Business Plan 2021-2022

Eyre Peninsula Regional Landscape Plan 2021-2026

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LANDSCAPE SOUTH AUSTRALIA EYRE PENINSULA

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Foreword

On behalf of the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board (the Board), I am delighted to present our annual Business Plan under the new *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*. The Board is confident that our 2021-22 Business Plan is well placed to contribute to sustainable and resilient landscapes into the future, and I look forward to working in partnership with you to achieve it.

This Business Plan outlines the programs that the Board will invest in for the next 12 months, to deliver the priorities in the focus areas as outlined in our Regional Landscape Plan.

Developing our overarching Landscape Plan has given us greater clarity and will result in our efforts being aligned to five strategic priorities of Water, Sustainable Agriculture, Pest Plants and Animals, Biodiversity and Community.

One of our next priorities will be to undertake a mid-term review of our Water Allocation Plan (WAP) for the Southern and Musgrave Prescribed Wells Areas to ensure that the implementation of this important planning tool is on track and that these precious resources are being managed effectively. This review will identify whether improvements to the WAP are required, which can then be scheduled for coming years if needed.

As always, working with partners is a key part of our operational success and this includes industry groups, relevant government agencies, businesses, local government and individuals. Sustainable agriculture remains a Board priority as well as a regional priority; to this effect we will continue to work with land managers and farming groups on soils improvement, pest management and water management efficiencies.

Our strong focus on both biodiversity conservation and community remain the same. At the strategic level, the Board will continue to deliver the Australian Government's Regional Land Partnership program and work with a variety of partners to source additional funding for landscape scale programs. At the operational level, the Board will continue to provide a grassroots grants program and opportunities for volunteers and citizen scientists. These are all very effective ways of engaging with our community while simultaneously delivering results for our natural resources.

Our Regional Landscape Plan will allow our communities to be sustained despite the various economic and other challenges that invariably face us. We look forward to the challenge of delivering the programs outlined in our Landscape Plan.

Mark's signature

Mark Whitfield
Presiding Member of the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board

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Vision

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.

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

Regional priorities

Water

Focus areas:

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

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

Pest Plants and Animals

Focus areas:

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

Biodiversity

Focus areas:

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

Community

Focus areas:

- Community at the centre and actively engaged in landscape management
- Effective decision-making and local government engagement

Adaptation or mitigation to future climate changes is the enduring context for all focus areas.

This is underpinned through our effective:

Leadership and governance

Planning and compliance

Monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement

Partnerships and collaboration

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Investment

This Business Plan sets out the expenditure and expected revenue for the 2021-22 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	254,424	0	254,424
Sustainable agriculture	215,843	510,000	725,843
Pest plant and animals	1,558,593	0	1,558,593
Biodiversity	205,830	730,000	935,830
Community	428,381	340,300	768,681
Administration	797,680	35,000	832,680
Total Expenditure	**3,460,751**	**1,615,300**	**5,076,051**

Table 1: Expenditure by priorities and funding source in 2020/21

Priority	Key focus areas / projects[1]	Landscape and water levies ($)	External funds ($)	Total ($)
Water	Effective water allocation planning in prescribed water areas	41,301	0	41,301
	Managing water affecting activities.	145,123	0	145,123
	State Water Planning and Management contribution (DEW)	68,000	0	68,000
Sustainable agriculture	Reducing the risk of land degradation to protect the regions valuable soils	173,177	0	173,177
	Facilitating regenerative land management to improve soil health	42,666	510,000	552,666
Pest plant and animals	Supporting landholders to control prioritised pest plants and animals	1,558,593	0	1,558,593
	Collaborating to reduce threats from impact causing native species	0	0	0
Biodiversity	Protecting and restoring prioritised coastal habitats	0	535,000	535,000
	Maintain and enhance biodiversity in prioritised ecosystems	205,830	195,000	400,830
Community	Community at the centre and actively engaged in landscape management	219,150	340,300	559,450
	Effective decision making and local government engagement	209,231	0	209,231
Administation	Business Administration	347,395	35,000	382,395
	Shared services costs (SSSA)	114,832	0	114,832
	Corporate Services costs (DEW)	294,278	0	294,278
	Levy collection (Local Government)	36,175	0	36,175
	Levy collection - out of council areas (DEW)	5,000	0	5,000
	Total Expenditure	3,460,751	1,615,300	5,076,051

Table 2: Expenditure by focus areas and funding source in 2020/21

Australian Government investment

The Australian Government's National Landcare Program (NLP) has six, five-year objectives, of which four are relevant to Eyre Peninsula.

These include:

- **Environmental Outcomes:**
  - Outcome 2: By 2023, the trajectory of species targeted under the Threatened Species Strategy, and other EPBC Act priority species, is stabilised or improved.
  - Outcome 4: By 2023, the implementation of priority actions is leading to an improvement in the condition of EPBC Act listed Threatened Ecological Communities.
- **Agriculture Outcomes:**
  - Outcome 5: By 2023, there will be increased awareness and adoption of land management practices that improve and protect the condition of soil, biodiversity and vegetation.
  - Outcome 6: By 2023, there is an increase in the capacity of agriculture systems to adapt to significant changes in climate and market demands for information on provenance and sustainable production.

A major component of the NLP is the Regional Land Partnerships (RLP) program, which is a regional-scale service delivery model that was put out to tender for each of the 56 natural resource regions across Australia.

The Board is the approved RLP service delivery agent for Eyre Peninsula and is contracted to deliver services outlined in Table 3. However, the Board may also negotiate other funding with the Australian Government, under this arrangement.

Table 3: Expenditure against Australian Government programs

Program Area	2021/22 ($)	2022/23 ($)
Core services, project management, monitoring and evaluation, etc.	334,300	302,960
Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator network	136,000	136,000
Regenerative Agriculture Program	380,000	380,000
Saltmarsh Threat Abatement and Recovery project	470,000	470,000
Total expenditure	1,320,300	1,288,960

Australian Government | National Landcare Program

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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.

Upcoming programs

- Effective implementation of the WAP for the Southern Basins and Musgrave Prescribed Wells Area.
- Completion of a mid-term (5 year) review to gauge the effectiveness of implementation and identify future improvements.
- Continued monitoring of Groundwater Dependant Ecosystems (red gums and wetlands).

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 on 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.

Upcoming 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.

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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. This is due to a number of inherent characteristics which restrict crop germination and growth; causing loss of surface cover and protection against wind erosion. These characteristics include low inherent fertility, poor moisture-holding capacity and water repellence. Soil acidity is also a significant issue on lower and eastern Eyre Peninsula with more than 186,000 hectares (7%) 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 occurrence of wind erosion across most parts of Eyre Peninsula in recent times has been low for cropping enterprises, however there is room to improve management practices of livestock enterprises to further reduce erosion risk. Despite the low occurrence of wind erosion, the inherent risk level remains moderate to severe for around 30% of cleared agricultural land within the region and becomes a particular concern following bushfires and under extremely dry seasonal conditions which occur with greater frequency and magnitude as a result of climate change.

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 outs 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.

Upcoming 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

Through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program (NLP), the Board has been appointed as a service provider to deliver agricultural projects across Eyre Peninsula. These projects currently include:

Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator (RALF)
This role provides a central contact point for farmers and farming groups within the region and is responsible for:

- Keeping all stakeholders informed of new government policy, sharing results from crop and pasture trials or other extension activities, building awareness of new advances in technology and emerging issues, etc.
- Collecting regional intelligence – understanding the needs of the agricultural community and keeping abreast of emerging challenges, issues or threats that may affect the agricultural sector in the region and reporting these to the Board.
- Supporting agricultural groups to develop new projects and seek grant funding, for example through the NLP Smart Farms Small Grants, Smart Farm Partnership rounds and other possible funding opportunities.
- Facilitating collaborative approaches between the agricultural sector and other industry or community sectors so they can work together to address common issues.
- Supporting the promotion of other NLP agricultural projects to farmers, industry, and community groups to encourage uptake. Engage with a significant number of agricultural stakeholder groups over a large demographic in the Eyre Peninsula.

Regenerative Agriculture Program (RAP)

This is a five-year program that will now be in its fourth year of delivery. The program was designed to progress NLP Outcome 5.

The objectives of this program are to increase landholder awareness, knowledge and adoption of:

- Techniques for and benefits of monitoring, maintenance and amelioration of soil surface pH in priority soil acidification areas, through extension activities, pH mapping, pH testing and monitoring sites (in known and emerging priority areas).
- Reducing subsoil constraints through management of soil carbon.
- Reducing erosion by improving groundcover through plant-based options.
- Improving the detection and management of mallee seeps.

These programs are being delivered in close partnership with the farming community of Eyre Peninsula, with major delivery components outsourced to one of the region's farming groups - Agricultural Innovation and Research Eyre Peninsula. Full details of the programs, existing demonstration sites and results can be found on our website.

Upcoming programs

- Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator supporting farmers, agronomists and farming system groups to promote sustainable agricultural practices.
- Continued implementation of Regional Land Partnership, Regenerative Agriculture Program.

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.

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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.

It is important to note that the risk assessment was conducted at regional and district scale using generalised land use, however there are instances when a pest species may pose a greater or lesser risk for a local area and/or specific land use. There is also the potential that the relative pest risk and/or the feasibility of control will change in the future.

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.

Upcoming 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 baiting programs, targeted weed control campaigns, monitoring, permitting and compliance works.

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

Under the new *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, regional landscape boards will now have a role in helping to manage native species that are causing adverse impacts. In the Managing South Australia's Landscapes: Policy Overview that the Minister released, 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 this new 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).

Upcoming programs

- Assisting landowners in connecting with relevant authorities and providing information about impact-causing native species and control options.
- Cataloguing of current and emerging impact-causing native species, their impacts and extent across the region.
- 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.

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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 is a detailed conservation study and action plan that covers the coastline from Two Hummocks Point north of Whyalla to the eastern boundary of the Wahgunyah Conservation Park in the Far West. It provides baseline information for the protection and management of more than 85 coastal cells, and outlines priority actions for each site. This guides the Board's decision-making in regard to coastal management works undertaken throughout the region.

Upcoming programs

- Delivery of the National Landcare Program's Saltmarsh Threat Abatement and Recovery project.
- Supporting community to undertake coastal management works in line with the Coastal Action Plan.
- Supporting partners to progress Eyes on Eyre activities, protecting priority coastal habitats and encouraging sustainable use.
- Partnering with other agencies to advance blue carbon initiatives particularly focused on temperate saltmarsh restoration.

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.

With a region the size and complexity of Eyre Peninsula, to aid the planning process, the region has been broken down into five subregions based on areas of similar landscape and land uses, with subregional descriptions developed. These descriptions provide detailed information in regard to each subregion's biodiversity, using a systems thinking approach which also captures the subregion's values from a social and economic perspective. Other planning documents and tools have also been developed for specific bio-regions in Eyre Peninsula, and for programs areas, including the WildEyre Conservation Action Plan, Eyre Hills Landscape Assessment Framework, Eyes on Eyre Masterplan and the Cummins Wanilla Drainage Management Plan. At the individual species or ecological community level, activities are guided by recovery plans or specific management plans.

Upcoming programs

- Support the implementation of the Cummins Wanilla Streamcare Group Drainage Management Plan and associated PIRSA Regional Growth Fund infrastructure upgrade project.
- 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.

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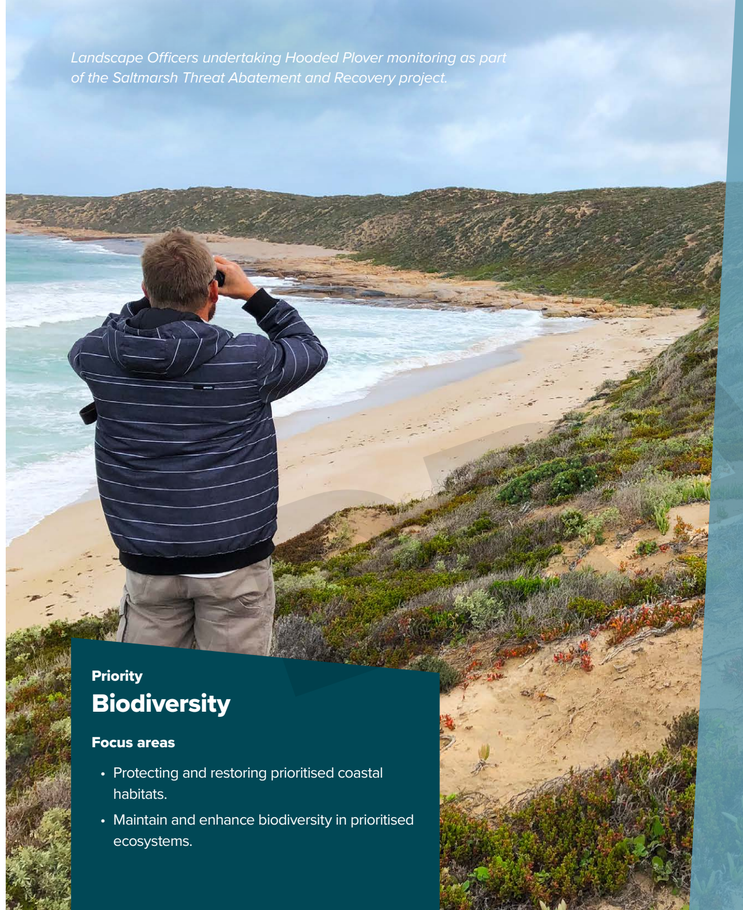

Landscape Officers undertaking Hooded Plover monitoring as part of the Saltmarsh Threat Abatement and Recovery project.

Priority

Biodiversity

Focus areas

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

Saltmarsh Threat Abatement and Recovery project

Through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program (NLP), the Board has been funded to deliver the Saltmarsh Threat Abatement and Recovery (STAR) project, which is focused on improving the condition of the Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh threatened ecological community and a variety of threatened species such as the Hooded Plover, throughout the region.

Eyre Peninsula contains almost half the coastline of SA, 16 coastal embayments (half of SA's estuary area) containing one-third of SA's intertidal samphire habitats. Projected sea level rise will likely result in coastal saltmarsh migration and have secondary impacts on fish and many other species dependent on saltmarsh habitat for survival. Eyre Peninsula's saltmarshes are also internationally and nationally important sites for many other resident and migratory shorebirds - waders and waterfowl - including the Hooded Plover.

Within the region, many coastal towns and each of the major regional centres, have substantial areas of coastal saltmarsh nearby. There is an emerging awareness in the community of the ecological and economic importance of coastal saltmarsh and how its continued presence and good health is important for sustaining the regionally significant economic sectors of recreational fishing, nature-based tourism, and commercial fishing and aquaculture industries.

The STAR project is working to further expand this awareness, leveraging off it to deliver on-ground actions that preserve and restore this important ecological community, with particular emphasis on working with landholders, Aboriginal Homelands and Local Government, who have large areas of coastal saltmarsh under their care.

The activities and outputs being delivered under the STAR project are varied in scope to enable the most effective assessment and identification of priority sites and subsequent abatement of the different primary and secondary threats impacting those priority sites.

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.

Upcoming programs

- Review and improvement 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.
- Strengthening relationships with other regional partners, community groups and industry stakeholders.

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:

- Mark Whitfield (Chair) – Whyalla
- Meagan Turner – Cowell
- Tony Irvine – Port Lincoln
- Justine Major – Kimba
- Dr Steven Milner – Denial Bay
- Debbie May – Elliston
- Brian Foster – Coulta

Further information on all Board members is available on our website (www.landscape.sa.gov.au/ep). All members were initially appointed by the Minister, with three positions falling vacant in 2022. These vacancies will be elected by the community in future.

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.

Upcoming programs

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

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Priority

Community

Focus areas

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

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 2021/22, it is anticipated that there will be 26.2 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions (22.2 FTE funded by levies and 4.0 FTE funded by the Australian Government) employed. Taking into consideration flexible working arrangements, this equates to 30 people in positions located within eight regional offices.

These staff are public sector employees but no longer part of a specific government department.

The Board will continue to receive corporate services support through the Department for Environment and Water in 2021/22.

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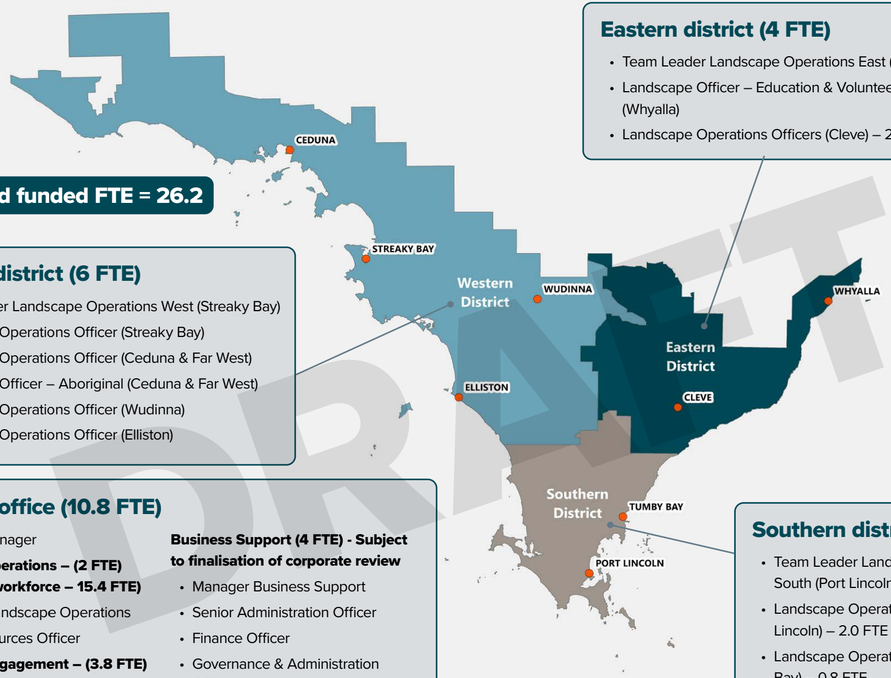
Total Board funded FTE = 26.2



Western district (6 FTE)

- Team Leader Landscape Operations West (Streaky Bay)
- Landscape Operations Officer (Streaky Bay)
- Landscape Operations Officer (Ceduna & Far West)
- Landscape Officer – Aboriginal (Ceduna & Far West)
- Landscape Operations Officer (Wudinna)
- Landscape Operations Officer (Elliston)

Eastern district (4 FTE)

- Team Leader Landscape Operations East (Whyalla)
- Landscape Officer – Education & Volunteer Support (Whyalla)
- Landscape Operations Officers (Cleve) – 2FTE

Regional office (10.8 FTE)

- General Manager

Landscape Operations – (2 FTE) (plus district workforce – 15.4 FTE)

- Manager Landscape Operations
- Water Resources Officer

Planning & Engagement – (3.8 FTE)

- Manager Planning & Engagement
- Planning & Assessment Officer
- Monitoring & Evaluation Officer
- Communications & Engagement Officer – 0.8 FTE

Business Support (4 FTE) - Subject to finalisation of corporate review

- Manager Business Support
- Senior Administration Officer
- Finance Officer
- Governance & Administration Officer

Southern district (5.4 FTE)

- Team Leader Landscape Operations South (Port Lincoln)
- Landscape Operations Officers (Port Lincoln) – 2.0 FTE
- Landscape Operations Officer (Tumby Bay) – 0.8 FTE
- Landscape Officers – Aboriginal (Port Lincoln) – 1.6 FTE

Sources of funding

The Board receives funds from a range of sources to implement the programs described in the Business Plan (Table 4). 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 4: Sources of Funding

Program	2021/22 ($)
Regional Landscape levies sub-total[1]	**3,460,751**
Landscape land levy[2]	3,013,849
Landscape water levy	446,902
State Government sub-total[3]	**195,000**
Other state agency funding	195,000
Australian Government sub-total	**1,320,300**
RLP - Core services	470,300
RLP - Project services	850,000
Other sub-total	**100,000**
Interest	0
Other services	0
Retained earnings[4]	100,000
Total expenditure	**5,076,051**

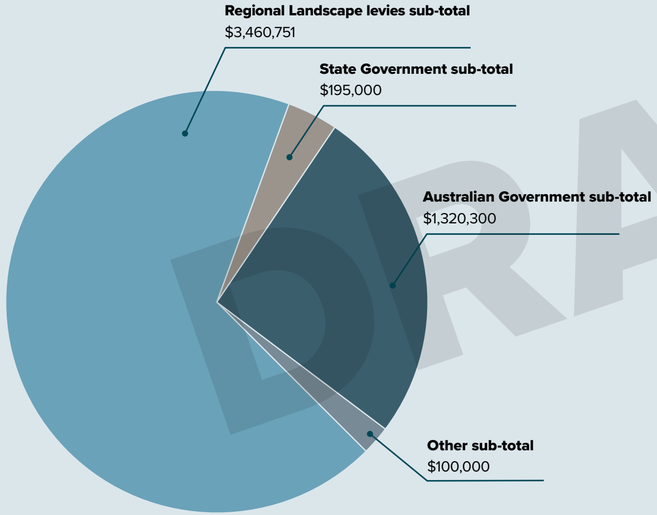
[1] For 2021/22 the Landscape levies have been calculated based on a CPI increase of 1.0%.

[2] The Landscape land levy includes $42,279.13, which is raised from out of council areas.

[3] Other State Government funding includes a range of projects and service related funding.

[4] Retained earnings expenditure will be subject to gaining approval by Cabinet.

Total funding streams 2021/22



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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 5 outlines each Local Government's contribution to the regional landscape levy for the 2021/22 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 5: Estimated council contributions to Landscape levy income, and collection costs for 2021/22

Local Government area	Landscape levy contribution ($)	Council Collection* fee ($)
	2021/22	2021/22
District Council of Ceduna	180,379.00	3,033.40
District Council of Cleve	107,246.00	2,812.60
District Council of Elliston	104,516.00	2,804.44
District Council of Franklin Harbour	89,477.00	2,797.00
District Council of Kimba	70,996.00	2,715.88
District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula	359,413.00	3,451.72
City of Port Lincoln	679,530.00	4,554.28
District Council of Streaky Bay	167,320.00	2,983.96
District Council of Tumby Bay	187,622.00	3,006.04
City of Whyalla	920,656.00	5,287.00
Wudinna District Council	74,994.00	2,728.60
Total quantum (Local Government areas only)	2,942,149.00	36,174.92

** 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 6: Levy rate per land use purpose 2021/22

Land use	No. properties	Multiplier*	Levy rate per land use ($)	Quantum per land use ($)
Residential	25,555	1	79.43	2,029,816.27
Commercial	1,668	1.5	119.14	198,732.16
Industrial	425	1.5	119.14	50,636.19
Primary producers	2,832	2	158.86	449,887.67
Other & vacant land	3,053	1	79.43	242,497.71
Total	33,533			2,971,570.00

** The multiplier is applied to the base levy rate of $79.43 to give the levy rate per land use as shown*

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 2021/22 for outside council areas, the Board has retained the original fixed rate basis of $88.08, which includes a CPI increase of 1.0%. The total quantum raised from out-of-council areas for 2021/22 is $42,279.13.

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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 1.0 % in 2021/22.

The total quantum to be raised from water levies for 2021/22 is $446,902.

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 7: Indicative Landscape water levy rates for 2020/21

Allocation type	Levy rate (cents per share)	Water access entitlement shares	Total landscape water levy quantum ($)
Public water supply purposes	4.79	8,919,607	427,017
Irrigation, industrial and recreational	2.65	749,622	19,836
Mining and energy sectors	4.79	1,000	48
	Total	**9,670,229**	**446,902**

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 1.0% - Minor
- 1.0% to less than 5.0% - 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.

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Decision-making principles

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

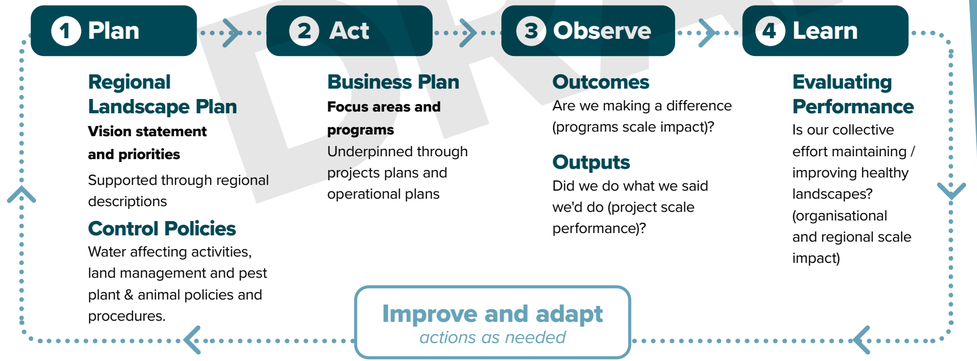
Below are the principles the Board use to support their decision-making processes:

- Core function – statutory requirement under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* or other legislative or regulatory requirements.
- Strategic – alignment with the Regional Landscape Plan, Landscapes 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 such as those under the Regional Land Partnership arrangements and for major Board functions, such as the implementation of the Water Allocation Plan.



Other

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

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