery ²	476,358	5,070		481,428
Sustainable land management 	• Effective pest plant and animal control protecting production systems • Addressing the threat of excessive total grazing pressure • Building land managers' capacity in adaptive agriculture, best practice land management and rehabilitation	Biteback – Wild dog management	168,750	260,925		429,675
		Goat management strategy		20,000		20,000
		Other pest and weed control	30,000			30,000
		Optimising kangaroo management		245,000		245,000
		Building Pastoral Sustainability (Regional Land Partnership project)		153,450		153,450
		From the Ground Up – Supporting Regenerative Grazing Practices		493,133		493,133
		Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator (Regional Land Partnership project)		144,000		144,000
		Program delivery ²	157,879	146,832		304,711
Protecting and enhancing biodiversity 	• Managing threats to Coongie Ramsar wetland values • Taking action for Yellow-footed Rock Wallaby, other threatened species recovery in the Gawler, Ikara-Flinders, Olary, and Vulkathanna-Gammon ranges • Maintaining and improving the condition of Great Artesian Basin springs and water-dependent ecosystems	Bounceback and Beyond (Regional Land Partnership project)		752,759		752,759
		Coongie Wetland Wonders – Ramsar wetland protection (Regional Land Partnership project)		488,377		488,377
		Ramsar Strategic Adaptive Management ARC linkage	30,000			30,000
		Lake Eyre Basin Riparian Vegetation and Springs restoration		TBC		
		Safeguarding the Arckaringa Daisy		183,326		183,326
		Rangelands ecology	80,427			80,427
		Program delivery ²	87,719	158,872		246,591
People and partnerships 	• First Nations partnerships supporting cross-cultural knowledge sharing and landscape management outcomes • Supporting landscape groups to lead community action and education • Raising awareness of the region's natural values and connecting people to nature • Supporting community action to achieve land, water and coastal management outcomes	Landscape group governance			84,000	84,000
		Local projects/ events/ initiatives			70,000	70,000
		Aboriginal partnerships	20,000			20,000
		Grassroots grants	100,000			100,000
		Landholder engagement and land management extension, partnerships and education ⁴	931,701			931,701
		Community sponsorship	20,000			20,000
		Program delivery ²	851,318		237,000	1,088,318
		TOTAL EXPENDITURE	3,553,826	3,378,917	391,000	7,323,743

¹ Total expenditure exceeds income received in 2022-23 due to carry over of funds for multi-year projects being implemented in 2022-23 and 2023-24.

² Program delivery includes the core functions of the board's operation that underpin the delivery of projects. This includes, board administration and governance, strategic and operational planning, business and finance support, monitoring and evaluation and regional communications and media.

³ State Water Planning and Management contributions include the following functions: water licensing and assessment, water resource monitoring, state and condition reporting for water resources, compliance activities and water planning advice to support the management of water resources. These services are provided by the Department for Environment and Water, including Departmental staff based regionally.

⁴ Investment in people and partnerships includes community engagement and capacity building, and landholder extension across all of the board's priority areas.

Funding sources 2022/23

Landscape and water levies

To assist the board to undertake its functions, the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* provides for two types of levies to be raised.

- Regional (land-based) landscape levy (formerly NRM levy):** A levy collected by constituent councils from rate payers. The board specifies the amount to be contributed by constituent councils towards the cost of performing its functions. In SAAL, the regional landscape levy is also collected from outside council areas.
- Water levy:** A levy paid by all water licence holders in prescribed water resource areas. This excludes water allocated for stock and domestic purposes, as defined in the Water Allocation Plan, Far North Prescribed Wells Area.

Levies provide a primary source of funding for the management of the region’s natural resources, and ensure works can be undertaken to achieve the board’s vision. Levies also provide the board with the ability to leverage significant additional government funding to increase the volume of work that can be accomplished.

As well as board funds from levies, there are also in-kind contributions, partnerships and collaborations that support the delivery of board projects.

State Government funding

State funds provide a base for the board to deliver basic governance and some of its core responsibilities under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*.

Australian Government funding

The Australian Government is a key funding partner in the delivery of environment and sustainable agriculture outcomes in the SA Arid Lands region.

Details of funding received from the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment are provided in **TABLE 2**.



Industry Partnerships Program

The board continues to seek industry investment as it believes that more appropriate and efficient outcomes are achieved through joint funding and delivery of projects where we are all depending on shared natural resources.

Any additional external funding that is obtained by the board after this business plan is prepared, will be directed to projects that deliver on priorities identified in the 5 year Landscape Plan which forms the investment priorities detailed within this plan.

TABLE 2: Sources of income

FUNDING SOURCE	2022-23 BUDGET (\$)
Landscape and water levies	
Landscape levy ¹	\$ 860,853
Water levy ^{1,2}	\$ 1,015,134
Levy – co-produced water	\$ 855,195
State Government	
State recurrent allocation – Landscape Administration Fund ³	\$391 000
Australian Government	
NLP2 Core Services	\$483,042
NLP2 Bounceback and Beyond	\$752,759
NLP2 Coongie Wetland Wonders	\$488,377
NLP2 Building Pastoral Sustainability	\$306,900
Environmental Restoration Fund – Threatened Species Strategy Action Plan – Priority Species Program (Year 2)	\$73,330
Future Drought Fund – Drought Resilient Soils and Landscapes (Year 2)	\$73,567
Other	
Industry Partnerships Program ⁴	\$260,925
TOTAL INCOME	\$5,561,082

1 Landscape and water levy income to be raised in 2022/23 is based on 2.5% actual CPI rate (September 2021 quarter) increase on the approved 2021/22 income. Outside council areas is levied based on property size.

2 Subject to variation through licence application and approval.

3 The Landscape Administration Fund is a statutory fund established by the Landscape South Australia Act 2019.

4 Includes Sheep Industry Funds for wild dog control.

OUR DELIVERY PARTNERS

- The board engages with partners in almost all it does.

Our valued partnerships both for identified projects outlined in this plan and future partnerships that may still depend on funding or formal project development include;

 - First Nations communities, body corporates, Parks Co-management Boards and Advisory committees, Indigenous Protected Areas,
 - peak bodies and industry groups – including Pastoral Board of SA, Livestock SA., Meat and Livestock Australia, (MLA), Flinders Ranges and Outback Tourism SA, Kangaroo Management Reference Group, SA Professional Field Processors Organisation, SA Chamber of Mines and Energy
- Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub
 - community groups and progress associations
 - environmental organisations, including Greening Australia, Nature Foundation of SA, Bush Heritage Australia, Conservation Management, Nature Conservation Society of SA, Conservation Council of SA, Foudation for Australias Most Endangered Species (FAME), Arid Recovery, Ecological Horizons, Landcare SA, Pew Charitable Trust (PEW)
 - volunteer groups
 - All SA Landscape Boards
 - Academic institutions and research organisations
 - Schools, School of the Air and Isolated Children’s Parents’ Association (ICPA)
- National partners NRM Regions Australia, Rangelands Alliance
 - Local, State and Australian Government including;
 - Port Augusta City Council, Flinders Ranges Council, Coober Pedy Council, Roxby Downs Council, Department for Environment and Water, Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA), Department for Energy and Mining (DEM) Outback Communities Authority (OCA), RDA Far North, National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA), Department for Agriculture, Water and Environment
 - Australian Government – Great Artesian Basin Secretariat, and Lake Eyre Basin Secretariat

Regional landscape levy

The board is not proposing to change the basis of the levy for any properties in its region in 2022/23.

Consistent with the government’s policy, the board’s plan proposes that the annual levy increase for 2022/23 is limited to CPI.

For out of council areas of the region, the board has recommended that the basis of the regional landscape levy is maintained as a ‘tiered’ rate dependent upon the area of rateable land. This is viewed as having stronger alignment with a ‘beneficiary pays’ principle i.e. larger properties that receive greater support and investment have higher levy rates. The property size categories and applicable rates are detailed in **TABLE 3**.

The various land size categories were selected on the basis of the representative land uses for that size of property in the region. Properties over 100,000ha are predominantly used for cattle grazing; those between 100ha and 100,000ha are sheep properties; less than 100ha and greater than 10ha are largely lifestyle blocks that are used for conservation or hobby farming; and blocks of less than 10ha are residential blocks.

Collection of the regional landscape levy from land owners outside council areas was previously undertaken by the Department for Environment and Water and is now undertaken directly by the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board.

TABLE 3: Out of council levy rates based on rateable land per property size

PROPERTY SIZE	2022/23
<10ha	\$66.56
10ha – <100ha	\$221.85
100ha – <100,000ha	\$443.76
100,000ha or greater	\$776.73

For inside council areas, the regional landscape levy will still be raised and collected by local councils. Councils will continue to contribute to the landscape region and then reimburse themselves through the collection of a regional landscape levy on the basis set in the landscape board’s Business Plan.

There are four councils in the SA Arid Lands region: the District Council of Coober Pedy, Municipal Council of Roxby Downs, The Flinders Ranges Council, and Port Augusta City Council.

For Coober Pedy and Roxby Downs council areas, this is a **fixed rate commensurate with the <10ha out of council levy rate**. Where multiple allotments form a single enterprise, the levy will only be charged once based on the aggregated area of the multiple allotments.

For Port Augusta and The Flinders Ranges council areas, the levy remains on a **capital value basis**.

Council’s share of the regional landscape levy to be collected is detailed in **TABLE 4**.

Levy transition scheme

Under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, the SA Arid Lands region has expanded to include The Flinders Ranges and Port Augusta council areas.

The effect of boundary changes on land levies is being managed through a levy transition scheme approved and gazetted by the Minister for Environment and Water.

The transition scheme provides for council contributions to be set consistent with 2019/2020 rates, adjusted annually by CPI. This will provide for consistency in the levy rates paid by ratepayers, noting that the number of rateable properties also influence council contributions and levy rates. A consistent basis for the landscape levy within council areas will be achieved by 2023/24.

TABLE 4: Council contributions to regional landscape levy income, council collection fees and estimated average levy contribution per property for 2022/23

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA	2022/23		
	Council contribution to regional landscape levy ¹ (\$)	Estimated levy per property (\$)	Estimated Council Levy Collection Fees ¹ (\$)
Coober Pedy	107,564	72.43	3,019
Roxby Downs	125,077	67.17	3,117
The Flinders Ranges	48,116	29.70	3,054
Port Augusta	296,778	39.10	4,606
TOTAL	\$577,535		\$13,796

1 Based on CPI increase of 2.5% (September 2021 quarter) from 2021/22 rates

Water levy

Water levies are collected by the Department for Environment and Water on behalf of the Minister and paid to the landscape board. In 2022/23, water levies will be raised in accordance with the existing levy basis, to be paid by water licensees in prescribed water resources areas. This excludes water allocated for stock and domestic purposes.

Also excluded from the landscape water levy is water allocated to bore-fed wetlands as defined in the Water Allocation Plan, Far North Prescribed Wells Area.

Revenue from the water levy is variable, largely dependent on the level of industry activity.

For 2022/23 water levy rates will be increased by CPI on the 2021/22 rate for all classes of licence (indicative levy rates are shown in **TABLE 5**).

TABLE 5: Proposed Landscape water levy increases by Licence Type – 2022/23

TYPE OF WATER LEVY	2022/23 LEVY RATE (c/KL)
Mining; including product processing, dewatering, mining camp supply, and associated mining uses	7.05
Co-produced water	3.91
Commercial (including irrigation), Town Water Supply, Industrial, Tourism and Recreation	4.54



Measuring progress

Under the Act, the SAAL Landscape Board is responsible for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of this Plan. The board’s performance against priorities in this plan will be assessed and reported in its Annual Report.

Program-specific monitoring plans have been developed for major programs, including Regional Land Partnership projects.

An over-arching Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) plan is being developed alongside the Landscape Plan to support the evaluation of five year outcomes.

Resource condition trends (10-20 years)

- As reported in:
- SA trend and condition report cards
 - State of the Environment reports (national)
 - Other data sources





Innamincka Causeway

South Australian Arid Lands Landscape Board

1 Jervois Street, Port Augusta SA 5700

Phone: 08 8648 5307

Email: saal.landscapeboard@sa.gov.au

www.landscape.sa.gov.au

