

Business Plan 2024-2025

Eyre Peninsula Regional Landscape Plan 2021-2026



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Foreword



On behalf of the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board (the Board), I would like to present our annual Business Plan under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*. We are confident that our 2024-25 Business Plan is well placed to contribute to sustainable and resilient landscapes into the future, and I look forward to working in partnership with our stakeholders and local community to achieve our goals.

This Business Plan outlines programs that the Board will invest in for the next 12 months, to continue to deliver our Regional Landscape Plan across the five strategic priorities of Water, Sustainable Agriculture, Pest Plants and Animals, Biodiversity and Community.

I've been the Presiding Member for more than 12 months now and have enjoyed immensely being involved in natural resource management on Eyre Peninsula. I note particularly the scope of work undertaken by the Board, the skill and dedication of our staff, and the commitment of Board members.

I'd like to acknowledge the efforts of my fellow Board members including those who retired last year - Justine Major and Debbie May. They were both long-term Board members who helped to guide our transition in 2020 to the current Landscapes South Australia approach. I'm pleased that we have been able to welcome two new members earlier this year with Cecelia Cox and Nikki Becker joining us. More recently Helen Lamont has resigned from the Board and I thank her for her contribution. *See page 14 for more details of our Board membership.*

The Board is entering a new phase of work with a new five-year agreement finalised with the Australian Government as a Regional Delivery Partner to deliver environmental protection, sustainable agriculture and natural resource management services on Eyre Peninsula. This has resulted in new larger projects for us including, a carbon outreach program and recovery actions for the critically-endangered Drooping Sheoak Grassy Woodland on calcrete; as well as a Biodiversity and agricultural natural capital preparedness and emergency response plan for Eyre Peninsula.

We will also continue to lead sustainable and equitable use of prescribed water resources, whilst ensuring environmental needs are met. In light of this we have decided to bring forward our water allocation planning and licence review forward six months to ensure our vital water sources are protected and sustainably managed. We are now starting this review with the aim to have it finalised for the Minister by the end of 2025.

We will also continue to work with land managers and farming groups on pest and water management; and provide a grassroots grants program and opportunities for volunteers and citizen scientists.

As always, we look forward to again working with regional partners, including industry groups, relevant government agencies, businesses, local government and individuals; driving forward regional planning and major programs together for the benefit of our valued environment.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Peter Treloar', written in a cursive style.

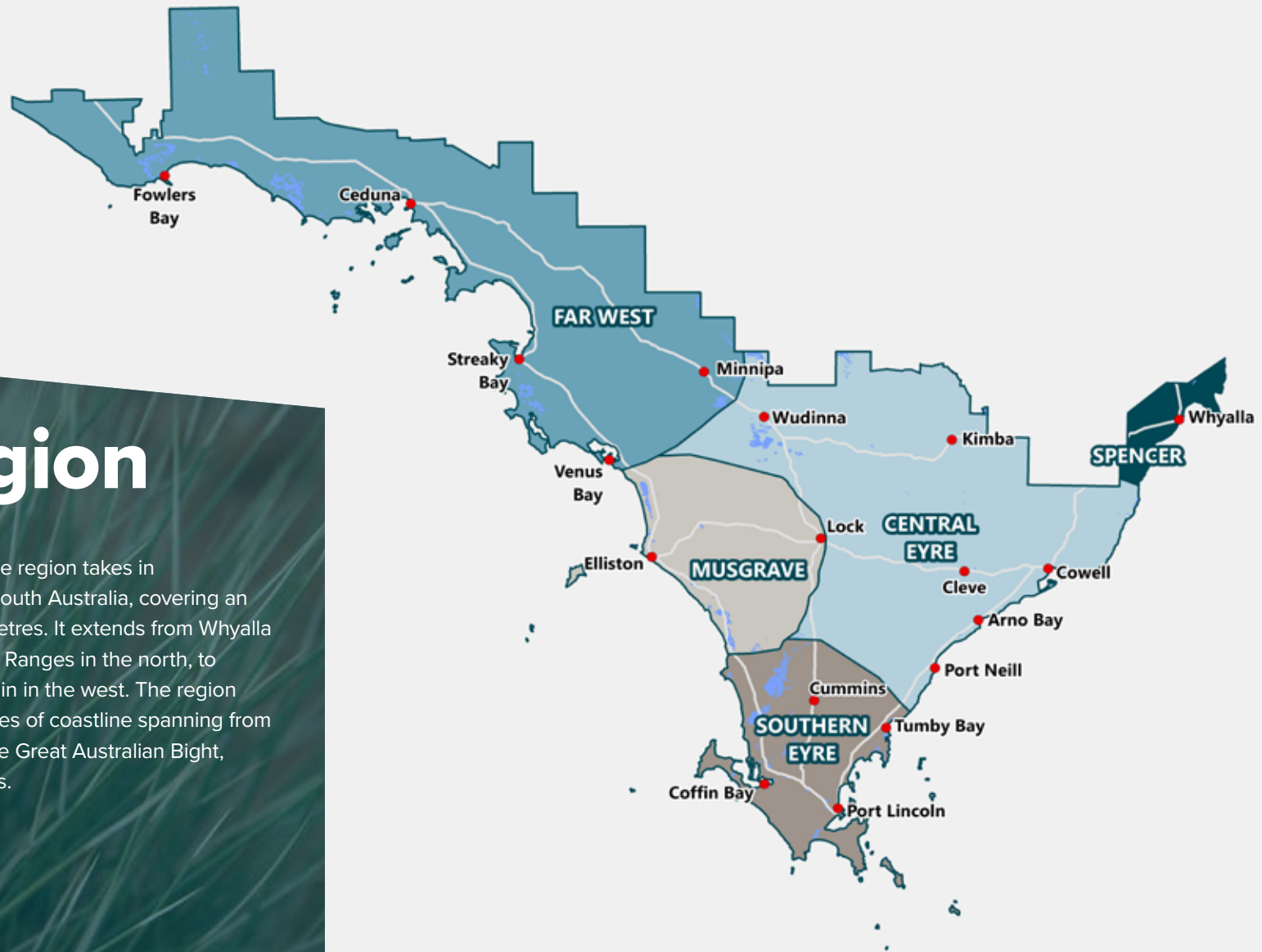
Peter Treloar
Presiding Member of the
Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board

Our vision

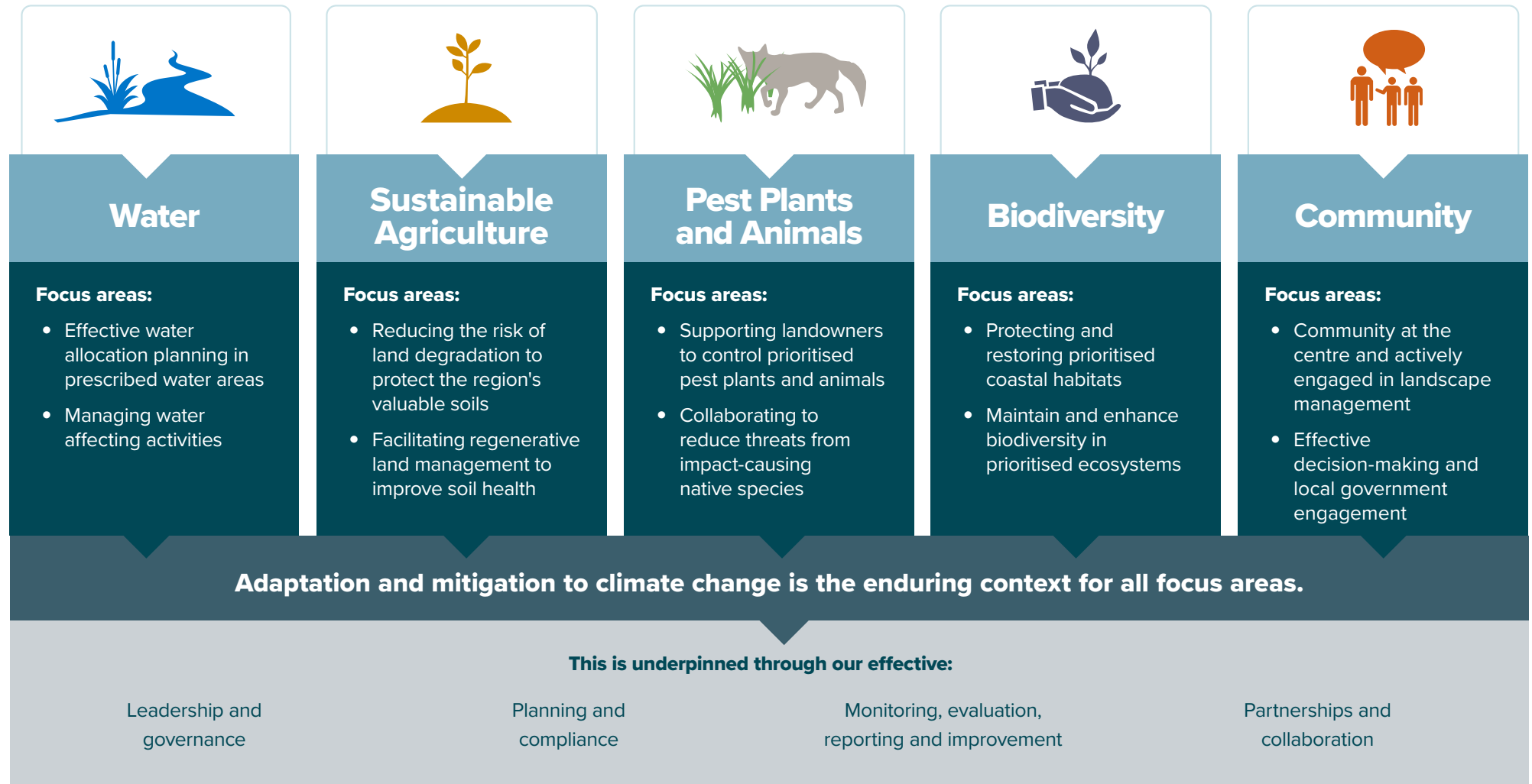
Eyre Peninsula landscapes support biodiversity, community and business in a changing climate

Our region

The Eyre Peninsula landscape region takes in approximately 8 percent of South Australia, covering an area of 80,000 square kilometres. It extends from Whyalla in the east, along the Gawler Ranges in the north, to the edge of the Nullarbor Plain in the west. The region includes over 3,000 kilometres of coastline spanning from the upper Spencer Gulf to the Great Australian Bight, including 182 offshore islands.



Regional priorities



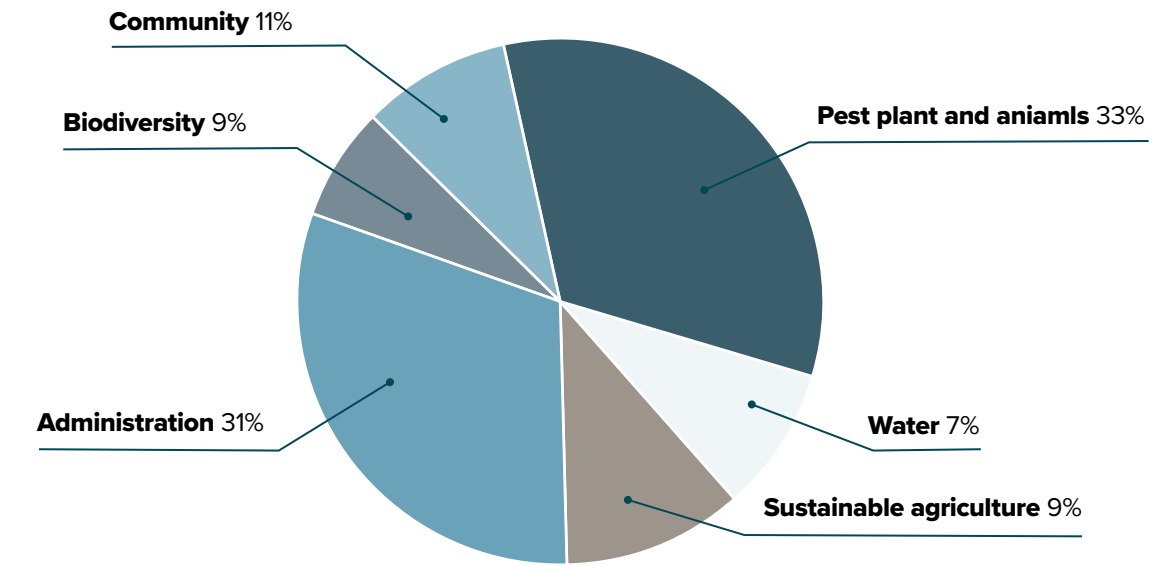
Investment

This Business Plan sets out the expenditure and expected revenue for the 2024-2025 financial year. 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.

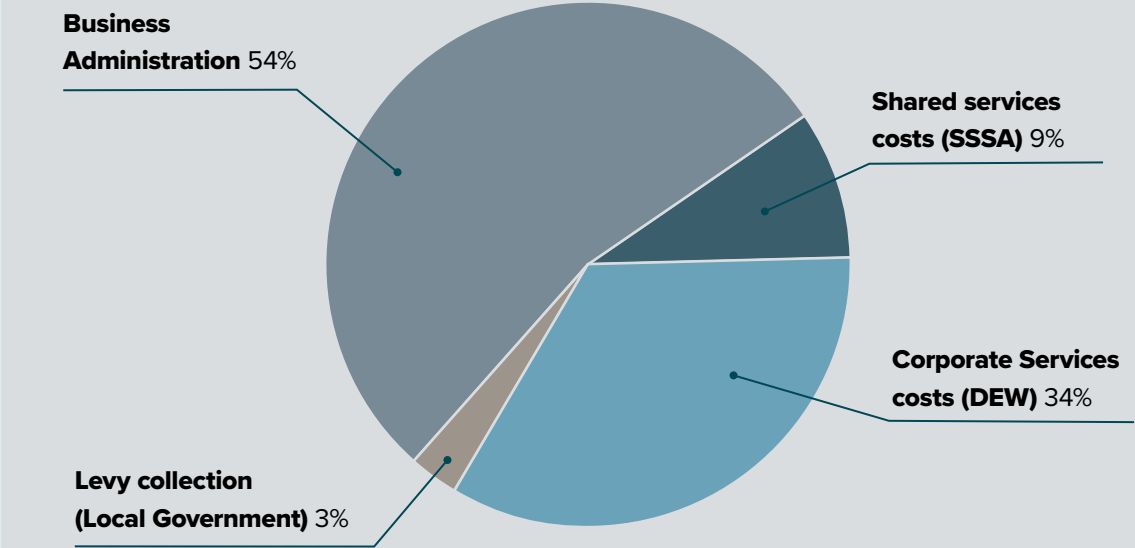
Program Investment	Landscape and Water levies (\$)	External funding (\$)	Total (\$)
Water	291,805	0	291,805
Sustainable agriculture	380,386	194,048	574,434
Pest plant and animals	1,401,374	496,250	1,897,624
Biodiversity	366,708	544,888	911,596
Community	477,302	322,500	799,802
Administration	1,285,212	0	1,285,212
Total Expenditure	4,202,787	1,557,686	5,760,473

Table 1: Expenditure by priorities and funding source in 2024/25

Total expenditure



Administration breakdown



Priority	Key focus areas / projects ¹	Landscape and water levies (\$)	External funds (\$)³	Total (\$)
 Water	Effective water allocation planning in prescribed water areas	98,659	0	98,659
	Managing water affecting activities	116,988	0	116,988
	State Water Planning and Management contribution (DEW) ²	76,158	0	76,158
 Sustainable agriculture	Reducing the risk of land degradation to protect the regions valuable soils	239,200	0	239,200
	Facilitating regenerative land management to improve soil health	141,186	194,048	335,234
 Pest plant and animals	Supporting landholders to control prioritised pest plants and animals	1,401,374	496,250	1,897,624
	Collaborating to reduce threats from impact causing native species	0	0	0
 Biodiversity	Protecting and restoring prioritised coastal habitats	0	0	0
	Maintain and enhance biodiversity in prioritised ecosystems	366,708	544,888	911,596
 Community	Community at the centre and actively engaged in landscape management	136,503	322,500	459,003
	Effective decision making and local government engagement	340,799	0	340,799
 Administration	Business Administration	688,834	0	688,834
	Shared services costs (SSSA)	117,141	0	117,141
	Corporate Services costs (DEW)	436,589	0	436,589
	Levy collection (Local Government)	42,648	0	42,648
Total Expenditure		4,202,787	1,557,686	5,760,473

Table 2: Expenditure by focus areas and funding source in 2024/25

¹Focus areas and projects can contribute to multiple priorities, and they are shown under the primary outcome they contribute to.

²State 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 of Environment and Water, including Departmental staff based regionally.



Water

FOCUS AREA – Effective water allocation planning in prescribed water areas

There is a scarcity of drinkable water resources on the Eyre Peninsula, hence fresh groundwater being the main source of water for public water supply, irrigation, stock and domestic use. Fresh groundwater is generally confined to discrete areas within limestone aquifers, which occur in the southern and western extents of the region. Most of the region's fresh groundwater is prescribed under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, and take is regulated through the [Water Allocation Plan \(WAP\)](#) for the Southern Basins and Musgrave Prescribed Wells Areas and associated water licences.

The main objective of the WAP is to ensure the sustainable and equitable use of the prescribed water resources, while also making sure the needs of the environment are taken into account. This includes sharing water with groundwater dependent ecosystems, which rely on groundwater for survival. In non-prescribed areas, there is no management regime to regulate the take of groundwater, but there are provisions to control the location and construction of wells via water affecting activity (WAA) permits.

Priority programs

- Effective implementation of the WAP for the Southern Basins and Musgrave Prescribed Wells Area.
- Continued monitoring of Groundwater Dependant Ecosystems (red gums and wetlands).
- Completion of supplementary science required to inform the comprehensive review of the WAP and scoping of works required to update the WAP in 2025-26.

• **FOCUS AREA** – Managing water affecting activities

Water resources on the Eyre Peninsula are precious and need to be managed sustainably. In addition to fresh groundwater, there is a prevalence of saline water resources including large saline wetland complexes, brackish creeks and saline aquifers. Watercourses are generally confined to southern and eastern Eyre Peninsula, where catchments have been extensively developed for agriculture, modifying the hydrology and ecology. Most watercourses are ephemeral, experiencing peak flows during winter, and often ceasing to flow by late spring or early summer.

Water affecting activities are activities and works that can adversely impact the health and condition of water resources, water dependant ecosystems and other water users. Under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, a permit is required to undertake a water affecting activity. Full details of water affecting activities can be found in our [Water Control Policy document](#).

Priority programs

- Provision of advice and support in relation to water affecting activities enquiries.
- Administration and prompt processing of water affecting activity permit applications.
- Ensuring compliance with water affecting activities policies and permits.

Priority
Water

Focus areas

- Effective water allocation planning in prescribed water areas.
- Managing water affecting activities.



Sustainable Agriculture

FOCUS AREA – Reducing the risk of land degradation to protect the region’s valuable soils

The Eyre Peninsula agriculture sector (cropping and grazing) covers approximately 80% of the land mass on Eyre Peninsula, producing approximately 40% of the state’s wheat exports and more than 20% of barley exports, with approximately 97% of the region’s grain crop exported. The region also has more than 1.5 million head of sheep, making it the 17th largest sheep region in Australia.

Large areas of sandy soils – about 550,000ha – are prone to increased risk of wind erosion with more than 186,000ha of agricultural land in the region prone to acidification.

Erosion protection field surveys conducted for more than 15 years, have seen an increase in the amount of days that the region is considered to be adequately protected from the risk of wind erosion.

The Board is responsible for the management and protection of land under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*. Part 7 of the Act focuses on, and sets out a range of compliance ‘tools’ to assist the Board with ensuring appropriate management of land. Details of the Board’s approach to land management can be found in the [Land Management Control Policy document](#).

Priority programs

- Continue to monitor land management compliance in line with the Board's policy.
- Support land managers and agriculture groups across the region to build awareness of the importance of erosion protection and improvement of land management practices.

FOCUS AREA – Facilitating regenerative land management to improve soil health and vitality

The Board has been appointed as Regional Delivery Partner (RDP) for the Australian Government to deliver environmental protection, sustainable agriculture, and natural resource management services in the region. Through this panel arrangement with the Australian Government, the Board will be approached by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to procure climate-smart agriculture outcomes and investment priorities for RDP projects.

To date the board has managed to secure funding to employ a full-time **Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator** to connect farmers, landholders, community groups and agriculture industries to relevant information and programs on climate-smart, sustainable agriculture practices; facilitate partnerships and connections; and support the delivery of sustainable agriculture projects in their region.

This role will be delivered through a partnership approach with Agricultural Research and Innovation EP (AIREP), with the role replacing the former Regional Landcare Agriculture Facilitator role.

The outcomes and investment priorities include:

Outcomes	Investment Priorities
• The agriculture sector is adopting practices to reduce emissions and build resilience to climate change	• Climate smart adaptation on-farm Emissions reduction practices
• The agriculture sector is supported to harness carbon and biodiversity incentives and implement industry sustainability frameworks	• Carbon and biodiversity market information • Sustainability framework engagement • Market access and traceability•
• Farmers are supported to drive agricultural growth, while adopting sustainable natural resource management practices that protect and conserve natural capital and biodiversity	• Native vegetation and biodiversity on farm • Soil carbon, Soil acidification, Soil erosion



Priority

Sustainable Agriculture

Focus areas

- Reducing the risk of land degradation to protect the region's valuable soils.
- Facilitating regenerative land management to improve soil health and vitality.

Carbon outreach program

Working in collaboration with landscape boards across South Australia, funding has been secured through the Australian Government to provide carbon farming outreach services on Eyre Peninsula. The objectives of the program are to:

- support farmers and land managers to make decisions to reduce emissions
- build capacity of trusted advisers to deliver independent advice
- facilitate access to clear, consistent and culturally appropriate information on carbon farming and low-emissions technologies and practices.

A key element of this role is delivering training and advice to empower farmers, land managers and First Nations people to understand and ultimately participate in carbon markets and integrate low emission technologies and practices into their pastoral and farming operations and land management practices.



Pest Plants and Animals

FOCUS AREA – Supporting landowners to control prioritised pest plants and animals

Controlling existing pest species while minimising the risk of new pest threats is critical for reducing impacts to agricultural productivity, biodiversity and human health. The *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* sets out the requirements for the control of pest animals and plants. To guide how we meet these requirements, a risk assessment was undertaken by the Board in 2020 to determine the region's priority pest animal and plant species. This is available in the [Pest Plant and Animal Control Policy](#) document.

Pest management plans have been developed for the priority pest plants and animals found within the region and these can be accessed through our [website](#). These plans are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure continuous improvement.

Under the Act, it is a landowner's responsibility to comply with these statutory requirements as they apply to a declared pest species.

Grazing pressure from feral herbivore species such as deer and goats is having a detrimental effect on natural habitats across Eyre Peninsula. Aside from overgrazing and soil erosion, they are also a vector for disease and cause significant damage to agriculture.

Declared for control under the *Landscape South Australia Act, 2019*, both species are increasing in abundance across EP. Monitoring indicates that deer are found in small populations, making feasibility of control high. However, feral goats are infiltrating our region from the north in unprecedented numbers.

The Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board has received funding through the Landscape Priority Fund to reduce deer and goat numbers across Eyre Peninsula, with targeted aerial control activities being conducted over the next three years.

Priority programs

- Review and implementation of regional pest management plans for priority pest plants and animals.
- Provision of support to landowners in regard to their responsibilities, weed identification, best practice control advice and property planning assistance.
- Delivery of targeted pest animal control programs including targeted weed control campaigns, roadside monitoring and control, permitting and compliance works.

FOCUS AREA – Collaborating to reduce threats from impact-causing native species

Under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, regional landscape boards have a role in helping to manage native species that are causing adverse impacts.

In the [Managing South Australia's Landscapes: Policy Overview](#), it's defined that 'managing impacts will be achieved by connecting landholders and relevant authorities, and providing information'. It further outlines that the existing functions of the other bodies and people involved in controlling the adverse impact of native species will continue (e.g. permits will continue to be required from the Department for Environment and Water, under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*, for the destruction of any protected native animal).

The Act includes a number of provisions specifically identifying our role around the management of impact-causing native species. The objects and principles of the Act includes promoting collaborative management and assisting to facilitate action to mitigate or manage 'native animals that adversely affect the natural or built environments, people or primary production or other industries' - section 7(1)(g) and 25 (1) (i).

Priority programs

- Assisting landowners in connecting with relevant authorities and providing information about impact-causing native species and control options.
- Collaboration with other regions and agencies to develop policy frameworks, strategies or programs, with the aim of reducing threats from impact-causing native species.

Priority

Pest Plant and Animals

Focus areas

- Supporting landowners to control prioritised pest plants and animals.
- Collaborating to reduce threats from impact-causing native species.

Flinders Island Safe Haven

The restoration of Flinders Island will secure the fourth largest of South Australia's islands into Australia's networks of safe havens. Flinders Island, off Eyre Peninsula's west coast, will become a new home for nationally endangered wildlife, with the Flinders Island Safe Haven Project moving from planning stage to delivery stage.

This jointly delivered project between the Woodford family who own Flinders Island, the Department for Environment and Water, the Board and the Australian Government, will deliver stage two and three of the Flinders Island Safe Haven Project. Stage two will be the largest black rat and mice eradication program undertaken in South Australia, while stage three will deliver the feral cat eradication program (a key threatening process) in preparation for future translocations of threatened species to the island.

Habitat restoration and the removal of feral predators will also help protect local birdlife and is essential to enable the introduction of native mainland mammals under threat of extinction. About one-dozen national priority species are being considered, including two species of threatened bandicoot and other mammals.

The jointly delivered stage two and three of the Flinders Island Safe Haven Project, will be a significant opportunity to lead by example in South Australia to develop and test the methods for large scale island and safe haven rodent and feral cat control. Another key aspect is the development of island biosecurity to protect the island safe haven network across Eyre Peninsula, which are a stronghold for many species including birds, mammals and reptiles.





Biodiversity

FOCUS AREA – Protecting and restoring prioritised coastal habitats

The region's coastal habitats are diverse and impressive, with limestone cliffs up to 100 metres high, undulating sand dunes, rocky headlands, sheltered bays, inverse estuaries, samphire and mangroves. Coastal temperate saltmarshes (e.g. samphire) habitats are now listed as a threatened ecological community under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. These habitats support commercial species including western king prawns, tuna, abalone, mussel and kingfish; along with a diversity of birdlife, such as the threatened Hooded Plover.

The Eyre Peninsula Coastal Action Plan The Eyre Peninsula Coastal Action Plan is a detailed conservation study and action plan that covers the entire coastline of Eyre Peninsula which guides the Board's decision-making in regard to coastal management works undertaken throughout the region.

Priority programs

- Supporting community to undertake coastal management works in line with the Coastal Action Plan.
- Supporting partners to complete Eyes on Eyre activities, protecting priority coastal habitats and encouraging sustainable use.

FOCUS AREA – Maintain and enhance biodiversity in prioritised ecosystems

Approximately 20% of Eyre Peninsula landmass is comprised of native vegetation protected through formal conservation covenants (e.g. National Parks and Conservation Reserves, or Heritage Agreements, etc.). A further 23% of the landmass is comprised of fragmented native vegetation – community reserves, roadside verges, scattered woodlands or paddock trees in amongst cropping land, grazing or pastoral properties. This native vegetation contains a wide range of biodiversity that underpins the healthy functioning of the ecosystems throughout the region.

The Board has been appointed as Regional Delivery Partner (RDP) to deliver environmental protection, sustainable agriculture, and natural resource management services in the region. Through this panel arrangement with the Australian Government, the Board will be approached by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) to procure environmental outcomes and investment priorities for RDP projects.

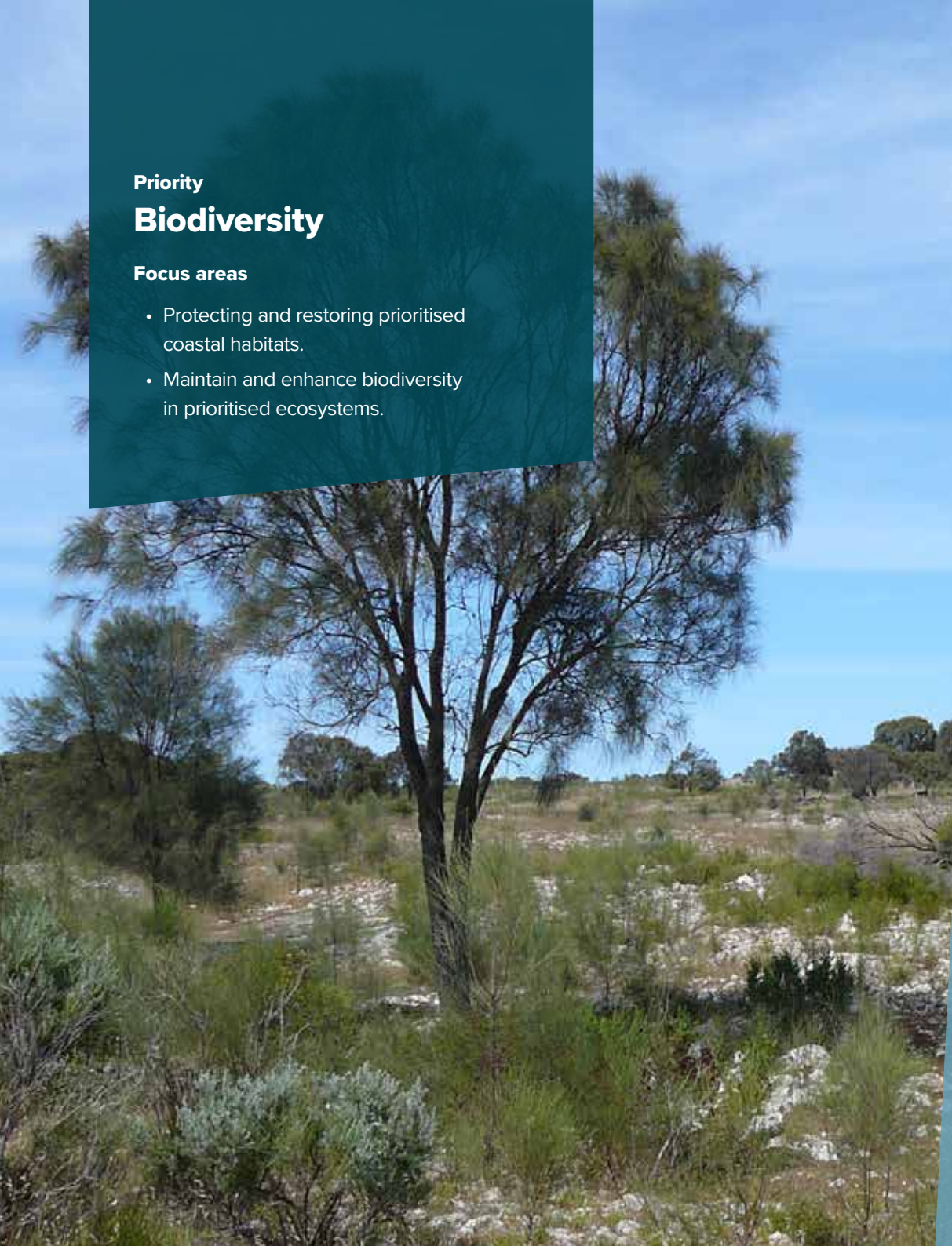
Under this, there are five-year outcomes for Species and Landscapes including:

- To mitigate new and established threats (such as feral pests and weeds) and restore habitat to support our international and domestic priorities, including the *Threatened Species Action Plan 2022-2032*.

- Targeted Threatened Species are on track for improved trajectory.
- Species at high risk of imminent extinction are identified and supported to persist.
- The implementation of priority actions is leading to an improvement in the condition of targeted Threatened Ecological Communities and priority places.
- Priority species, Threatened Ecological Communities and places are being assisted to strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity for climate change.
- Increased leadership and/or participation of First Nations people in the management and recovery of Threatened Species, Threatened Ecological Communities and priority places.

Priority programs

- Support community and landholders to improve the health and condition of threatened ecological communities, native vegetation and threatened species.
- Continued implementation, review and improvement of the biodiversity monitoring program.
- Collaboration with partners to source funding for landscape-scale projects in priority ecosystems.



Priority

Biodiversity

Focus areas

- Protecting and restoring prioritised coastal habitats.
- Maintain and enhance biodiversity in prioritised ecosystems.

Recovery actions for the critically endangered Drooping Sheoak Grassy Woodland on calcrete

Eyre Peninsula has 22,500 km² of native vegetation cover. As a small part of this area, there are a number of threatened vegetation communities. One of these communities is the ‘Drooping sheoak grassy woodland on calcrete of the Eyre Yorke Block Bioregion’ which is listed as critically endangered under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). The Australian Government announced this listing in 2022 after the Board, with assistance from key partners, submitted an application in 2018 for the vegetation community to be protected under the EPBC Act.

Drooping sheoak grassy woodland on calcrete once covered vast areas of the west coast of EP but now only a few healthy remnants remain mainly near Streaky Bay, Elliston and Coffin Bay which equates to only 2% of its original distribution. The Board acknowledges the many non-government organisations and individuals who have researched or looked after this vegetation community for decades and the traditional owners who have looked after it for thousands of years.

The Board is hoping to secure Australian Government funding through the Regional Delivery Program project over a four year period for a project that aims to:

- improve the condition of the drooping sheoak grassy woodland in existing areas by managing threats such as overgrazing (by stock, pest herbivores and overabundant native herbivores) and incursion of environmental weeds
- increase the area where this vegetation community is found by undertaking revegetation activities.

The Board looks forward to working with key stakeholders and committed land managers in partnership to look after this important vegetation community that can have productive benefits on farm.



Community

FOCUS AREA – Community at the centre and actively engaged in landscape management

The involvement of the region's community has and will continue to be central to implementing landscape change. The community's contribution is broad and diverse, and it includes on-ground action, information sharing through community networks, working in partnership with the Board to develop and deliver projects, and participation in decision-making such as the preparation of this plan.

By continuing to work together we can manage our landscapes for the benefit of the natural environment, and for current and future generations.

Priority programs

- Continue with the implementation of the citizen science program; providing meaningful opportunities for volunteers and groups to get involved and value the natural environment.
- Supporting Aboriginal and community groups, Local Government, farming groups and schools to progress natural resource activities through the provision of the Grassroots Grants program.
- Finalise an Indigenous Participation Plan for Eyre Peninsula, following consultation with Aboriginal groups and commence implementation of the plan to meet employment and procurement targets.

FOCUS AREA – Effective decision-making and Local Government engagement

The Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board works with community, industry, local government and agencies to ensure a sustainable approach to the management, protection and restoration of our soil, water, native plants and animals. The Board is comprised of seven community members, including a chair, who are representatives of their local communities, and include:

- Peter Treloar (Chair) – Edillilie
- Steven Milner – Denial Bay
- Mark Dennis – Koppio
- Kate McShane – Port Lincoln
- Alan Tingay – Coffin Bay
- Cecelia Cox – Ceduna
- Nikki Becker – Elliston

Further information on all Board members is available on our website (www.landscape.sa.gov.au/ep).

The Board's functions are detailed in the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*. In summary, the Board is responsible for developing a simple and accessible five-year regional landscape plan with five priorities, which aims to ensure that there is a balance between the needs of regional communities and the sustainable management of the environment. Other key functions include development of a water allocation plan for

prescribed water resources, and operating as the relevant authority for a range of water, land protection, and animal and plant control activities.

Local Government is a key stakeholder within the region, as such Board members all have designated councils that they regularly engage with to ensure effective communications are maintained and relationships strengthened. Local Government also has responsibilities under the Act in relation to the collection of the landscape land levy within their council area. This is a service that councils undertake for the Board each year, and council costs are covered in line with *Landscape South Australia (General) Regulations 2020*, Part 4.

Priority programs

- Strengthening relationships with Local Government and other regional partners.
- Effective leadership and governance of the Board and its business, to meet legislative requirements.
- Delivery of RDP Regional Capacity Services to the Australian Government.

Priority

Community

Focus areas

- Community at the centre and actively engaged in landscape management.
- Effective decision-making and Local Government engagement.

Regional Delivery Partner for Capacity Services

The Board has been appointed as Regional Delivery Partner (RDP) to deliver environmental protection, sustainable agriculture, and natural resource management services in the region. Under this arrangement the Board has to deliver and maintain a range of regional capacity services, which include:

- Maintain the currency of natural resource management planning and the prioritisation of management actions
- Support and actively plan for the community to participate in the delivery of projects
- Implement and maintain an Indigenous Participation Plan
- Maintain capability to conduct communication activities
- Maintain capability to deliver and coordinate projects within the Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement Framework and to conduct measurement of on the ground biodiversity using TERN tools where appropriate
- Maintain a productive, cooperative and ongoing relationship with the Australian Government
- Maintain physical presence in Eyre Peninsula
- Maintain appropriate governance frameworks and meet performance criteria
- Maintain work, health and safety requirements
- Reporting, invoicing and records management
- Project design and delivery services.

Staff resources

Under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, the Board will have a General Manager and staff working to deliver the programs and services of the Board. In 2024/25, it is anticipated that there will be 27.7 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions, with up to 22.9 FTE funded by levies and 4.8 FTE proposed to be funded through other funding sources.

The Board will continue to receive corporate services support through the Department for Environment and Water in 2024/25.



Total staff = 27.7

Full-time equivalent staff

Western district (6 FTE Staff)

- Team Leader Landscape Operations West (Streaky Bay)
- Landscape Officer (Streaky Bay) (2.0 FTE)
- Landscape Officer (Ceduna)
- Landscape Officer (Wudinna)
- Landscape Officer (Elliston)

Eastern district (4 FTE Staff)

- Team Leader Landscape Operations East (Whyalla)
- Landscape Officer (Whyalla)
- Landscape Officers (Cleve) 2.0 FTE

Regional office – Port Lincoln (12.6 FTE)

- General Manager

Landscape Operations (3.0 FTE)

(plus district workforce – 15.1 FTE)

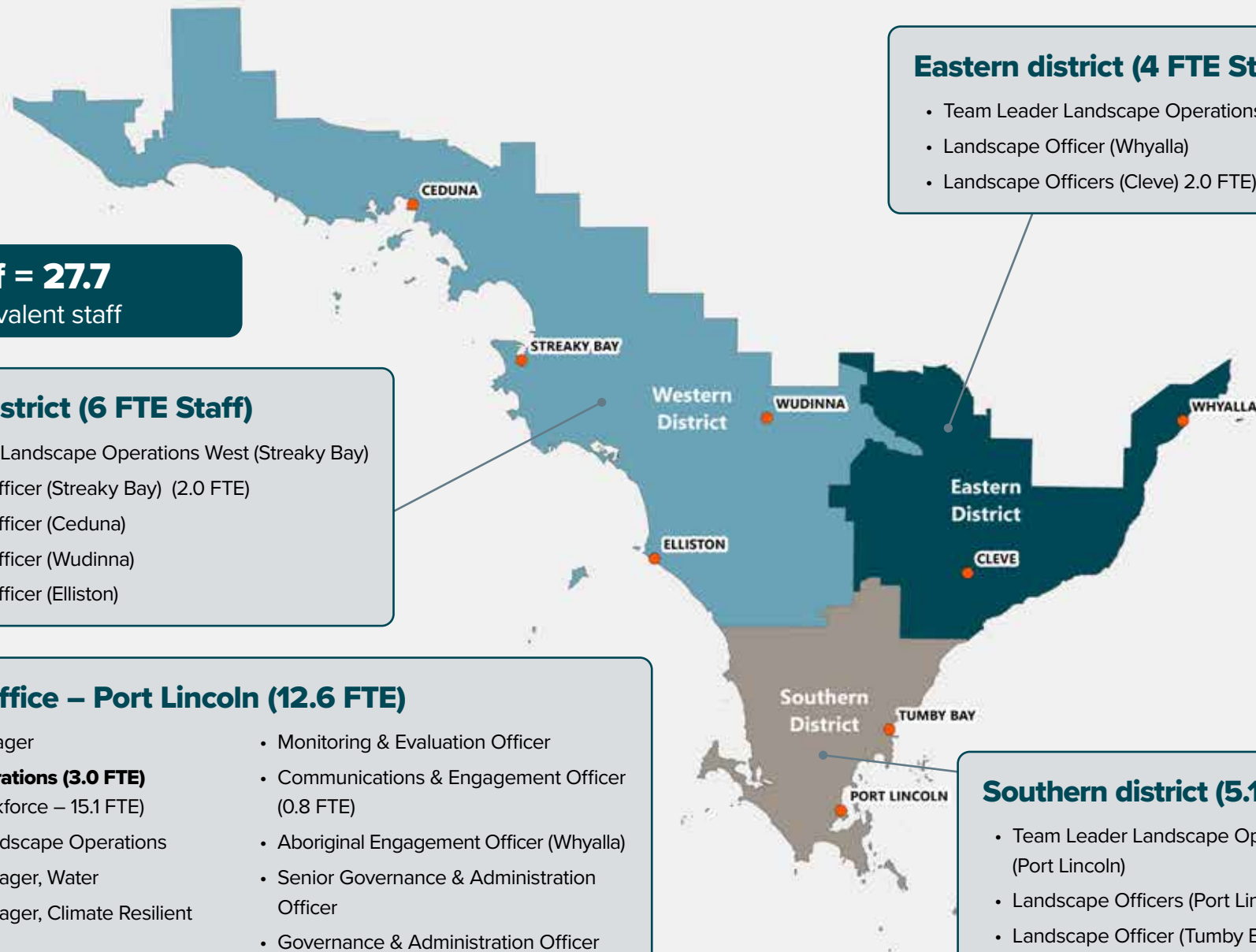
- Manager, Landscape Operations
- Program Manager, Water
- Program Manager, Climate Resilient Landscapes

Planning & Engagement (8.6)

- Manager, Planning & Business Support
- Planning & Assessment Officer
- Monitoring & Evaluation Officer
- Communications & Engagement Officer (0.8 FTE)
- Aboriginal Engagement Officer (Whyalla)
- Senior Governance & Administration Officer
- Governance & Administration Officer (0.8 FTE)
- Senior Finance & Administration Officer
- Finance & Administration Officer

Southern district (5.1 FTE)

- Team Leader Landscape Operations South (Port Lincoln)
- Landscape Officers (Port Lincoln) (3.3 FTE)
- Landscape Officer (Tumby Bay) (0.8 FTE)



Sources of funding

The Board receives funds from a range of sources to implement the programs described in this Business Plan (Table 3). These funds are also used throughout the year to leverage additional funds to the region, either directly to the Board or through some of our partner organisations.

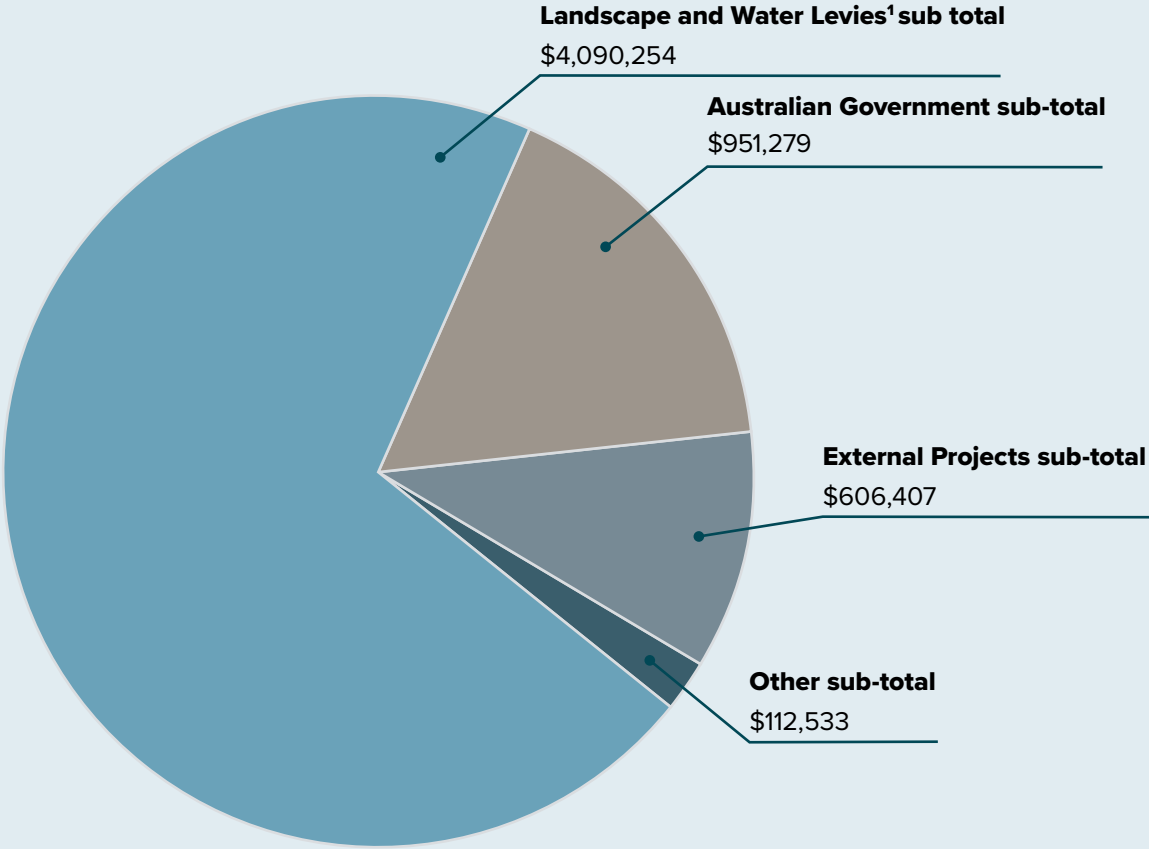
Table 3: Sources of Funding

Funding Source	2024/25 (\$)
Landscape and Water Levies¹	4,090,254
NRM Levy (Division 1) ²	3,552,686
NRM Levy (Division 2)	537,568
Australian Government sub-total	951,279
Australian Government Regional Delivery Program	951,279
External Projects sub-total	606,407
Landscape Priorities Fund - <i>Flinders Island Safe Havens</i>	400,000
Landscape Priorities Fund - <i>Controlling Feral Herbivores</i>	96,250
Kangaroo Island Landscape Board - <i>Carbon Markets</i>	50,157
Department for Environment and Water - <i>NVC Outreach Service Package</i>	60,000
Other sub-total	112,533
Interest	70,000
Cost Recovery Administration Project	42,533
Approved Carryover	0
Total expenditure	5,760,473

¹ For 2024/25 the Landscape levies have been calculated based on a CPI increase of 5.9%.

² The Landscape land levy includes \$56,173.72, which is raised from out of council areas.

Total funding streams 2024/25





Landscape Levies

The types of Landscape levies

The *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* (the Act) established the Landscape Boards to assist with the protection of the state's landscapes, and their sustainable and integrated management. To enable the Board to undertake its functions, the Act provides for two forms of levy to be raised. They are:

- Division 1 Levies in respect of land - Section 69 of the Act allows for levies to be collected by constituent councils and the Board is responsible for collection outside of the Local Government area within the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board region, consistent with Section 72 of the Act; and
- Division 2 Levies in respect of water – water levy – Section 76 of the Act enables the Minister to declare a water levy or levies payable by holders of water licences.

Why have levies?

The levies are a primary source of funding for the management of the region's natural resources. Funds raised through the levies ensure that works are undertaken to achieve the region's vision of "Eyre Peninsula landscapes supporting biodiversity, community and business in a changing climate".

The levies also provide the Board with the ability to leverage additional government funds, which greatly increases the amount of work that can be accomplished in our region.

Basis of the regional Landscape levy

The Board has the authority to define the most appropriate basis and rates for regional landscape levies. Under section 69(3)(a) of the Act, the following options are provided as the basis for calculating the regional landscape levy:

- Option 1 – the value of rateable land;
- Option 2 – a fixed charge of the same amount on all rateable land;
- **Option 3 – a fixed charge of an amount that depends on the purpose for which the rateable land is used; or**
- Option 4 – the area of rateable land.

The Board has decided to retain the existing basis for levy collection in Eyre Peninsula which is outlined in option 3. The category of rateable land is defined by the *Landscape South Australia (General) Regulations 2020*, Part 4, section 12, sub-regulation 1, taking into account contiguous land and single farming enterprises, in accordance with sections 152(2)(c) and (d) respectively of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

Levy rates and collection from Local Government

Table 4 outlines each Local Government's contribution to the regional landscape levy for the 2024/25 financial year. The table further includes collection fees that Local Government can recover, in-line with the requirements of the *Landscape South Australia (General) Regulations 2020*.

Table 4: Estimated council contributions to Landscape levy income, and collection costs for 2024/25

Local Government area	Landscape Land Levy Contribution (\$)	Landscape Land Levy Contribution (\$)	Council Collection fee (\$)
	2023-24	2024-25	2024-25
District Council of Ceduna	196,928.55	211,853.87	3,616.00
District Council of Cleve	116,583.45	123,427.51	3,333.10
District Council of Elliston	116,364.88	129,107.11	3,343.90
District Council of Franklin Harbour	103,862.87	116,362.63	3,327.10
District Council of Kimba	87,863.79	82,839.11	3,280.00
District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula	406,796.24	431,927.01	4,157.50
City of Port Lincoln	771,059.40	816,385.45	5,539.00
District Council of Streaky Bay	190,458.97	204,465.77	3,572.80
District Council of Tumby Bay	213,583.32	224,136.59	3,587.80
City of Whyalla	1,017,121.73	1,070,905.62	6,418.60
Wudinna District Council	81,088.22	85,101.72	3,222.70
Total quantum (Local Government areas only)	3,301,711.42	3,496,512.40	43,326.50

* Local Governments are responsible for the collection of land levies within their council area. To cover the costs of this collection process, councils are asked each year if they intend to invoice the Board and if so a budget allocation is set aside for councils.

Table 5: Levy rate per land use purpose

Land use	Number of properties	Multiplier*	Levy rate per land use (\$)	Quantum per land use (\$)
Residential	25809	1.0	92.35	2,383,494.58
Commercial	1667	1.5	138.53	230,924.41
Industrial	425	1.5	138.53	58,873.95
Primary Producers	2870	2.0	184.70	530,096.44
Other & Vacant land	3174	1.0	92.35	293,123.01
Total	33,945			3,496,512.40

* The multiplier is applied to the base levy rate of \$92.35 to give the levy rate per land use.

Outside of council levies

Outside council areas, land owners will continue to be liable to pay a land levy, with land levy rates set by the relevant landscape board. In 2024-25 for outside council areas, the Board has retained the original fixed rate basis of \$103.64, which includes a CPI increase of 5.9%. The total quantum raised from out-of-council areas for 2024-25 is \$56,173.72.

Basis of the water levy

The Board has the authority to define the most appropriate basis and rates for water levies. Under section 76 (7) of the Act, the following options are provided as the basis for calculating the water levy:

- Option 1 – a fixed charge;
- **Option 2 – the quantity of water allocated;**
- Option 3 – the quantity of water received or taken;
- Option 4 – the quantity of water passing through any works;
- Option 5 – the size, type or capacity of any works;
- Option 6 – the quantity of water used;
- Option 7 – the share of the water that makes up the relevant water resource;
- Option 8 – the area of land where the water may be used, or the area of land where the water is used; or
- Option 9 – the effect that the taking or using of the water has, or may have, on the environment, or some other effect or impact that, in the opinion of the Minister, is relevant and that is capable of being determined, measured or applied.

The Board has decided to retain the existing basis for the water levy in Eyre Peninsula which is outlined in option 2. The water levy does not apply to stock and domestic use.

The total water levy collected from water licensees in the Southern Basins and Musgrave Wells Areas is outlined in table 7, which has increased by 5.9 % in 2024-25. The total quantum to be raised from water levies for 2024-25 is \$537,568.15.

Water levies will continue to be collected by the Department for Environment and Water on behalf of the Minister and will be paid to the Landscape Board.

A landholder who is also a water licensee within the Southern Basins and Musgrave Prescribed Wells Areas will be required to pay a Landscape levy and a water levy.

Table 6: Indicative Landscape water levy rates for 2024/25

Allocation type	Levy rate (cents per share)	Water access entitlement shares	Total landscape water levy quantum (\$)
Public water supply purposes	5.62	8,919,607	\$ 501,281.91
Irrigation, industrial and recreational	3.11	1,164,953	\$ 36,230.04
Mining and energy sectors	5.62	1,000	\$ 56.20
Total		10,085,560	\$ 537,568.15

Social impacts of levies

In 2015/16 the basis for the collection of the land and water levies in Eyre Peninsula were reviewed, resulting in a Social and Economic Impact Assessment being prepared by EconSearch Pty Ltd in October 2015. The assessment used representative financial models to consider the impacts of the landscape levies on people and businesses using the following measures:

- Households – after tax on average personal income and low income earners.
- Primary Production – Earnings Before Interest and Tax (EBIT).
- Commercial and industrial businesses – Gross Operating Surplus (GOS); a measure of a firm's profit that represents the surplus generated by operating activities after labour and other operating costs have been paid. GOS is used as the measure of profit for non-farm industries as the economic model from which the data are drawn is industry-wide and not detailed enough to calculate EBIT.

A copy of this report is available on request.

The assessment rated the impacts on households, businesses and/or industries using the following scale of impacts on the measures:

- Less than 1% - Minor
- 1% to less than 5% - Moderate
- Greater than 5% - Significant

Based on the assessment of impacts in comparison to other models that were assessed, the Board considered that the land levy options used would result in the least impact on ratepayers, which include:

- Minor impact on households; ranging from 0.13% for the mean after-tax income, through to 0.30% for single full-age pensions.
- Minor impact on dryland farms; for both marginal operations and profitable enterprises.
- Minor impact on business profitability across most sectors of non-farm businesses. Businesses in the professional services, scientific and technical services could be significantly impacted because of the low median Gross Operating Surplus in these sectors. Education, training, arts and recreational services could also be moderately impacted.

Please note these percentages are reflective of the rates applied in the modelling, and rates may change upon the Board approving the multiplier for specific land uses.

In regard to the landscape water levy, there was only one minimal change to the basis of the levy, which was the introduction of a new classification to allow for a differential rate for water supply to the energy and minerals sector. The impacts of the changes to water levy were assessed, with the results indicating a minimal impact on all water licensees.





Decision-making principles

Board investment is targeted at the highest priority outcomes contained within our Regional Landscape Plan, regardless of how it is raised.

Below are the principles the Board use to support their decision-making processes:

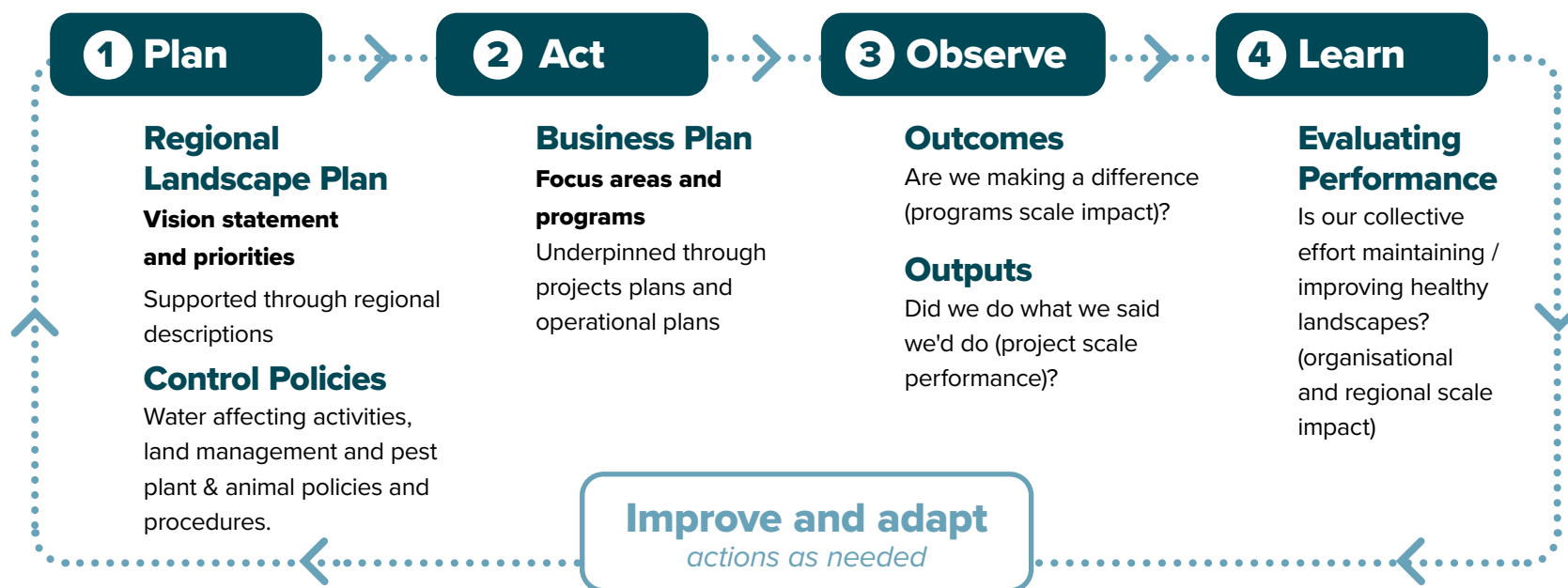
- Core function – statutory requirement under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* or other legislative or regulatory requirements.
- Strategic – alignment with the Regional Landscape Plan, Landscape SA reform priorities, Ministerial priorities and other key plans.
- Outcomes-focused – will lead to sustainable use, protection and conservation of the region's natural resources.
- Cost/benefit – for a given cost, the benefit or value is maximised where value is assessed through aspects such as total outcomes; number of partnerships; extent of community engagement; and extent of delivery whether local, district or region-wide, across a one or multiple industries or community sectors.
- Capacity and capability – resources, knowledge and skills required to undertake the work are available within the Board, community or partner organisations.
- Collaborative – forms partnerships with other groups and organisations to share responsibility and deliver the best possible landscape management outcomes.
- Innovative – opportunity to drive innovation, demonstrate best practice and/or increase understanding of natural resources.
- Visibility – raising the importance of the landscape and its natural resources and the work being undertaken by the Board, the community and partner organisations.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Board has long-established monitoring programs and data sets to monitor the state and condition of the natural resources and related trends on Eyre Peninsula. This includes monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of strategies to manage threats as well as protect specific natural resources. Limited resources means that monitoring needs to be prioritised in space and time, optimal indicators identified and cost-effective data collection strategies implemented. The Board's work in this area is guided by the Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) Plan, which is currently being developed

to underpin the Regional Landscape Plan. The MERI plan also defines how progress and impact of the Board's programs will be measured, and how learnings will be used to improve and adapt programs.

Other program specific monitoring plans have also been developed, which align to the delivery of major programs and projects and for major Board functions, such as the implementation of the Water Allocation Plan.



Other

Information about Board members, its role and activities can be found at: www.landscape.sa.gov.au/ep/about-us



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