

GREEN ADELAIDE

Regional Landscape Plan
2026-2031

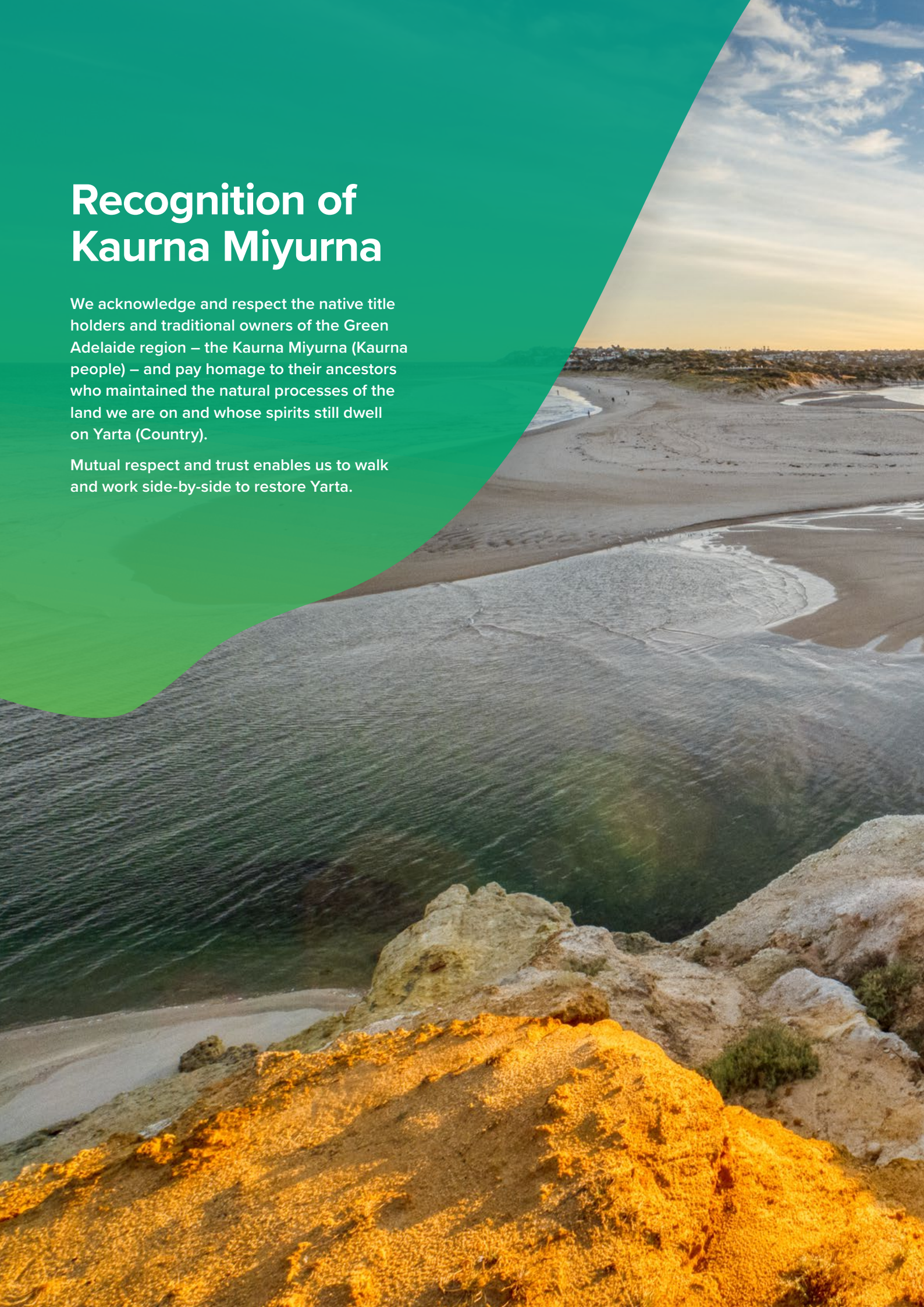


DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION 2025

Recognition of Kurna Miyurna

We acknowledge and respect the native title holders and traditional owners of the Green Adelaide region – the Kurna Miyurna (Kurna people) – and pay homage to their ancestors who maintained the natural processes of the land we are on and whose spirits still dwell on Yarta (Country).

Mutual respect and trust enables us to walk and work side-by-side to restore Yarta.





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Presiding Member's foreword



**On behalf of the
Green Adelaide Board,
I am pleased to present
this draft Regional
Landscape Plan 2026-
2031 for consultation.**

We are working towards developing the second regional landscape plan since Green Adelaide was established, and it's one that reflects the evolution of our agency. This will be a plan for Green Adelaide and will state what we will deliver.

We've built on our solid foundations to develop this draft plan with a sharper focus and a more refined direction, so that we can continue to deliver environmental action across metropolitan Adelaide – with even more impact.

For this next chapter of Green Adelaide, we will focus our effort on achieving outcomes in 3 pressing areas – Coast and Marine, Inland Waters, and Greening and Biodiversity.

We've identified some actions for each of these focus areas that will deliver lasting impact for our landscapes and communities, and now we want to test this thinking. Once these actions are settled, we will reflect them through targeted investment in our Annual Business Plans.

We know that our success relies on genuine and meaningful collaboration with many and varied partners across the region, and this is how we will strive to deliver the best results for our metropolitan community.

While we've had input and initial conversations with many organisations that we already work with, we know there are so many more voices to hear, with strong and considered views about the environment and unique knowledge to share.

We would love to hear your thoughts about this draft Regional Landscape Plan 2026-2031, as we continue on our quest for a cooler, greener, wilder and more climate-resilient Adelaide that celebrates our unique culture.

Professor Chris Daniels

BSc (Hons), PhD, DSc, FAICD
Presiding Member

How to have your say

**We are seeking feedback on
the draft Green Adelaide Regional
Landscape Plan 2026-2031,
to understand whether the
plan's outcomes and activities
are considered fit-for-purpose
in guiding positive change for
Adelaide's urban environment.**

While the actions in the plan will be delivered by Green Adelaide, to maximise our impact and deliver meaningful environmental outcomes, it's critical that we work collaboratively with partners, stakeholders and the community.

We are interested in understanding whether individuals, groups, organisations and agencies can see opportunities to work with us towards making Adelaide cooler, greener, wilder and more climate resilient.

Feedback from this consultation will be used to shape and finalise the regional landscape plan, which will be operational from 1 July 2026.

**Public consultation will open on
Friday 21 November 2025 and
close on Friday 19 December 2025.**

Feedback can be provided via YourSAy
at www.yoursay.sa.gov.au or direct
email to dew.greenadelaide@sa.gov.au.

About Green Adelaide

This artwork, Kardalta Tarntanya, represents Green Adelaide's vision through the interconnected nature of our 7 legislated priorities. It shows the importance of the relationships between the land, water, sea, and biodiversity, and people keeping each other healthy, thriving and connected.



Illustration by
Allan Sumner

Who we are

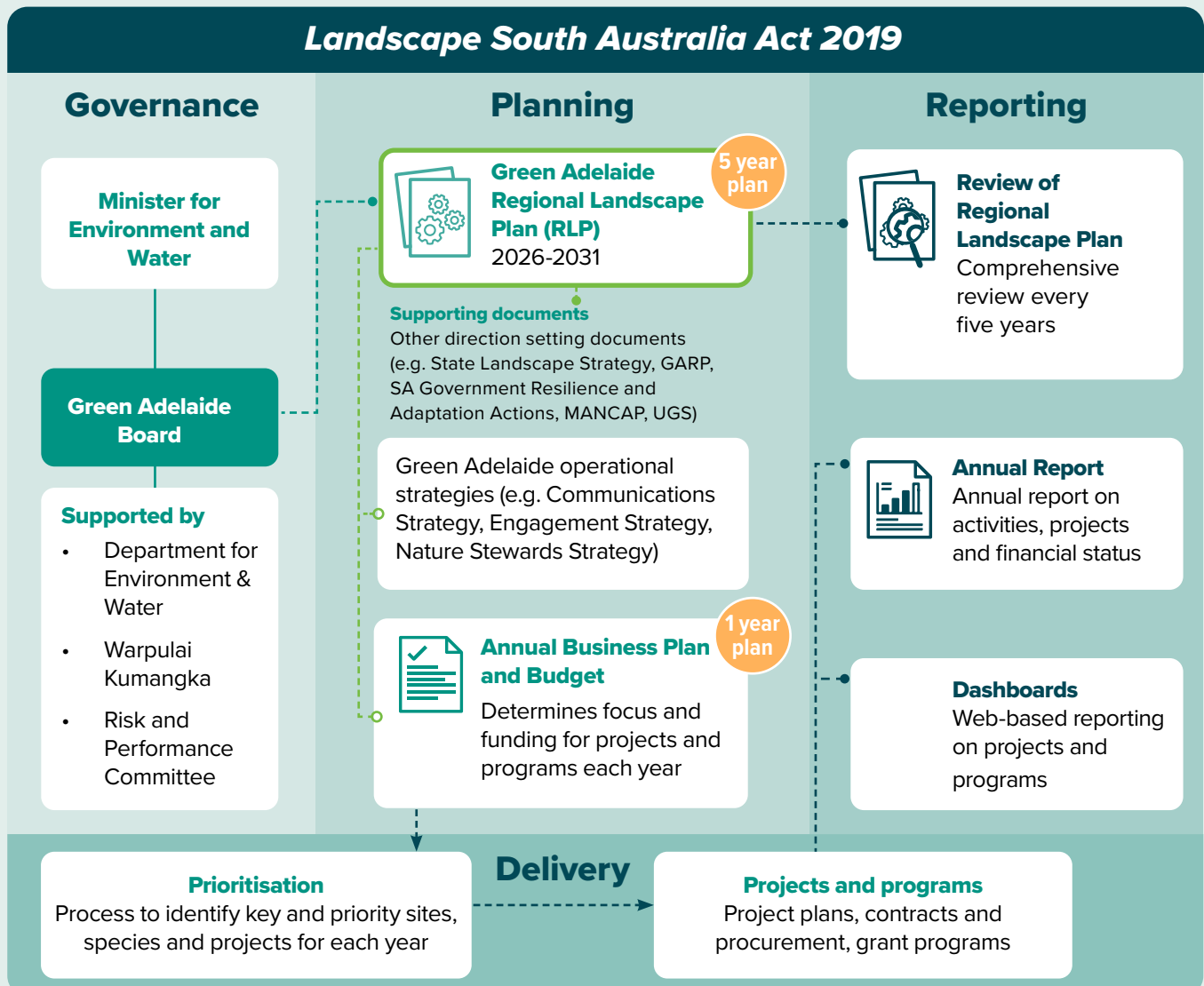
Green Adelaide is one of South Australia's 9 regional landscape boards tasked with managing the state's land, water and biodiversity.

These landscape boards operate under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* (the Act), each focusing on a particular region of the state.

What makes Green Adelaide unique is that it's the only urban landscape board.

Our remit spans the metropolitan Adelaide footprint – from Gawler in the north to Sellicks Beach in the south, and east to west from the foothills to Gulf St Vincent.

The Green Adelaide Board provides strategic direction to Green Adelaide, which operates as a branch within the Department for Environment and Water, applying skills-based expertise to achieve tangible environmental outcomes.



What guides us

Our Vision is for a cooler, greener, wilder and more climate-resilient Adelaide that celebrates our unique culture.

Our purpose is to inspire, support and connect our region, bringing people and place together to integrate nature into our urban spaces and create a thriving, biodiverse, and climate-ready region.

We aim to deliver tangible environmental outcomes for the region, working across 3 focus areas: Coast and Marine, Inland Waters, and Greening and Biodiversity.

To do this, we are guided by our aspirational values:

Collaboration

“We unlock greater potential by working together – embracing, enhancing and recognising diverse disciplines, unique strengths and expertise.”

Leadership

“We inspire and facilitate collective action to drive meaningful change for our unique ecosystems and people, working towards shared goals with purpose, integrity and accountability.”

Impact

“We focus on measurable outcomes that create lasting, positive change for the ecological systems of our region.”

Courage

“We act boldly with integrity, remaining resilient when faced with complexity, and are prepared to challenge the status quo with determination.”

How we're funded

The work of Green Adelaide is primarily funded by landscape levies collected from ratepayers across Adelaide's 17 metropolitan councils, and water levies collected from water licence holders in our region.

How we operate

We work in a number of ways to achieve outcomes for our region – these are our 5 enabling functions which define the types of work we will deliver:

Catalyse on-ground action

We fund works through direct investment and by partnering with landholders and other organisations. We bring together active and interested groups to facilitate and undertake these works, which include activities like planting, pest and weed control, species reintroductions, and seed collection. We also provide grants to enable on-ground project delivery by our partners and community.

Develop and maintain data and evidence

We collect data and undertake monitoring to support our own projects and those of our partners. This includes mapping projects, quality and condition assessments, and the release of data for partners and community access. We also support research and investigations to identify risks to the environment and opportunities for novel approaches to enable better environmental outcomes.

Facilitate collaboration

We actively engage in collaborative partnerships to maximise our impact in delivering environmental outcomes across our region. This includes developing programs of work, undertaking feasibility studies and project scoping, and undertaking work to deliver actions. We provide leadership in bringing stakeholders together to develop solutions to challenging problems and support partnership approaches to action these.

Inspire nature stewardship

We aim to build the capacity and capability of the people in our region to deliver environmental programs and outcomes, through information, education and engagement. We also conduct compliance activities to encourage appropriate land and water management practices.

Influence policy

We provide advice on how to improve policies and develop management plans that impact our waterways, coasts and biodiversity. We provide information and options to enable our partner agencies to achieve better environmental outcomes.



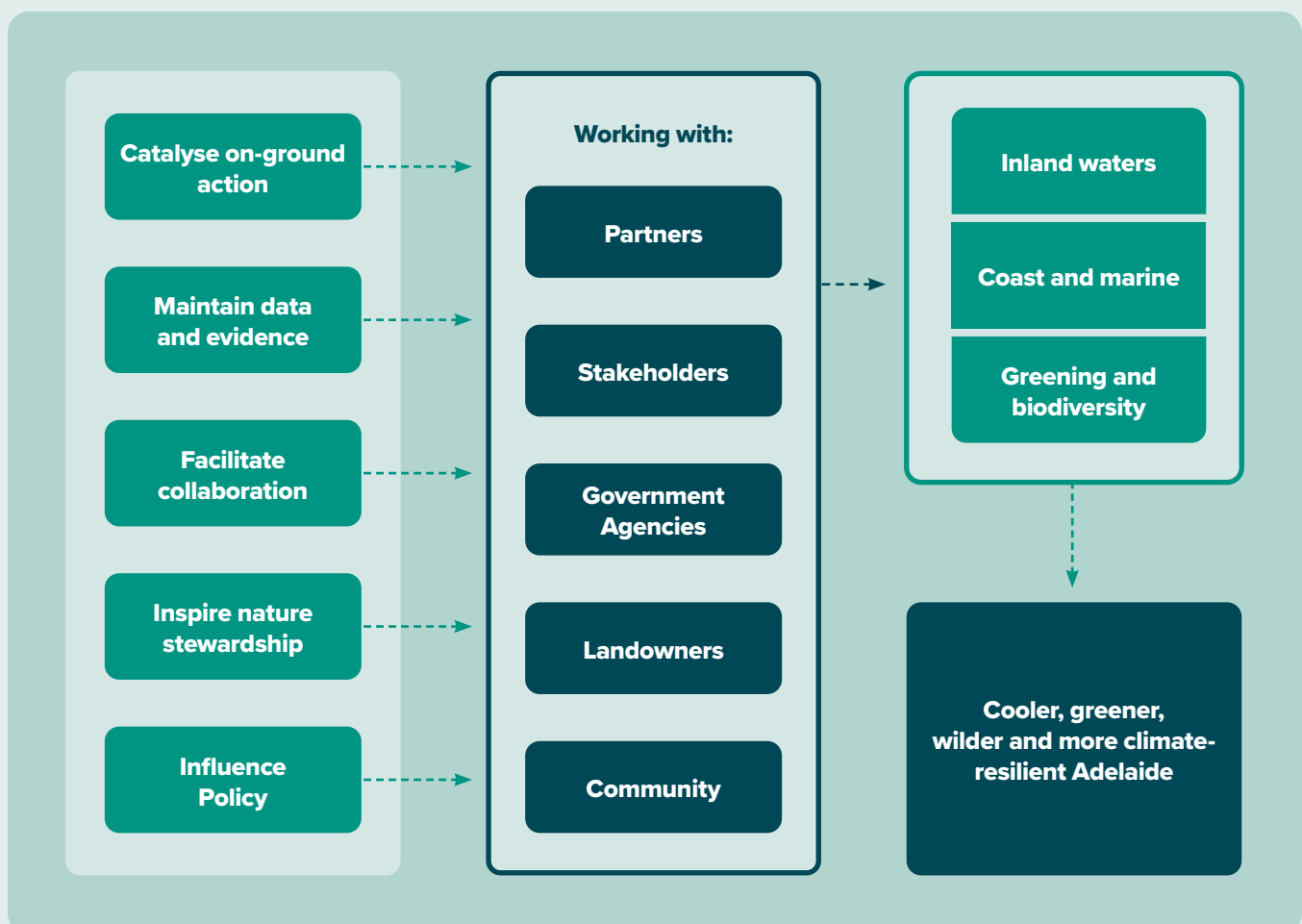
How we work with others

For Green Adelaide to maximise our impact and deliver meaningful environmental outcomes, it's critical that we sustain strong strategic partnerships.

We work collaboratively with local councils, state agencies, non-government organisations, other landscape boards, communities and individuals.

The strength of our partnerships relies on shared values, trust and transparency.

We actively seek these qualities when we embark on new partnerships, and for partnerships that already exist, we hold these qualities with the greatest respect.



Our direction for the next 5 years

Green Adelaide’s Regional Landscape Plan (this Plan), sets our strategic direction for the next 5 years.

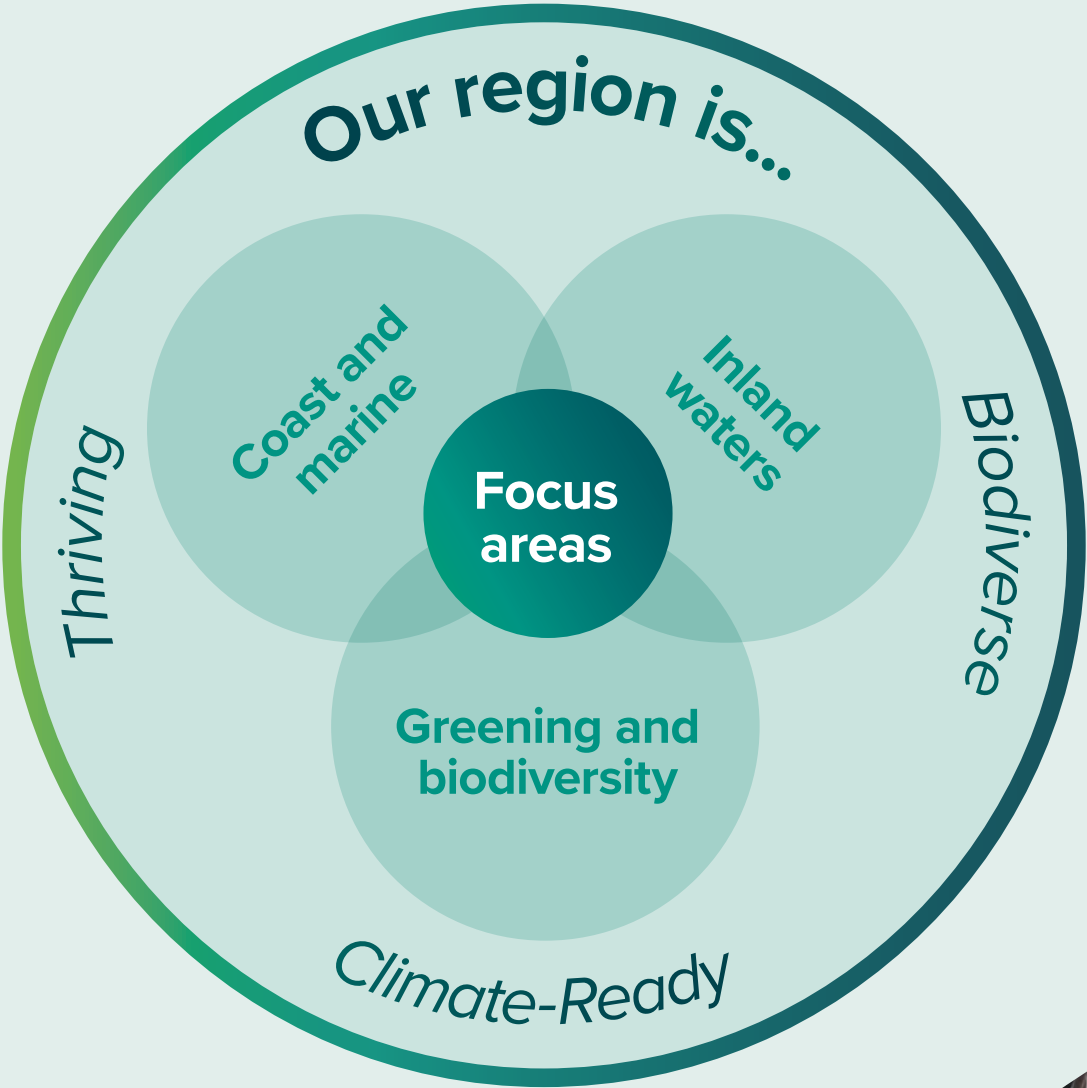
We’ve identified environmental outcomes that we want to achieve for each of the 3 focus areas: Coast and Marine, Inland Waters, and Greening and Biodiversity.

We will work towards achieving these outcomes through purposeful activities, and collectively, will address the 7 legislated priorities for Green Adelaide

that are detailed in the *Landscape SA Act*. These legislative priorities are indicated in the table below.

This Plan guides the prioritisation of activities and will be supported by annual business plans that more thoroughly outline the actions and collaborations required to achieve the outcomes.

On the pages that follow, each of the 3 focus areas and desired outcomes will be explored in detail.



	Coast and marine	Inland waters	Greening and biodiversity
Coastal management	✓		
Water resources and wetlands		✓	
Green streets and flourishing parklands			✓
Biodiversity-sensitive and water-sensitive urban design	✓	✓	✓
Fauna, flora and ecosystem health in the urban environment	✓	✓	✓
Controlling pest plants and animals	✓	✓	✓
Nature education	✓	✓	✓

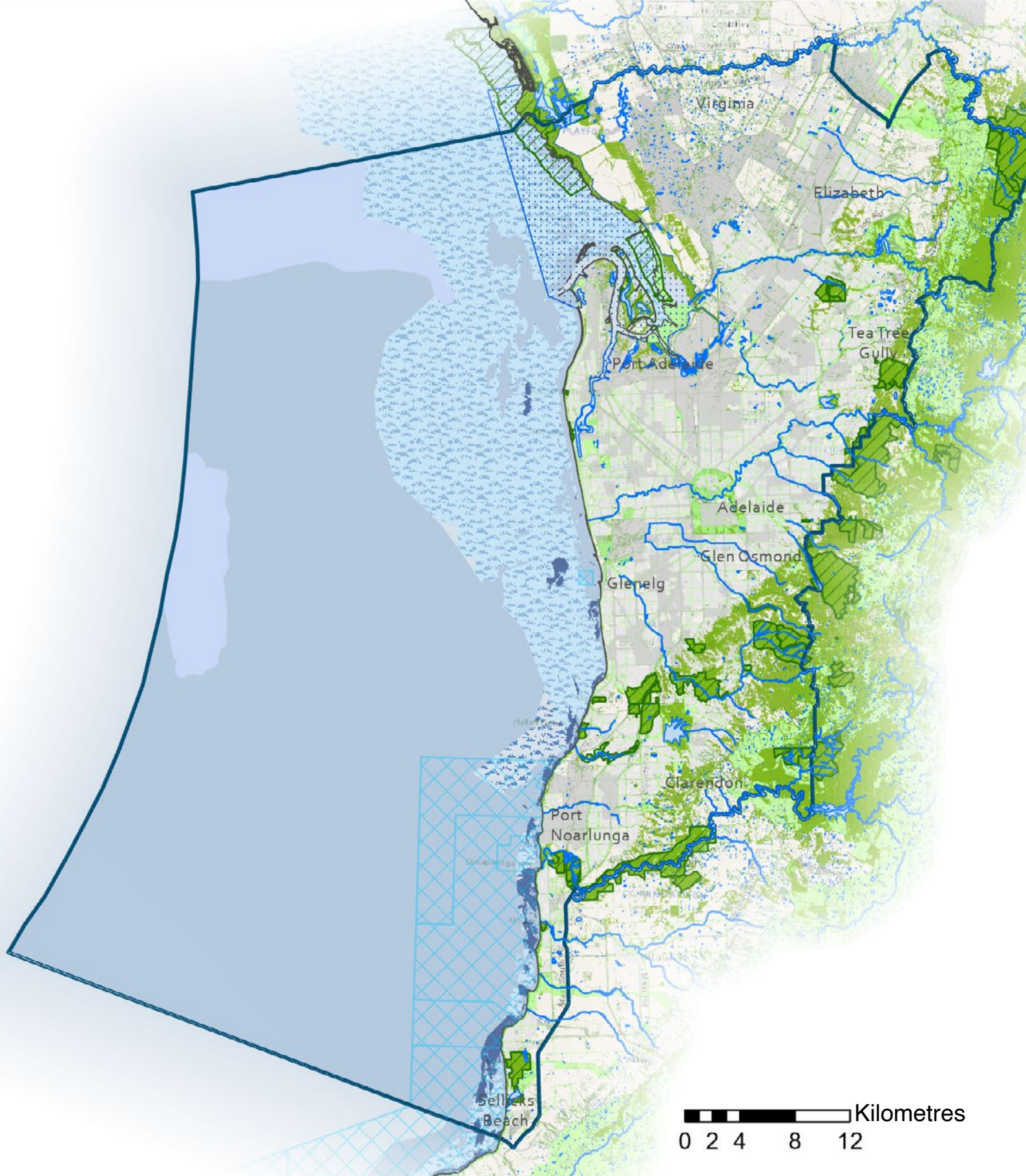
How we measure success

To understand the effectiveness of our activities and the value of our investment, Green Adelaide is committed to regular monitoring, reporting and evaluation.

This will be achieved using a set of consistent indicators, reported annually on Green Adelaide's online dashboards.

Analysing our outputs and changes in regional condition will allow us to adapt our management approaches to current and evolving pressures on our landscapes.





- Water Courses
- Green Adelaide Region
- Water Bodies
- NPWSA Reserves
- State Marine Park Zoning
- Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary

Layer

Terrestrial Environment

- Native vegetation contains known EPBC and/or NPW Act values
- Native vegetation may contain EPBC Act and/or NPW Act values

Current Urban Areas

Future urban development

Open Space Network – Greenways

Marine Environment

Seagrass

Macroalgae and Invertebrate communities

Reef

Sand with macroalgae and seagrass

Invertebrate communities

Our region and landscapes

Green Adelaide's region spans approximately 3,356 square kilometres across metropolitan Adelaide, and extends up to 30 kilometres into the Gulf St Vincent.

While the terrestrial part of the region is predominantly urban and peri-urban, it includes a range of key environmental features, including remnant and restored patches of native vegetation, beaches and coastal cliffs, marine environments and river corridors and wetlands.

It also includes areas used for primary production, including horticulture on the Northern Adelaide Plains.

The landscape is constantly changing as metropolitan Adelaide grows, with development spreading to the northern and southern edges, replacing native vegetation and rural land.

With approximately 1.3 million people, the region contains 80% of the state's population.

Our community is just as diverse as our landscape, with our population representing a broad range of socio-demographic characteristics.

Region at a glance	
Size of region	3356 square km (63% is marine; 37% is terrestrial)
Protected lands	88.2 square km (including land under heritage agreements)
Protected waters	340 square km
Watercourses	1700 km
Coastline	225 km
Population	1.36 million
Migrant population	32.5% of people born outside of Australia
Language used at home	73% English only (27% language other than English)
Local government areas	17 Councils
Residential area	35% (of terrestrial area of region)
Primary production area	22% (of terrestrial area of region)
Reserves (including sporting fields)	11% (of terrestrial area of region)
Roads	11% (of terrestrial area of region)
Commercial, industrial and public institutions	21% (of terrestrial area of region)
Impermeable surfaces	29.1% (of terrestrial area of region)
Tree canopy (3m and above)	16.5% (of terrestrial area of region)
Tallest tree	48.4 m (found in Mitcham)
Native vegetation	26.8% (of the terrestrial area of the region) remaining
Threatened ecological communities[#]	14 (4 are nationally threatened under the EPBC Act 1999)
Threatened plant species*	53
Threatened animal species*	75
Native plant species*	1148
Native animal species*	946 vertebrates (including 431 birds, 61 mammals, 353 fish, 88 reptiles, and 13 amphibians) 3269 invertebrates
Introduced plant species*	913
Introduced animal species*	49

Threatened plant and animal species are those listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

Note: all figures listed above are approximate

[#] As per Bushland Assessment Manual 2024 Appendix 11"

Snapshot of factors influencing our region

Factor	Description
Population growth	Increase of 63,000 residents in the next 5 years
Housing growth	Additional 32,900 dwellings in the next 5 years
Employment lands	Additional 6.65 square km of land for employment in the next 5 years
Ageing population	Increase in active retirees (65-79 years old) by 30% by 2051
Urban heat intensity	Urban areas are 3.2 degrees Celsius higher than undeveloped areas
More days of extreme heat	Extra 1.6 days per year above 40 degrees Celsius by 2030
Increase in daily max temp by 2030*	Increase in average daily maximum temperatures by 1.2 degrees Celsius by 2030
Annual rainfall change by 2030*	Decrease in average annual rainfall by 7.5% by 2030, but an increase in high rainfall events
Sea level rise by 2030*	Increase of 12 cm by 2030
Sea surface temp by 2030*	Increase by 0.5 degrees Celsius by 2030
Ocean acidification	There is very high confidence that around Australia the ocean will become more acidic

*1986 - 2005 baseline



Condition of our landscapes

There are a number of indicators which help Green Adelaide understand the condition of the environment in the region. The tables below provide a snapshot of the state of the landscape for the three focus areas in which Green Adelaide will work and are based on South Australia's Environmental Trend and Condition Report Cards (2023). While there are several indicators for which trend and/or condition is unknown for the Green Adelaide region, data collection and analysis is ongoing and more comprehensive reporting of the condition of our landscapes will continue to be investigated.

Green Adelaide is reliant on the Department for Environment and Water for its significant contribution towards understanding the state of the environment across the region. For more information on each of the measures please visit www.environment.sa.gov.au/about-us/our-reports/trend-and-condition-report-cards.

State of the landscape: Coast and marine

Measures reported through Green Adelaide Dashboards

Measure	Trend	Condition
Fish Species Richness¹	Northern & Metro Adelaide – Increasing (2015-2022) Southern Metro – Stable (2008-2022)	Not assigned – condition thresholds not defined
Macroinvertebrate Species Richness¹	Northern & Metro Adelaide – Decreasing (2015-2022) Southern Metro – Stable (2008-2022)	Not assigned – condition thresholds not defined
Macroalgae Coverage¹	Northern & Metro Adelaide – Stable (2015-2020) Southern Metro – Stable (2015-2020)	Not assigned – condition thresholds not defined
Marine Debris²	Not assigned – trend not analysed in the reporting period (2010-2022)	Not assigned – condition thresholds not defined

¹ [Green Adelaide Reef Ecosystems Dashboard](#)

² [Green Adelaide Marine Debris Dashboard](#)





Measures reported through DEW Trend and Condition Report Cards

Measure	Trend	Condition
Seagrass percentage cover	Getting better	Unknown – no agreed condition thresholds (extent 23.9% within sampling sites)
Mangrove vegetation percentage cover	Unknown	Unknown – no agreed condition thresholds (extent 1.398% of terrestrial area of the region)
Coastal saltmarsh percentage cover	Unknown	Unknown – no agreed condition thresholds (extent 0.499% of terrestrial area of the region)
Coast and marine native flora percentage declining	Unknown	Unknown – no agreed condition thresholds
Coast and marine native fauna percentage declining	Unknown	Unknown – no agreed condition thresholds
Coast and marine established invasive species abundance and distribution	Stable	Good (statewide rating)
Coast and marine new incursions of invasive Species	Getting worse	Good (statewide rating)



State of the landscape: Inland waters

Measures reported through Green Adelaide Dashboards

Measure	Trend	Condition
Fish biodiversity³	Not assigned – trend not analysed within the reporting period (2011-2023)	No regional condition. Site condition rated as Good at 7 sites, Intermediate at 18 sites, and Poor at 1 site within the Green Adelaide region (at the last time each site was visited within the reporting period)

³ [Green Adelaide Fish Biodiversity Dashboard](#)

Measure	Trend	Condition
Suspended solids (mg/L)	Getting better at 6 sites and getting worse at 4 sites. Not assigned at 4 sites (<95% confidence)	Not assigned – condition thresholds not defined
Total Nitrogen (mg/l)	Getting better at 5 sites and getting worse at 3 sites. Not assigned at 6 sites (<95% confidence)	Not assigned – condition thresholds not defined

Measure	Trend	Condition
Total Phosphorous (mg/L)	Getting better at 4 sites and getting worse at 3 sites. Not assigned at 7 sites (<95% confidence)	Not assigned – condition thresholds not defined
Salinity (EC – µs/cm)	Getting better at 5 sites and getting worse at 2 sites. Not assigned at 10 sites (<95% confidence)	Not assigned – condition thresholds not defined

Measures reported through DEW Trend and Condition Report Cards

Measure	Trend	Condition
Aquatic Ecosystem Condition (based on Environment Protection Authority Aquatic Ecosystem Condition Rating - macroinvertebrates)	Getting better based on 16 sites across the Green Adelaide region visited 3 or more times within the reporting period (2008 – 2021)	No regional condition. Site condition rated as Very Good at 1 site, Good at 18 sites, Fair at 14 sites, and Poor at 11 sites within the Green Adelaide region (at the last time each site was visited within the reporting period)
Inland waters native flora percentage declining	Unknown	Unknown – no agreed condition thresholds
Inland waters native fauna percentage declining	Unknown	Unknown – no agreed condition thresholds
Inland waters established invasive species abundance and distribution	Stable	Poor (statewide rating)
Inland waters new incursions of invasive species	Unknown	Unknown (statewide rating)



State of the landscape: Greening and biodiversity

Measures reported through Green Adelaide Dashboards

Measure	Trend	Condition
Tree canopy (3m and above)⁴	Not assigned – further data required	Fair (extent 16.5% of terrestrial area of the region)

⁴ [Green Adelaide Green Streets Dashboard](#)

Measures reported through DEW Trend and Condition Report Cards

Measure	Trend	Condition
Terrestrial native vegetation cover	Unknown (statewide rating)	Unknown – no agreed condition thresholds (extent 26.8% of the terrestrial area of the region)
Terrestrial native flora percentage declining	Unknown	Unknown – no agreed condition thresholds
Terrestrial native fauna percentage declining	Unknown	Unknown – no agreed condition thresholds
Terrestrial established invasive species abundance and distribution	Stable	Fair
Terrestrial new incursions of invasive species	Unknown	Unknown





Focus area: Coast and marine

A snapshot of our coast and marine environment

Our region is made up of 225 km of coastline from the Gawler River estuary in the north to Sellicks Beach in the south, and 2,114 km² of marine waters in Gulf St Vincent.

This area makes up almost 63% of the Green Adelaide region, and is home to a diverse range of coast and marine ecosystems and species.

It covers everything from offshore islands, intertidal and subtidal rocky reefs, seagrass meadows, estuaries and wetlands, to rocky shores, cliffs, sand dunes and beaches, along with mudflats, mangrove and saltmarsh stretching inland from the low-water line.

These ecosystems form a dynamic, interconnected web that's essential for our region's biodiversity and resilience.

Not only do our coast and marine environments provide vital habitat for a wide range of flora and fauna, but they also support many species that are unique to southern Australia.

Our coast provides habitat for a host of reptiles, butterflies and shorebirds, including resident and migratory species of conservation significance. In fact, the northern end of our region is a key feeding and roosting site for migratory seabirds flying from as far away as Alaska and Siberia (as the southern gateway to the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary).

And our marine waters are home to many significant species including an urban pod of Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins that can be found in the Port River Estuary.

Why this is a focus area for Green Adelaide

While the environmental credentials of this special part of our region are reason enough for this to be a focus of Green Adelaide effort, it's also important to look at its potential in climate change mitigation.

Our coast and marine environment is a haven for important biodiversity and habitat. And its healthy seagrass, mangroves, saltmarsh and dunes are critical in protecting the coastline from erosion and shielding nearby developed areas from flooding during storm surges.

Furthermore, the extent and quality of our seagrass meadows, saltmarshes and mangroves mean they are well placed to capture and store blue carbon, making it even more critical that we prioritise these areas for conservation and restoration.

Along with their environmental value, the coast and the gulf are also critical from a socio-economic perspective.

There are many recreational and commercial activities and industries, reliant upon thriving coastal and marine ecosystems.





Why we're driven to act

While the significance of our coast and marine environment is clear, so too are some of the challenges it faces.

The impact of stormwater discharge, through the nutrients and sediments that flow out to sea – is an ongoing challenge. This discharge affects near-shore marine habitats in particular, impacting their long-term health and resilience.

Plastic pollution and other marine debris also threaten our species and habitats.

Adelaide's population growth and subsequent increased use of the beaches could impact our coast and marine environments. More broadly, climate change is a known threat. Our marine life and habitats are vulnerable to rising sea temperatures and marine heatwaves, and the effects of these may be heightened in the shallow waters of Gulf St Vincent.

The impact of climate change on sea levels is a direct threat to our coastline, in terms of degradation and habitat destruction, as is the occurrence of more severe and destructive storms that are likely to come with these changes.

This Plan sets outcomes that will help us respond and adapt to these challenges.

Coast and marine outcomes

Desired outcomes		Proposed monitoring and reporting:
Improved coast and marine habitats	Remnant coastal vegetation and connectivity corridors at key sites are conserved and enhanced.	Coastal vegetation extent and condition.
	Priority habitat at PPort Stanvac, Tennyson Dunes, Lefevre Peninsula, Barker Inlet, Bird Island, the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary and along the Onkaparinga coast are protected and enhanced.	Marine habitat extent and condition.
	Priority marine habitats including reef and seagrass ecosystems are protected and conserved.	
Improved species populations	Populations of priority flora and fauna species are increased at key sites.	Populations of priority coastal and marine flora and fauna species.
	Habitat for priority shorebirds and seabirds is improved and increased.	
Reduced pests and other threats	Impacts of priority pest plants and animals, and marine pests, are understood and mitigated.	Abundance and distribution of priority coastal and marine pest plant and animal species.
	Threats of climate change and pollution are better understood and supporting mitigation actions are investigated.	Marine debris monitoring.

Our enabling functions, and the actions that we will undertake:

Catalyse on-ground action	Co-design and co-fund conservation efforts for key species, marine habitats, and coastal habitats, in partnership with landholders and community. Co-design and co-fund threat abatement, including control of priority pest plants and animals, in partnership with landholders and community.
Develop and maintain data and evidence	Continue to undertake targeted coastal and marine biodiversity and habitat monitoring programs for priority species and habitats, to inform conservation and protection efforts. Track existing and new threats to coast and marine ecosystems, including climate change, pests, pollution, stormwater flows and development. Better understand threats to coastal and marine ecosystems, including climate change, pests, pollution, stormwater flows and impacting development. Incentivise research that will improve options for better coastal and marine management.
Facilitate collaboration	Establish and maintain collaborative agreements with coastal councils and key landholders for the protection and care of coastal habitats for key species and to promote connectivity across coastal areas, contributing to the implementation of the Metropolitan Adelaide and Northern Coastal Action Plan (MANCAP). Co-design approaches to coast and marine management with landowners, community, Kurna people, relevant agencies and organisations.
Inspire nature stewardship	Work with community and professional networks to provide expert advice, support awareness and foster capacity-building on coastal and marine management, and on-ground project implementation.
Influence policy	Technically assess and provide advice to drive enhanced protections for coastal and marine environments.

Determining ‘priority’ and ‘key’ species and locations

The collaboratively produced and reviewed MANCAP guides coastal actions, including priority locations for work. Works along coastal locations are carried out in partnership and with permission from landowners, primarily being public land under control of local councils or national parks, with some sections under private ownership. Factors informing priority works include biodiversity and conservation values, scope for restoration, landholder agreement, and the ability to leverage investment

The coastal and marine priority locations will be reviewed and determined annually as part of Green Adelaide’s business planning processes. These may be reviewed at interim periods if significant reasons arise, such as high ability to leverage funding or an unforeseen major risk to a habitat or a species of conservation interest occurs.





Focus area: Inland waters

A snapshot of our inland waters

In our region, we have approximately 1,700 km of watercourses, including rivers, streams and creeks. In addition there are wetlands and groundwater resources. Collectively, these are our inland waters.

Our major watercourses include the South Para, Torrens and Onkaparinga rivers, which flow from the Mount Lofty Ranges and across the region, fed by a number of smaller tributaries.

We also have several smaller rivers, including the Gawler, Little Para, Patawalonga, Sturt and Field rivers, along with a network of creeks, including Brownhill, Keswick and Christie creeks.

These watercourses are mostly seasonal or ephemeral in nature, generally flowing during the winter and spring months while maintaining permanent pools over summer and autumn.

The natural riparian areas along these watercourses provide food, water and habitat for fauna, and act as biodiversity corridors that run through our urban area.

More broadly, they support a diverse range of environmental, social and cultural outcomes, such as providing opportunities for active and passive recreation, and as meeting places with rich traditional storytelling significance.

Across our region, there are also a number of natural and constructed wetlands, which provide food and habitat for aquatic fauna, including native species like rakali and freshwater fish.

These wetlands also help to manage stormwater quantity and quality – often to capture and treat runoff before it is utilised for other purposes.

Managed Aquifer Recharge is undertaken at various locations throughout the region to capture, store, and later recover water for consumptive use, including for supporting urban greening.

We also rely on native groundwater, mainly from the sedimentary Quaternary aquifers, the fractured rock aquifers of the foothills and hills, and the Tertiary aquifers of the Adelaide Plains.

Groundwater sustains our watercourses, both for base flow and permanent pools, and supports land-based vegetation like river red gums.

It is also a valuable asset for the commercial industry, and for irrigation of quality public and private green spaces.





Why this is a focus area for Green Adelaide

Our waterways and watercourses provide essential habitat and refuges for native fauna, and nourish native flora.

They also provide important recreational opportunities and connection to culture.

Groundwater can be drawn upon for irrigation of our public and private green spaces.

We understand the value of urban greening in cooling the city, enhancing biodiversity and improving the liveability of our region.

And to achieve this, we can't overlook the role of our diverse water sources.

The responsibility for managing our region's water resources are shared by landholders, which includes government, councils, businesses and individuals.

This brings unique challenges and extra complexity to achieving an integrated urban water management approach across the region.

We must also consider the impact of urban stormwater on the metropolitan hydrological cycle.

Being a highly urbanised area, our region has more impermeable surfaces and increased rainfall run-off into our waterways.

This runoff erodes the beds and banks of watercourses, and also contains contaminants such as heavy metals, excessive nutrients, and pathogens.

To manage our urban landscape we need to apply best practice stormwater management and incorporate water-sensitive urban design, in order to protect our watercourses and the biodiversity that it supports.

Why we're driven to act

Land use change and urbanisation are significantly changing the way water needs to be managed in the landscape.

With urban development comes increased impervious surfaces, and this means more water runoff and less infiltration into the soil.

This has the potential to overload existing stormwater systems, resulting in localised flooding and high watercourse flow conditions.

Pollutants, such as fuels and other chemicals, are also abundant in urban areas. This means we have greater risk of contaminants entering our waterways.

Climate change is a critical driver too. It has significantly changed the flow regime of many watercourses throughout the region, particularly over the past 30 years.

Reduced overall runoff, as well as more intense rainfall events, have altered hydrological regimes and impacted native species that rely on natural cues for lifecycle stages.

Physical alteration of watercourses, including barriers like dams and weirs, impede the movement of native species, in particular diadromous native fish that migrate along waterways.

Riparian habitat is often fragmented, so introduced weeds thrive and are often transported along creeks and rivers to spread throughout catchments. These weeds then outcompete native vegetation and impact water quality.

Pest fish and other species are also well established as they have limited natural predators and predate on native species.

Inland waters outcomes

Desired outcomes		Proposed monitoring and reporting:
Improved condition of waterways	Key sections of waterways are naturalised in collaboration with partner agencies and interest groups.	Surface water monitoring (flow, nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment).
	Adequate environmental flows occur into South Para River, the River Torrens and Onkaparinga River.	
	The quantity and quality of stormwater flows into key watercourses are improved, for better environmental and biodiversity outcomes.	
Improved species and habitat	The connectivity between priority sites within aquatic systems is improved, to allow aquatic animal movement, focusing on the South Para River, the River Torrens and Onkaparinga River.	Freshwater and estuary fish biodiversity and condition.
	Priority locally extinct or threatened aquatic species are reintroduced in key watercourses.	
	The condition and extent of riparian vegetation along key watercourses is improved.	
Reduced pests and threats	Aquatic and riparian pest plants and animals are reduced from priority sites and key watercourses.	
Our enabling functions, and the actions that we will undertake:		
Catalyse on-ground action	Co-design and co-fund planting and weed control work along waterways.	
	Promote the value and importance of, and incentivise the adoption of, water-sensitive urban design principles, outflow protection devices and sediment traps to improve stormwater quality in new developments and upgrades to existing assets.	
	Explore options and funding opportunities for collaborative projects focussed on naturalising waterways and improving connectivity within watercourses.	
Develop and maintain data and evidence	Continue, and look to extend, river, surface water, and riparian environment monitoring programs to support and improve baseline and trends, including for baseline setting.	
Facilitate collaboration	Co-design and co-fund the development of management and restoration plans for key waterways to inform future prioritisation of funds and efforts.	
	Technically assess and advise on stormwater management plans and development plans to improve inflows into local waterways and the Gulf of St Vincent.	

Our enabling functions, and the actions that we will undertake:

Inspire nature stewardship

Promote the value and importance of integrated water management, particularly where this also achieves biodiversity outcomes.

Improve landowner awareness and responsibilities for watercourse management.

Influence policy

Technically assess and provide advice to achieve adequate environmental flows into the South Para River, the River Torrens and Onkaparinga River.

Develop region-wide policies and procedures to protect inland waters including commitments to developing adequate controls for water affecting activities and developing water allocation plans.

Determining 'priority' and 'key' species and locations

Decisions on priority locations and species for work are guided by many factors, particularly as ownership of watercourses and surrounding lands is complex, including local and state governments, businesses and private individuals. Factors that inform decision-making include the extent of existing partnerships and functional relationships including the relationship of the site to the Kurna Miyurna; biodiversity value up- and down-stream of a location; and the challenges associated with access to the land.

The priorities will be reviewed and determined annually as part of Green Adelaide's business planning processes, and may be reviewed at interim periods if significant reasons arise, such as high ability to leverage funding for major works.





Focus area: Greening and biodiversity

A snapshot of our region's greening and biodiversity

Our region's landscape is diverse. There's the built-up central business district of Adelaide and the sprawling suburban areas, major outer metropolitan nodes, concentrated industrial and commercial districts, parks and reserves across the landscape, primary production areas in the north, and grasslands, woodlands and scrub along our fringes.

Our region has a range of natural and novel ecosystems within it. Natural ecosystems include wetlands, estuaries, remnant grasslands and woodlands. Novel ecosystems include urban parks, streetscapes, and modified green corridors such as along our waterways. Currently only about 27% of the remnant native vegetation remains in our region.

However, much of our green cover is fragmented. We have a relatively low diversity of trees in streets and reserves, and a low tree canopy, with only 16.5% canopy cover across the region.

Having said that, our region is adjacent to, and includes some of, the Mount Lofty Ranges which is a nationally recognised biodiversity hotspot that supports a high diversity of native species and vegetation communities, some of which are of state, national and global significance.

It is home to 4 ecological communities that are listed as threatened under the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* – grey box grassy woodland, peppermint box grassy woodland, subtropical and temperate coastal saltmarsh, and irongrass grassland.

Why this is a focus area for Green Adelaide

Our landscape supports a diverse range of uses that underpin environmental health, economic productivity and social wellbeing.

A green urban environment provides habitat for native animals, a critical refuge for biodiversity, ecosystem services such as improved stormwater quality, reduced runoff and erosion, improved air quality, and the capture and storage of carbon dioxide to mitigate climate change.

It is also vitally important for human health and wellbeing, helps cool the built-up areas of our region and enhances liveability.

It provides health and wellbeing value to our 1.36 million residents by fostering happier, healthier, more active and more connected people and communities.

With development and the pressures of climate change, our region is losing remnant vegetation, so it's important we keep working with our partners to protect the biodiversity of our region.

Why we're driven to act

Increasing urban development and intensification of peri-urban growth is occurring across the region to support our growing population and changing demographics.

The trend is towards larger houses on smaller blocks, which means less space for trees and greening.

In the competition for space to meet the needs of our urban communities, hard infrastructure often wins out over formal or informal open space.

Only a small proportion of our region is conserved within formally protected areas or under legislation, leaving our remaining green spaces and ecosystems vulnerable.



This is coupled with the fact that large areas of highly valued biodiversity are on private land. Improving our knowledge and understanding of this existing biodiversity is important so that we can better protect it.

Many of our partners are driven to protect biodiversity by managing weed and pest species that threaten vulnerable plant and animal communities. They look to us for information and assistance, as well as coordination so that we are all working together for greater collaborative impact.

We must continue to foster strong partnerships with landholders to get the best environmental outcomes and work with the community to involve them in greening their valuable patches of land. We need to continue to work with developers to create new communities that include parks, reserves and streets that provide opportunities for a variety of vegetation, including larger mature trees.

With a changing climate, the potential impacts on our plants and animals are dire. Hotter temperatures will mean reduced growth for our plants, which will impact our urban green spaces and tree canopy as well as habitat for our native animals. We need to be smart in how we use precious water resources, and become better at using stormwater throughout our urban areas. We are also facing biosecurity risks in the form of pests and diseases, which threaten the health of our trees, particularly across our built-up areas where the diversity of street trees is low.

Planning and preparing for these biohazards is critical to ensure a thriving urban forest exists into the future.

With less vegetation and more urbanisation, with its buildings and hard surfaces, the heat island effect is also greater – and so too is the impact on ecosystems, human health and wellbeing.

By working together to improve tree health and growth in streets, reserves, and residential gardens, we can create cooling effects that will benefit people where they live.

Greening and biodiversity outcomes

Desired outcomes

Improved and better protected biodiversity

Remnant and threatened flora, fauna and ecological communities are protected and conserved at key sites.

Biodiversity is integrated into new developments and retrofits of existing hard infrastructure.

Extent of key threatened ecological communities is expanded through restoration.

Proposed monitoring and reporting:

Desired outcomes		Proposed monitoring and reporting:
Improved urban greening and biodiversity	Awareness and implementation of integrated water management and biodiversity-sensitive urban design principles are improved within the region.	Canopy cover change. Urban tree canopy Green space.
	Urban greening in priority areas is increased in partnership with landowners, influencing agencies and developers.	
Reduced pests and other threats	Pest animals, including impact-causing native animals, are managed to support protection and restoration of remnant vegetation communities and urban biodiversity.	Abundance and distribution of priority pest plant and animal species.
	New and emerging flora and fauna pests are identified and controlled before they become embedded in the region.	
Our enabling functions, and actions that we will undertake:		
Catalyse on-ground action	Undertake seed collection, propagation and translocation programs to improve plant communities and habitats, and to enable the recovery of priority threatened species.	
	Identify and co-fund management actions to reduce pest flora and fauna impacts, and restoration efforts that improve conditions for native flora and fauna, in partnership with landholders, councils and other relevant organisations.	
	Incentivise major landholders to scale up and improve urban greening efforts by incorporating biodiversity-sensitive urban design and water-sensitive urban design.	
	Resource and inform work to improve biodiversity, canopy growth and greening outcomes across agencies and landholders.	
	Lead investigations, and co-fund work to improve greening, cooling and supporting biodiversity in urban areas.	
Develop and maintain data and evidence	Establish and develop data systems for mapping canopy cover and urban heat, to inform organisations and key documents (such as the GARP) across the region for planning projects and policy development.	
	Map the extent and quality of remnant and critical habitat to inform planning, development and policy.	
	Establish information on impact-causing native animals in urban and peri-urban areas to develop mitigation actions with partners.	
	Develop an understanding of key risk implications for biodiversity, greening and canopy (particularly focused on climate change, development, and biosecurity risks) and establish mitigation strategies.	
	Support research that increases our understanding of, and options for, greening and wilding the region.	
	Research and develop understanding of techniques and opportunities to improve biodiversity in open spaces and within urban areas.	

Our enabling functions, and actions that we will undertake:

Facilitate collaboration

Provide strategic coordination and leadership to establish cross-agency conversations to identify greening, cooling and wilding opportunities across urban areas and new developments.

Develop and foster partnerships with Kairua people, landowners, councils, and other agencies to improve understanding of local flora and fauna and how to support its inclusion into the urban landscape.

Inspire nature stewardship

Provide advice, information, education and engagement opportunities to a broad range of stakeholders to improve biodiversity and greening within the region.

Build and support the community's and other stakeholders' capacity to engage in threatened species conservation through on-ground action, monitoring programs, and education opportunities.

Influence policy

Develop practical guidance on how to accommodate trees and vegetation to improve cooling and greening of urban and peri-urban areas.

Support and advocate capacity-building programs for biodiversity-sensitive urban design to improve its uptake across the region, including incorporation into planning and development frameworks and policies.

Undertake risk assessments to identify key risks and ensure mitigation options are in place for environmental assets.

Investigate differential tree canopy targets for a variety of land uses.

Determining 'priority' and 'key' species and locations

Decisions on priority species are made guided by the Biological Database of South Australia and local expert knowledge on species of conservation interest. This is also informed by the capacity of a species for recovery as well as other factors such as other agency priorities and access to resources to undertake recovery efforts.

The priority list for fauna and flora will be reviewed and determined annually as part of Green Adelaide's business planning processes. It may be reviewed at interim periods if significant findings or changes occur – with final decision on changes to priority species being made by the Green Adelaide Board.





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