

South Australian Arid Lands Landscape Board

# Annual Business Plan

2023-2024





## 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.

Kanku Breakaways, Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara Country

Artwork: Marika Davies

## FOREWORD

I am pleased to present the 2023/24 SA Arid Lands Landscape Board Business Plan.

Welcome to this edition of our annual business plan. This is the first business plan for me as the incoming chair for the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board and I am pleased to share our known income and investment priorities for the 2023/24 financial year.

This is an unusual year given we are transitioning between agreements with significant funding partners, the Australian Government. At the time of writing this plan, we remain unaware of the specific projects and priorities the Australian Government would like us to deliver on its behalf in both the environment and agriculture streams. As this information becomes available to us, we will publish an adjustment to the business plan.

Another unique difference in this business plan relates to changes in the basis of levy payments within council areas. The board has been working alongside councils in the SA Arid Lands region and consulting with community, to equalise the levy collection quantum and method across the four council areas. This means that instead of each of the councils being levied on a different basis, such as some with a flat rate and others with a capital value based amount, the formula is changing to be consistent as a result of the boundary changes that occurred when the *Landscape SA Act 2019* was introduced. All properties within council areas will now pay based on the land use, which reflects the land owners receiving the greatest benefit from or having a greater impact upon the natural resources, paying accordingly. It is important to note the land levy amount we are generating across all council areas is not changing with the exception of CPI, but is being more fairly and equitably applied. Some will pay a fraction more, and others will pay less through this change.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all involved in this complex change. The board's priority is to undertake the work we do fairly across all land use types and tenures with community needs and capacity central to our decisions.

Our board takes very seriously the notion that each part that is contributed through the land and water levies, creates a region wide investment opportunity to protect, manage and conserve natural places, spaces and resources in support of environmental, economic, social and cultural outcomes for all.

There has never been a more critical need to prioritise the environment and all it offers for sustainable futures.

**Douglas Lillecrapp**

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 of the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, hereby approve the Business Plan 2023-24 for the South Australian Arid Lands Landscape Board.

**Susan Close**  
Minister for Climate, Environment and Water

Cover image: Knob-tailed gecko (*Nephurus stellatus*), by Kristian 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*

## 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



### WATER MANAGEMENT

*The region's water resources are managed judiciously*

- 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



### SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT

*Land management practices protect soil, vegetation and biodiversity*

- 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



### PROTECTING AND ENHANCING BIODIVERSITY

*Intrinsic biodiversity values are protected and enhanced*

- 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



### PEOPLE AND PARTNERSHIPS

*People and community are central to looking after our landscapes*

- 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

Old sheep yards, Wirrealpa, Adnyamathanha Country



## 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 2023/24, the SAAL Landscape Board will support 28 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions (17 FTE funded by regional landscape and water levies and 11 FTE funded by external funding). The cost of board and landscape group administration and governance in 2023/24 is \$260,000. The board's office is in Port Augusta.

In 2023/24, 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-Innamincka
- 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 staff with Nukunu elder Lindsay Thomas

## 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. This flagship agricultural program includes the following three key projects:

### BPS – Supporting regenerative grazing practices

'From the Ground Up' is a 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.*

### BPS – Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub – National Cross-Hub project

Mapping and Monitoring Feed from Space is a cross-regional project that will involve the establishment of six demonstration sites to showcase technologies and techniques that use mapping to improve rangeland management. Each site will be analysed using property utilisation and land condition tools to develop a plan for future management and infrastructure changes that could be implemented to improve drought resilience.

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

### Managing biosecurity threats for climate resilient landscapes



This project will address the significant threat posed by feral goats, feral pigs and wild dogs to the condition and resilience of the rangelands ecosystems and the agricultural enterprises. This project will underpin an innovative strategy to address total grazing pressure impacts on biodiversity and pastoral production.

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

### Coordinated Buffel grass management



A partnership will be formed across four Landscape Board regions to address the significant threat posed by Buffel grass to the condition and resilience of ecosystems across South Australia. The project aims to coordinate and maximize operational efforts across borders and organisations by supporting a coordinated approach to a landscape scale problem with the aim to eventually achieve a dynamic shift in the perception of, and response to, Buffel grass at a national level.

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



The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board is proud to partner with the Australian Government in delivering projects and services funded through the National Heritage Trust.

At the time of writing, five-year funding commencing July 1 2023 had been applied for.



### 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 '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 2023/24 is **\$75,582**.

### Optimising kangaroo management



Kangaroo over-abundance is a threat to the environmental and economic sustainability of rangelands areas. This 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.

### 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 with additional funding provided from BHP.*

### 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 state and federally funded projects.

### Improving Great Artesian Basin Drought Resilience



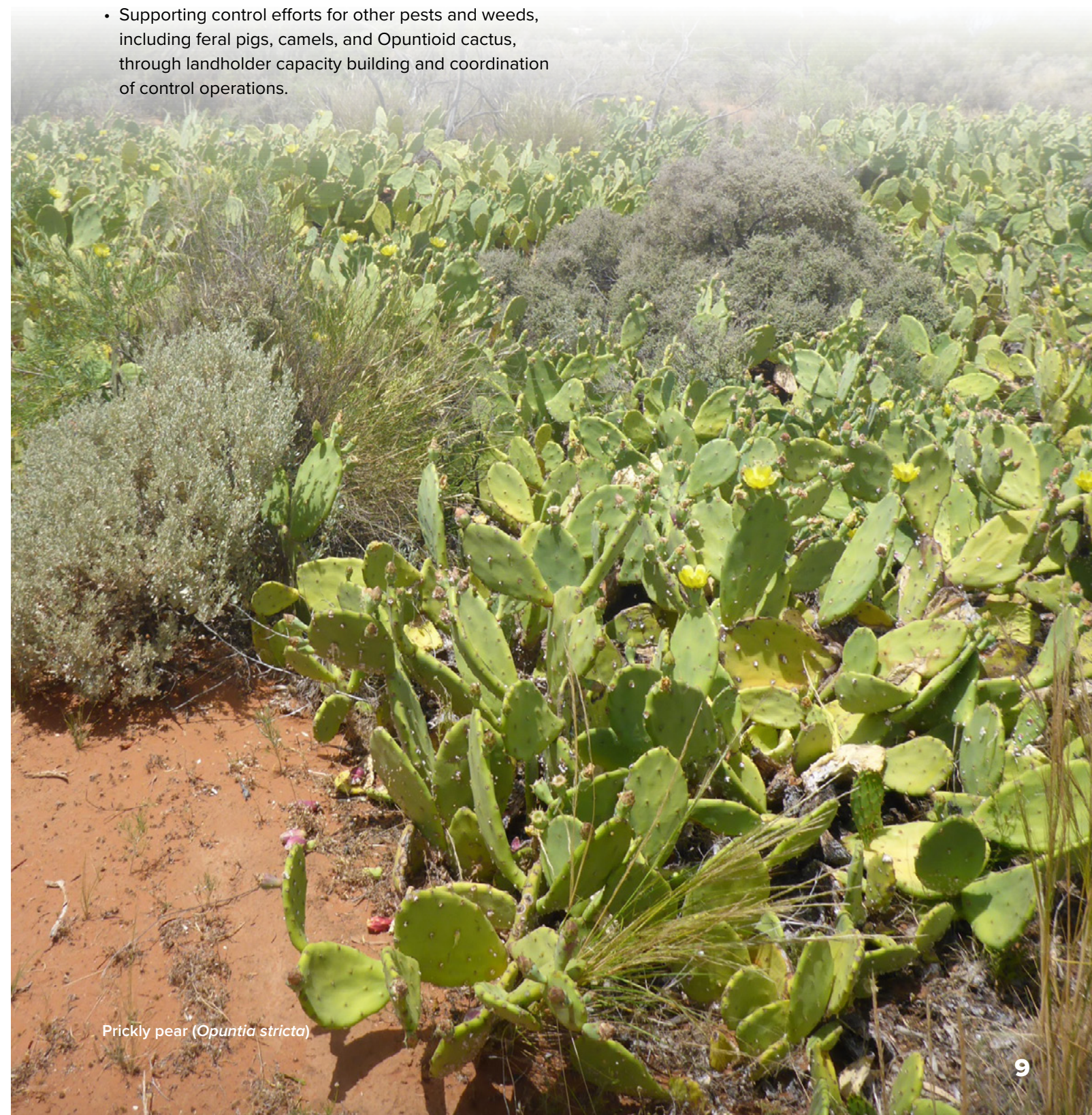
This cooperative program funded by the Australian Government is providing resources for the installation and maintenance of wells and associated distribution networks on a cost-share basis with landholders. The board is partnering with the Department for Environment and Water to deliver the program in 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 2023/24 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.
- Supporting control efforts for other pests and weeds, including feral pigs, camels, and Opuntoid cactus, through landholder capacity building and coordination of control operations.



Prickly pear (*Opuntia stricta*)



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 2023/24 is provided in TABLE 1.

Program expenditure

TABLE 1: Proposed board expenditure by priority area for 2023/24

PRIORITY	FOCUS AREAS 2023/24	KEY PROJECTS/ ACTIVITIES	LANDSCAPE AND WATER LEVIES (\$)	EXTERNAL FUNDS (\$)	STATE APPROPRIATION (\$)	TOTAL (\$)
<div>Climate resilient region</div> <div></div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensuring climate risk is embedded in all board business</li><li>• Providing land managers with the knowledge and skills they need to mitigate and adapt to climate change</li><li>• Exploring adaptation pathways to ensure communities are climate resilient</li></ul>	Building Pastoral Sustainability <sup>5</sup>  <i>Program delivery</i> <sup>2</sup>	TBC			
<div>Water management</div> <div></div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 'Planning, research &amp; leveraging infrastructure investment to support the judicious use of groundwater</li><li>• Maintaining hydrogeology to protect Great Artesian Basin springs and groundwater-dependent ecosystems</li><li>• Understanding and managing surface water systems including the Lake Eyre Basin</li></ul>	Implementation of the Far North Prescribed Wells Area Water Allocation Plan  Water Affecting Activities assessment and approvals and project support  State Water Planning and Management contribution <sup>3</sup>  Bore audit, extension, education and well compliance support  Improving Great Artesian Basin Drought Resilience – sustainable water use projects  <i>Program delivery</i> <sup>2</sup>	25,000  281,910  75,582  192,495  50,000  559,491			25,000  281,910  75,582  192,495  50,000  559,491
<div>Sustainable land management</div> <div></div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Effective pest plant and animal control protecting production systems</li><li>• Addressing the threat of excessive total grazing pressure</li><li>• Building land managers' capacity in adaptive agriculture, best practice land management and rehabilitation</li></ul>	Biteback – Wild dog management <sup>6</sup> Other pest and weed control Building Pastoral Sustainability <sup>5</sup> From the Ground Up – Supporting Regenerative Grazing Practices Landscape Priorities Fund – Biosecurity for Biodiversity Potential Kangaroo Partnerships Project Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator <sup>5</sup> <i>Program delivery</i> <sup>2</sup>	171,219       153,276	260,925   TBC 73,566 295,752 TBC TBC 300,217	50000      47,304	432,144 50,000  73,566 295,752   500,797
<div>Protecting and enhancing biodiversity</div> <div></div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Managing key threats to protect natural values</li><li>• Taking action for threatened species and ecosystem recovery</li><li>• Maintaining and improving the condition of Great Artesian Basin springs and water-dependent ecosystems</li></ul>	Proposed Australian Government Projects <sup>5</sup>  Ramsar Strategic Adaptive Management ARC linkage  Lake Eyre Basin Riparian Vegetation and Springs restoration  Rangelands ecology  <i>Program delivery</i> <sup>2</sup>	  TBC   57,521  51,489	   480,000   502,445	     145,696	574,779   480,000  57,521  699,630
<div>People and partnerships</div> <div></div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• First Nations partnerships supporting cross-cultural knowledge sharing and landscape management outcomes</li><li>• Supporting landscape groups to lead community action and education</li><li>• Raising awareness of the region's natural values and connecting people to nature</li><li>• Supporting community action to achieve land, water and coastal management outcomes</li></ul>	Landscape Group governance Local projects/ events/ initiatives Aboriginal partnerships Grassroots grants Landholder engagement and land management extension, partnerships and education <sup>3</sup> Community sponsorship Drought Hub – Cross Hub Project Drought Hub – Pastoral Node Remote Monitoring <i>Program delivery</i> <sup>2</sup>	   20,000 100,000 786,224  15,000   824,684	      7543 5000 5975	84,000 70,000      397,000	84,000 70,000 20,000 100,000 786,224  15,000 7,543 5,000 830,659
TOTAL EXPENDITURE			3,363,891	2,506,202	397,000	6,267,093

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

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.

5. Proposed Australian Government Projects – based on project design and previous funding. In the absence of Australian Government funding having been committed at the time of writing, carryover funds will be allocated to meet shortfall.

6. Includes sheep industry funds for wild dog control, subject to confirmation.



Funding sources 2023/24

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:** 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 Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water 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	2023-24 BUDGET (\$)
Landscape and water levies	
Landscape levy <sup>1</sup>	\$898,959
Water levy <sup>1,2</sup>	\$1,113,589
Levy – co-produced	\$913,776
State Government	
State recurrent <sup>3</sup>	\$397,000
Australian Government	
Lake Eyre Basin and GAB Springs Restoration	\$180,000
From the Ground Up – Supporting Regenerative Grazing Practices	\$73,566
Other	
Industry Partnerships <sup>4</sup>	\$260,925
Drought Hub – Cross Hub Project	7,543
Drought Hub – Pastoral Node Remote Monitoring	5,000
Potential Kangaroo Partnerships Project	0
TOTAL INCOME	\$3,850,358

1. Landscape and water levy income to be raised in 2023/24 is based on 8.4% actual CPI rate (September 2022 quarter) increase on the approved 2022/23 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.

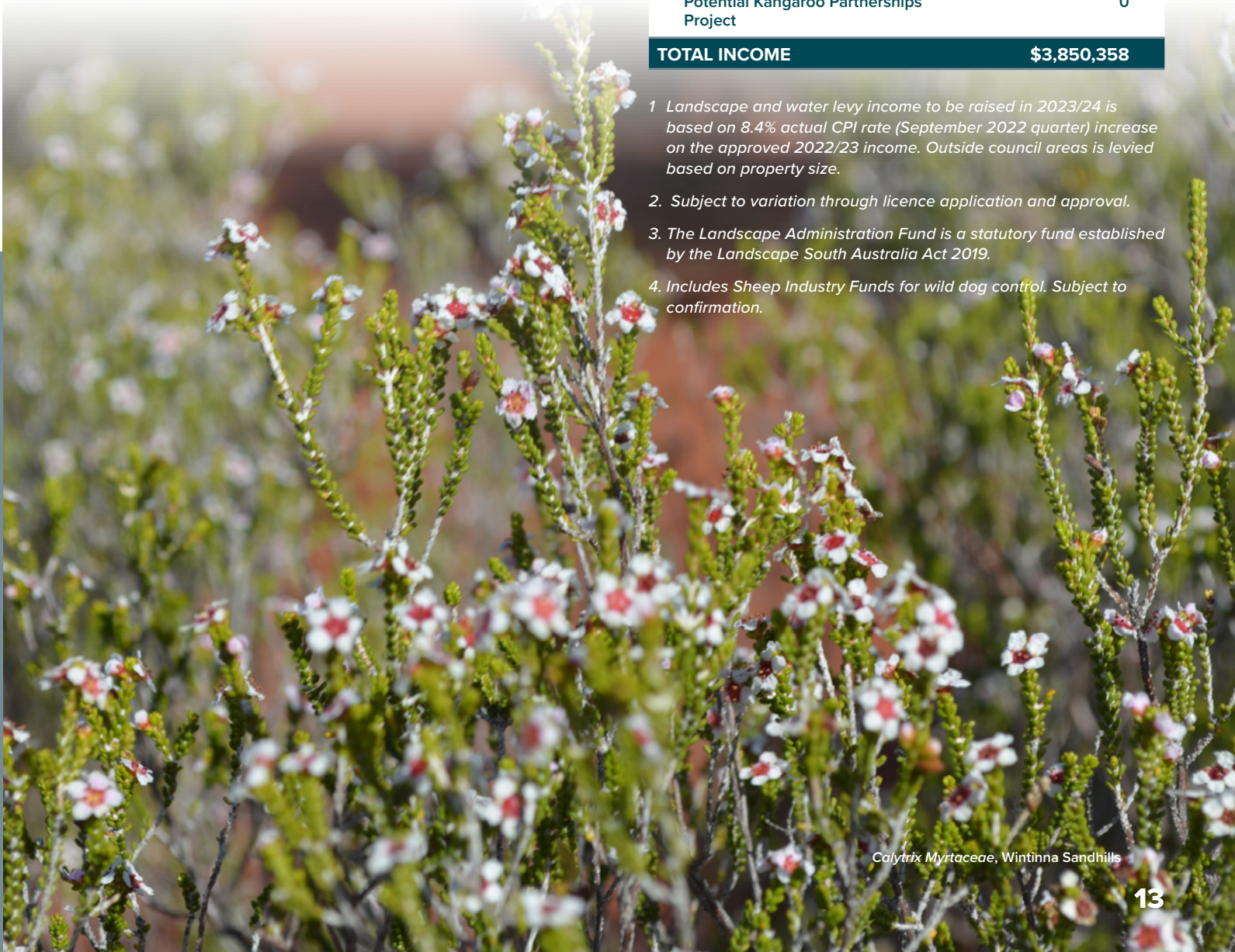
4. Includes Sheep Industry Funds for wild dog control. Subject to confirmation.

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), Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water
  - Australian Government – Great Artesian Basin Secretariat, and Lake Eyre Basin Secretariat



Calytrix Myrtaceae, Wintinna Sandhills



Regional landscape levy

Consistent with the government’s policy, the board’s plan proposes that the annual levy increase for 2023/24 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 aligns 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 size per property

PROPERTY SIZE	2023/24
<10ha	\$72.15
10ha – <100ha	\$252.53
100ha – <100,000ha	\$505.06
100,000ha or greater	\$865.81

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.

Council’s share of the regional landscape levy to be collected is detailed in **TABLE 5**.

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.

From 2023/24 the council contributions will be consistent across all four councils in the SA Arid Lands region, and based on land use category as shown in **TABLE 4**.

TABLE 5: Council contributions to regional landscape levy income, number of rateable properties and council collection fees

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA	2023/24		
	Council contribution to regional landscape levy <sup>1</sup> (\$)	Number of Rateable Properties	Estimated Council Levy Collection Fees <sup>1</sup> (\$)
Coober Pedy	\$78,766	1,613	\$3,288
Roxby Downs	\$88,969	1,862	\$3,357
The Flinders Ranges	\$92,189	1,172	\$3,164
Port Augusta	\$366,124	7,544	\$4,948
TOTAL	\$626,048		\$14,757

1 Based on CPI increase of 8.4% (September 2022 quarter) from 2022/23 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 2023/24, 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 2023/24 water levy rates will be increased by CPI on the 2022/23 rate for all classes of licence (indicative levy rates are shown in **TABLE 6**).

TABLE 4: Inside council levy per land use category

LAND USE CATEGORY	2023/24
Residential, Vacant and Other	\$45.35
Commercial/ Industrial	\$90.69
Primary Production	\$226.73

TABLE 6: Landscape water levy by license type

TYPE OF WATER LEVY	2023/24 LEVY RATE (c/KL)
Mining; including product processing, dewatering, mining camp supply, and associated mining uses	7.46
Co-produced water	4.13
Commercial (including irrigation), Town Water Supply, Industrial, Tourism and Recreation	4.80





Moolooloolo Station,  
Adnyamathanha Country

## 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.

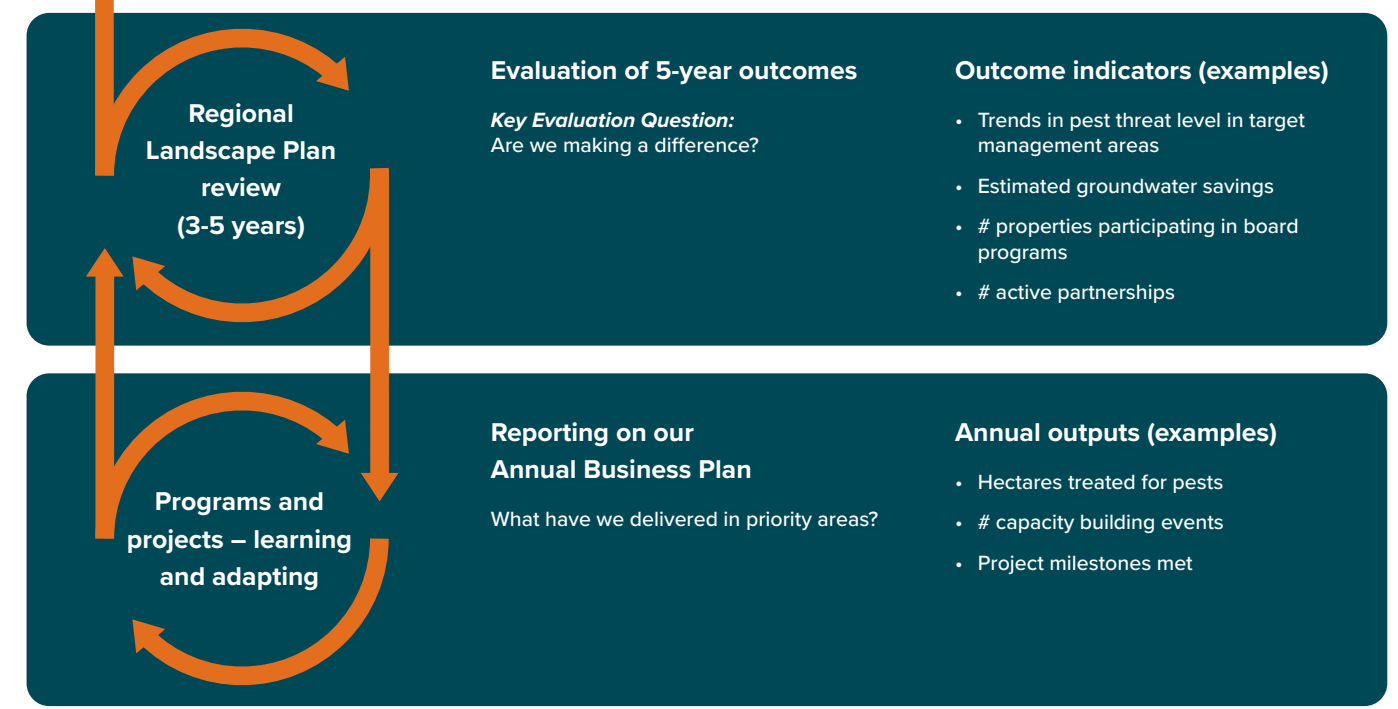
Program-specific monitoring plans have been developed for major programs, including Regional Land Partnership projects.

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







Simpson Desert, Wangkangurru-Yarluyandy Country

**South Australian Arid Lands Landscape Board**

1 Jervois Street, Port Augusta SA 5700

Phone: 08 8429 9666

Email: [saal.landscapeboard@sa.gov.au](mailto:saal.landscapeboard@sa.gov.au)

[www.landscape.sa.gov.au](http://www.landscape.sa.gov.au)

