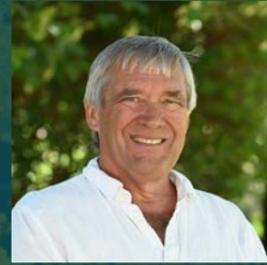


Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board Business Plan

2025 – 26

Working together to care for land, water and nature





I am pleased to present the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board Business Plan for 2025-26. This document outlines our budget, programs, and key activities for the year ahead.

This is the final year of implementing our inaugural regional Landscape Plan 2021-26, and this Business Plan will continue to build on the momentum and partnerships we have developed.

In 2025-26, we will:

- Continue our efforts to eradicate feral deer in the region, including implementing the Greater Adelaide Peri-urban Feral Deer Eradication Plan with PIRSA, Green Adelaide, landholders and other partners.
- Explore with community how we can improve the flow of water through catchments with amendments to the Eastern and Western Mount Lofty Ranges Water Allocation Plans.
- Work with landholders where illegal dams have been constructed to rectify them so that they are not impacting on other water users and the environment.
- Support landholders to improve their stewardship of properties, including management of pests, weeds, soils and biodiversity.
- Expand our efforts to attract nature finance to help the ReBird the Ranges initiative reverse the declines in woodland birds in the Mount Lofty Ranges.
- Help farmers with auditing their emissions and understanding carbon reduction activities available to them.

Finally, a key priority this year will be preparing a new Landscape Plan with the community and stakeholders. We hope that you will be part of shaping this new plan for the region with us.

Please read on to learn more about how we will collaborate with our community and partners to manage our unique, productive, and biodiverse landscapes in 2025-26.

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'D Greenhough'. The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David Greenhough
Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board Chair

Acknowledgement of Yerta / Ruwe (Country)

The Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board acknowledges First Nations as the first people of the lands and waters where we live and work. We respect the Peramangk, Kurna, and Ngarrindjeri peoples, past and present, who have cared for Yerta/Ruwe for generations, nurturing its life, stories, and landscapes. We recognise their deep knowledge, spiritual belonging, and enduring connection to Country.

We are committed to walking alongside First Nations, listening, learning, and working together to protect and restore these lands and waters.

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Thukabi (turtle) monitoring with Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation, Finniss River.

Photo: M Turner



Absent: Sarah Day and Jock Harvey

Meet your board



David Greenhough, Chair

David is a keen environmentalist and has been chair of the board since its inception in 2020. David also worked with the Department for Environment and Water, partnership members and the community to provide advice and guidance in the creation of the Glenthorne National Park.



Sarah Day

Sarah is a sustainable agriculture strategist helping organisations rethink land management. With a background in law, she has supported farmers, processors, retailers, and investors in understanding and implementing sustainable practices. Sarah has worked in consulting and in-house roles and served on various boards, offering strategic, pragmatic solutions.



Amelia Graham

Amelia manages her family's property in Hindmarsh Valley, producing organic beef and lamb. Passionate about sustainable food production, soil health, and revegetation, she also values native food and Ngarrindjeri culture. With a Masters in Environmental Management, Amelia has over 10 years of experience in environmental education and community engagement.



Jock Harvey

Jock is a fifth-generation farmer and has been involved in numerous aspects of viticulture and winemaking around the world. As the co-founder of Biodiversity McLaren Vale, Jock believes that tree planting is an inclusive and effective way to improve the visual landscape.



Janet Klein

Janet is a viticulturist and conservation biologist dedicated to regenerative farming and landscape restoration. She is a co-founder of Ngeringa Vineyards, sits on the Steering and Communication committees for the Mt Lofty Ranges Bird Alliance, is an advocate for community-led conservation and is currently undertaking a PhD investigating soil mycorrhizal fungi in Australian temperate forests.



Professor Andy Lowe

Andy is an expert in biodiversity and forests. He has discovered lost forests, championed the elimination of illegally logged timber in global supply chains, and is lead author of the Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services - Land Degradation and Restoration report.



Leanne Muffet

As an experienced board member, Leanne brings expertise in strategic planning, facilitation, governance, business development and project management to the board. With qualifications in social sciences, business sustainability, leadership and as a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, Leanne is committed to long-term integrated landscape outcomes.



James Stacey

James is a farmer and director of Bremer River Fodder, managing dryland and irrigated crops in the Fleurieu and Murraylands regions. A Nuffield Scholar, he studied urban growth's impact on agriculture globally. James is involved in water allocation planning and leads revegetation projects to protect natural resources.



Dr Chris West

Chris trained as a veterinary surgeon and has led large NGO, conservation-directed and science-based zoological societies in both Adelaide and the UK. He has been involved with many initiatives to support endangered species, landscape-level ecological management, research and public engagement.

The board is a regional facilitator, catalyst and partnership builder. This means we support and align the great work being done, foster and grow local capacity, and help share knowledge between stakeholders.

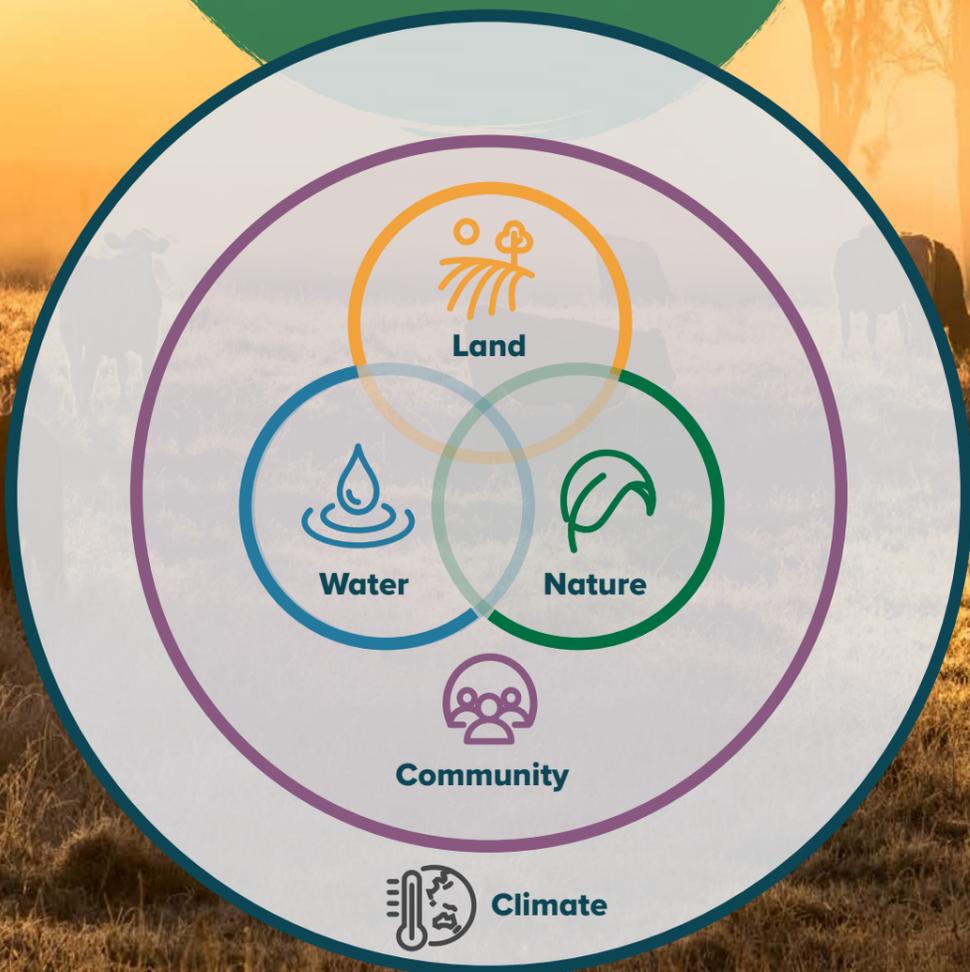
What is the board?

The board is a statutory body established under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* tasked with helping manage the region's landscapes and natural resources. The board's obligations include reviewing water allocation plans, issuing Water Affecting Activities permits, supporting landholders to sustainably manage land, declared pest plants and animals and impact-causing native species, and engaging the community in landscape management.

The board raises landscape and water levies to deliver its obligations and programs that contribute to the priorities of the regional Landscape Plan. The levies also help the board attract additional funding and support to increase what is achieved in our region.

Vision

A region inspired to protect its uniquely biodiverse and productive landscapes into the future.



Five priorities for sustainable landscape management

The board's 5-year Landscape Plan provides strategic guidance for addressing some of the region's biggest challenges and opportunities.

The **Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Plan 2021-26** calls for an integrated regional approach by all stakeholders and articulates five priorities in the areas of Land, Water, Nature, Climate and Community. These Priorities, along

with Focus Areas and Strategies, reflect the values and concerns of the region's community and define where effort and investment is needed. The Priorities and Focus Areas are shown below.

Priorities	Focus areas
 <p>Land Regenerating biodiverse and highly productive landscapes</p>	L1. Reduce the impact and spread of weeds
	L2. Reduce the impact of pest animals and impact-causing native animals
	L3. Support the uptake of regenerative agriculture and land management
	L4. Future-proof our agriculture
 <p>Water Managing water resources sustainably</p>	W1. Deliver water resource planning to meet ecological, economic, cultural and social needs
	W2. Improve on-ground management of our water resources
	W3. Build understanding of our water resources
 <p>Nature Conserving natural places, ecosystems and wildlife</p>	N1. Protect and restore our native vegetation and freshwater ecosystems
	N2. Conserve and rehabilitate our coastal, estuarine and marine ecosystems
	N3. Recover our threatened species and ecological communities
 <p>Climate Becoming a carbon neutral and climate resilient region</p>	C1. Transition to net zero carbon emissions
	C2. Build climate resilience of our nature
	C3. Build climate resilience of our communities and agriculture
 <p>Community Everyone caring for our landscapes</p>	P1. Foster a regional culture of landscape stewardship
	P2. Walk alongside First Nations in looking after Yerta / Ruwe (Country)
	P3. Strengthen shared understanding of landscape management challenges
	P4. Increase community capacity to manage our landscapes

Sources of funding

Table 1: Sources of funding in 2025-26

Funding source	2025-26 (\$)
Landscape and water levies¹	
Regional landscape levy	6,171,700
Water levy	2,790,500
External funding	
Australian Government: National Landcare Program Regional Delivery Partners	1,050,900
State Government: MLR Bird Recovery Deep Creek Revegetation	116,000
State Government: Woodland Restoration in Eastern Mt Lofty Ranges	100,000
State Government: Building Landscape Resilience with High Performing Dams	70,000
Landscape Priorities Fund: Building Landscape Resilience with High Performing Dams	55,000
Landscape Priorities Fund: Statewide Unauthorised Dams Compliance	800,000
Landscape Priorities Fund: Now or Never - controlling feral deer and goats	133,000
MoAA – Limestone Coast LB: LPF Towards a Feral Deer Free SA	120,000
MoAA Kangaroo Island Landscape Board Carbon Outreach ²	94,300
Interest	200,000
TOTAL REVENUE	11,701,400
Approved carry-over funding from previous years ³	1,601,600
TOTAL FUNDING	13,303,000

¹ Landscape levy income and water levy rates as approved by the board in December (3.2% actual CPI rate, September 2024 quarter, Adelaide) increase on 2024-25

² Landscape boards collaborate on the delivery of some programs and services across regions. These arrangements are formalised by Service Level Agreements or Memorandum of Administrative Agreements.

³ Department of Treasury and Finance approved carry-over of levy funding from previous years.

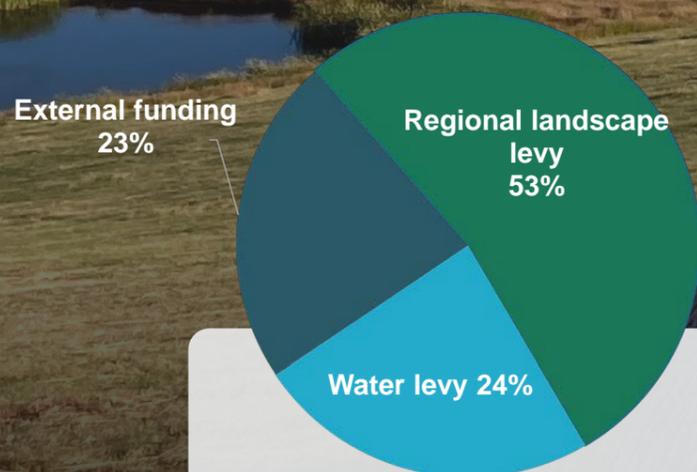


Figure 1: Funding by source

Program investment

The board invests funding from the levies and other sources into delivering activities against the five priorities of the Landscape Plan. The following tables provide the anticipated expenditure against each priority, and Tables 3A-E also indicate the Focus Areas that will be addressed by projects.

When referring to these tables, please note that the relative levels of funding should not be taken to indicate relative priority, as some activities have inherently different delivery costs. For example, water monitoring is significantly more expensive than running capacity-building workshops.

Table 2: Expenditure by priorities and funding source in 2025-26

Priority	Landscape and water levies (\$)	External funding (\$)	Total (\$)
Land	2,103,400	429,200	532,600
Water	4,399,400	959,500	5,358,900
Nature	1,742,400	717,800	2,460,200
Climate	687,400	316,200	1,003,600
Community	1,598,600	348,800	1,947,400
Total expenditure	10,531,200	2,771,500	13,303,000

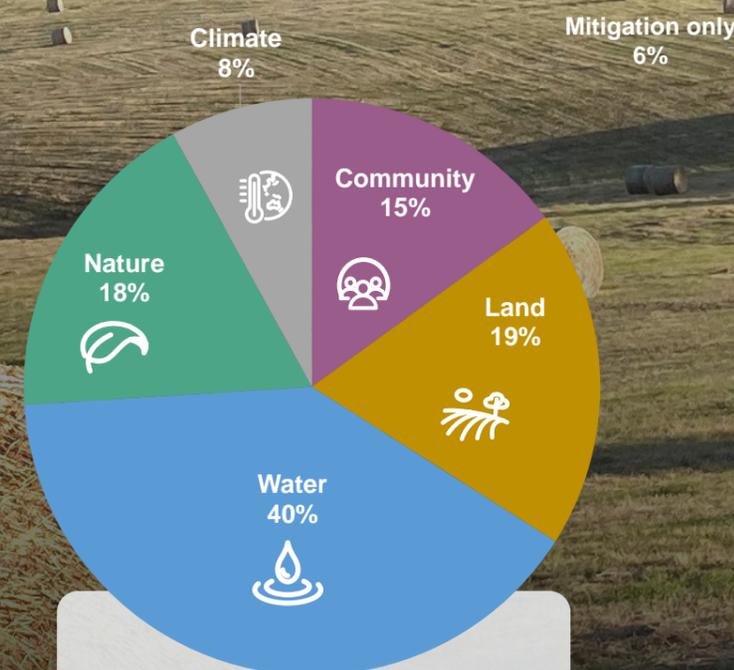


Figure 2: Expenditure by priority

Note: Climate expenditure is investment in projects where the primary focus is climate adaptation and/or mitigation.

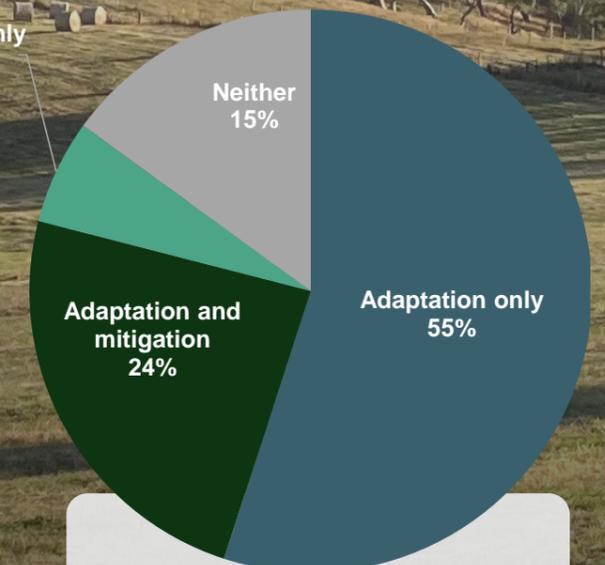


Figure 3: Expenditure contributions to climate adaptation and climate mitigation across all priorities (% of total investment in 2025-26).

A large proportion of investment in Land, Water and Nature projects contribute to climate resilience.

Our Stewardship Program

Supporting rural land managers to be the best stewards they can be – embracing their role in caring for land, water and nature.

The Stewardship Program delivers services to land managers in the region's three districts (Fleurieu Peninsula, Eastern Hills and Plains, and Adelaide Hills). Each district has its own specialised team of stewardship officers available to assist land managers in caring for land, water, and nature.

Despite our region being beautiful and prosperous, climate change, habitat loss, impacts of pest plants and animals, and water quality and quantity issues are

affecting agricultural productivity and biodiversity. It is understood that natural assets such as soil, watercourses, and native vegetation are essential for healthy agricultural production and sustaining biodiversity.

Land managers play a critical role in regenerating and sustaining landscapes for current and future generations. Collaborative efforts with shared goals and commitment are crucial, involving partnerships with land managers and communities.

Who is a land manager?

Our region's land managers are diverse. They include large-scale primary producers, small acreage private landholders, state and local government agencies that look after public land, First Nations, volunteers, and non-government organisations.

Our Stewardship Program connects rural land managers with five ways to care for land, water and nature:



1 Understand land manager responsibilities

- Understand legislative responsibilities under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, including pest plant and animal control, water affecting activities and managing soils.
- Connect with other legislation, including the *Native Vegetation Act 1991*, *South Australian Country Fires Act 1989*, *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988*, and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.



2 Create a plan for managing natural assets

- Prepare an action plan to care for land, water and nature.
- Connect with service providers including contractors, local businesses and community groups.
- Connect to First Nations heritage and knowledge, and create opportunities for Kaurna, Peramangk and Ngarrindjeri people to access private land.



3 Care for native vegetation and undertake revegetation

- Improve the condition of existing native vegetation.
- Carry out successful revegetation.



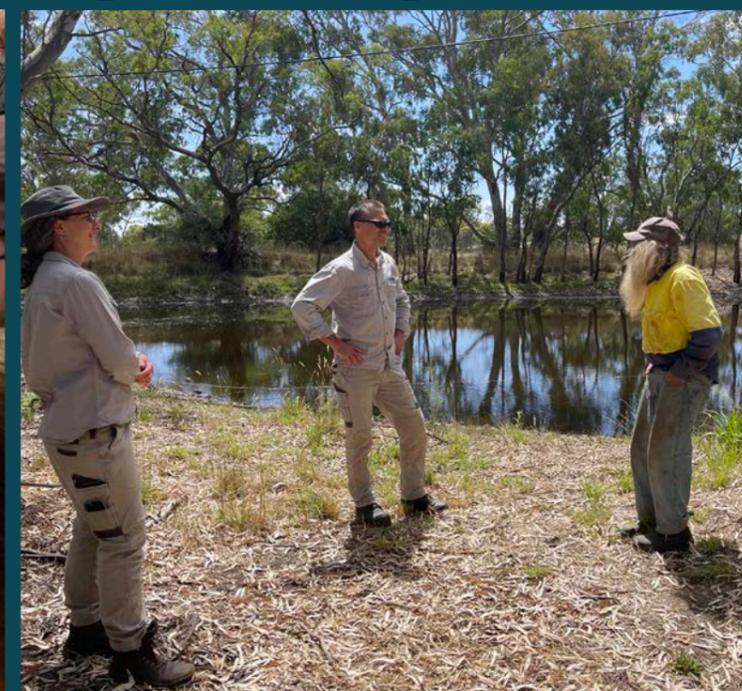
4 Care for watercourses, wetlands and dams

- Improve the health of watercourses and wetlands.
- Manage and maintain dams for production and environmental benefits.



5 Care for soils

- Improve the condition and resilience of soils.
- Monitor and manage soils for production and landscape health.





Land Program Investment

Table 3A

Projects	Focus areas	Levy funded expenditure (\$)	Externally funded expenditure (\$)
Stewardship – pests, land and agriculture	L1, L2, L3, L4	1,010,054	-
Roadside and Priority Weeds	L1	250,000	-
Coordination of compliance activities	L1, L2, L3, W2	92,313	-
Regional grazing pressure and impacting native animals	L2	537,606	-
Sustainable Agriculture Facilitation	L3, L4, C3	-	176,180
LPF - controlling feral deer and goats	L2	-	253,046
Program support ¹		213,442	

¹Included in the 'Program Support' for each priority are board and committee expenses, monitoring and business running costs.

Featured projects

Facilitating sustainable agriculture

Supporting farmers and landholders to embrace sustainable agriculture practices while adapting to the emerging and anticipated challenges of climate change is a key focus of this program.

Our dedicated Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator connects farmers, landholders, community groups and agriculture industries to relevant information and programs on climate-smart, sustainable agriculture practices; facilitates partnerships and connections; and supports the delivery of sustainable agriculture projects in their region.

We will deliver land management workshops and resources aligned with our Stewardship Program outcomes, helping local landholders develop property and emission reduction plans.

This project is funded by the Australian Government Natural Heritage Trust and delivered by Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board, a member of the Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partners panel.



Controlling feral deer, goats and pigs

Grazing pressure from large herbivores can have substantial impacts on primary production, native vegetation, and threatened flora and fauna.

Under the Regional Grazing Pressure Management program, the board continues to implement a strategic and coordinated approach to reducing the impacts of feral goals, feral deer and feral pigs in the Hills and Fleurieu region. In partnership with other landscape boards, National Parks and Wildlife Service SA, Primary Industries and Regions SA, Forestry SA, SA Water, local government and private landholders, the grazing pressure management program is delivered through coordinated control operations to deliver targeted outcomes.

The Greater Adelaide Peri-Urban Feral Deer Eradication Plan was launched in late 2024 and seeks to address the encroachment of feral deer to the Greater Adelaide area. The plan sits alongside statewide eradication plans and relies on strong community support and partnerships. Focussing efforts on control in the peri-urban zone will be a priority in the coming 12 months to make an impact before numbers spiral out of control.



Tackling declared weeds on roadsides

There are over 5,000km of roads in the region, meaning over 10,000km of roadsides, and over 150 declared weeds.

This project involves working directly with all six councils, the Department for Infrastructure and Transport and adjacent landholders to co-design management actions to prioritise roadside weed control across the road network, while protecting biodiversity, agriculture and biosecurity, and supporting fire preparedness and resilience.

We are also reaching out to adjacent landholders asking them to manage target weeds on their properties to maximise long-term outcomes for the project.





Water Program Investment

Table 3B

Projects	Focus areas	Levy funded expenditure (\$)	Externally funded expenditure (\$)
Stewardship – dams and watercourses	W2	864,891	-
Water planning for McLaren Vale, EMLR and WMLR	W1	1,173,322	-
Monitoring water resources	W3	394,493	-
State Water Planning and Management costs ¹	W1, W3	1,588,737	-
LPF Building Landscape Resilience with High Performing Dams	W2, W3	-	159,500
LPF Illegal Dam Compliance	W2, N1	-	800,000
Program support		277,970	-

¹ State Water Planning and Management contributions include the following functions: water licensing and assessment, water resource monitoring, state and condition reporting for water resources, compliance activities and water planning advice to support the management of water resources. These services are provided by the Department for Environment and Water, including departmental staff based regionally.

Featured projects

Eastern and Western Mount Lofty Ranges Water Allocation Plan amendment

Water Allocation Plans (WAPs) set out the rules for managing the take and use of surface water and groundwater in the region. They ensure these resources are shared equitably and secure sustainable water supplies for water users, the environment and future generations.

Following an extensive evaluation process, we are now working with the community and stakeholders to amend both the Eastern and Western Mount Lofty Ranges WAPs.

There are a range of focus areas to explore, including how we can get environmental flows through catchments, First Nations water entitlements, and how to make the WAPs adaptive to climate change.

Key inputs to the amendments will be scientific analysis of long-term monitoring of surface water, groundwater and water dependent ecosystems, climate data, economic information, and input from water licence holders, First Nations, industries and the community.

WAP Advisory Committees and focus groups will help provide forums for direct engagement with stakeholders.



Dam management and enhancement

Farm dams play a critical role in water supply in the Mount Lofty Ranges. However, they require ongoing maintenance to ensure they continue to function effectively and avoid potential damage to people, property, and the environment.

Funded by the Landscape Priorities Fund and the Department for Environment and Water, and in collaboration with Northern and Yorke Landscape Board, our dam management and enhancement project will continue in 2025-26, helping educate dam owners on how to inspect, manage and maintain their dams.

This will be achieved through interactive workshops, educational resource development and the establishment of three demonstration sites.

Other project outcomes will include the development of a dam enhancement guide, to support landholders to improve the biodiversity value and water quality of their dams, as well as targeted engagement and incentives for landholders with large dams in high priority catchments within our region.



Illegal dam compliance

Recent analysis has identified a significant number of illegal new dams and dam enlargements across the Hills and Fleurieu. This is particularly concerning considering there has been a moratorium on building new dams since across the Mount Lofty Ranges since 2013.

These illegal dams and enlargements have profound implications for downstream surface water resources and the communities, industries and environments that rely on them.

A significant compliance effort will be undertaken in 2025-26 to identify and compel corrective actions where illegal dam construction or enlargement has resulted in effective water theft. A change detection program using satellite imagery will also be implemented to alert the board to the occurrence of new work.



Nature Program Investment

Table 3C

Projects	Focus areas	Levy funded expenditure (\$)	Externally funded expenditure (\$)
Stewardship – nature	N1	1,297,707	-
Supporting Fleurieu coasts and seas	N2	224,458	-
NHT Back from the Brink	N3, C2	-	416,788
Reversing the decline in Mount Lofty Ranges birds	N1, N3, C2	5,000	301,000
Program support		215,220	-

Featured projects

Coastal action planning

The coastline of the southern Fleurieu Peninsula stretches 170 km and is home to diverse and unique habitats, with rich biodiversity including threatened migratory birds, fish, frogs, and rare plant species. Spanning from Myponga Beach to the Murray Mouth, it features steep coastal slopes, rugged cliffs, sandy bays and offshore islands.

Over the past twelve months, we have led a review and update of the 2007 Southern Fleurieu Coastal Action Plan.

The process was highly collaborative, involving coastal councils, land managers, community groups, First Nations and other stakeholders. The update will be completed in 2025/26 and will provide strategies and targeted actions for preserving the coastline's natural assets over the next decade.



ReBird the Ranges

ReBird the Ranges is a partnership with other 20 organisations that are working together to reverse the decline of the 78 species of woodland birds in the Mount Lofty Ranges. This region has some of the highest bird extinction rates and concentrations of threatened bird species in Australia. The ReBird the Ranges Action Plan describes the challenge ahead of reconstructing over 130,000 ha of grassy woodland and heathland to provide enough habitat to sustain bird species.

Funding from the landscape levy, state government and Landscape Priorities Fund will continue to support the ReBird the Ranges initiative in 2025-26. Efforts will focus on creating a groundswell of community awareness, developing new partnerships and finance to scale-up restoration, and on-ground reconstruction of grassy woodland and heathland habitats.



Back from the Brink

The Back from the Brink project involves the delivery of targeted conservation actions to improve the long-term population trajectory of four priority threatened species in the Hills and Fleurieu region.

- Southern bell frog - this locally extinct species will be bred in captivity and re-introduced to managed sites in the lower Murray area.
- Murray hardyhead - an existing breeding program will be maintained and expanded across a series of dams on private land, to supplement wild populations in the long-term.
- Hooded plover - breeding site protection and monitoring will be undertaken by a team of coordinated and skilled volunteers.
- Western beautiful firetail - critical new habitat will be created to support the persistence of the species in the region.

Government agencies, NGOs, volunteers, community groups, schools, First Nations representatives, private landholders and contractors will work together to deliver the project over five years.

This project is funded by the Australian Government Natural Heritage Trust and delivered by Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board, a member of the Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partners panel.

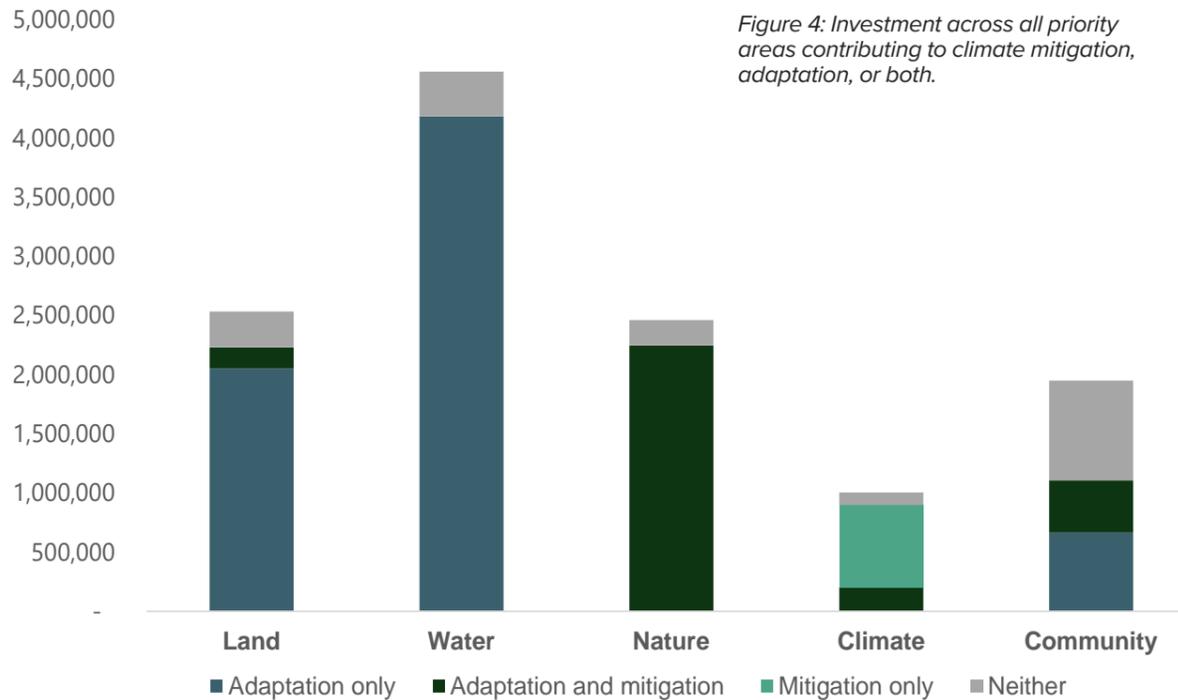


Climate Program Investment

Table 3D

Projects	Focus areas	Levy funded expenditure (\$)	Externally funded expenditure (\$)
Transition to net zero emissions	C1	62,242	-
DAFF Climate Smart Farm Action Planning	L4, C1, C3,	-	203,594
Landscape Carbon Outreach project	C1, C3	-	112,556
Climate readiness of industries and communities	C1, C3	520,639	-
Program support		104,497	-

The projects listed above under the climate priority are specifically targeted at addressing climate impacts. It is important to note that most of the board's work contributes to building landscape resilience to climate change.



Featured projects

Net zero achieved

We are on track to achieve our net-zero emissions by the 2026 target through reducing our emissions and sourcing accredited biodiverse carbon offsets within South Australia.

Electricity usage and fuel accounts for the majority of our organisation's greenhouse gas emissions and are a key focus for our emissions reduction efforts.

Our energy has changed to Green Energy and we are transitioning our fleet, with two electric vehicles now in use. We continue to work on other aspects of our Net Zero Emissions Action Plan, which includes reducing waste and procurement emissions.

Climate Ready Agriculture and Carbon Farming Outreach

The levy-funded Climate Ready Agriculture project, in collaboration with industry, government, and research partners, focusses on developing and implementing climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies for agriculture in the region.

It aims to design a regional carbon-neutral strategy and promote understanding of carbon's role in farm businesses. This involves providing training on carbon farming, low-emissions technologies, and practices relevant to the Hills and Fleurieu region.

Through workshops and one-on-one extension services, the Australian Government funded Carbon Farming Outreach project facilitates the adoption of greenhouse gas management and sustainable agriculture practices among land managers.

Additionally, the project provides advice to the board on relevant initiatives.

A Carbon Farming Officer works closely with land managers, farming systems groups and industry bodies to improve soil health and increase their understanding of carbon in farm businesses, on-farm carbon accounting, carbon and biodiversity market opportunities, including the integration of low emission technologies.

The Carbon Farming Outreach project is funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, and Water under the Carbon Farming Outreach Program.



Australian Government



Resilient Hills & Coasts

Together, the Resilient Hills and Coasts (RHC) partners recently launched a new Regional Climate Action Plan 2025-2030 and signed a new 5-year sector agreement.

We reaffirmed our shared commitment to accelerating climate action – both to reducing emissions and supporting our region to be resilient to the changing climate.

The RHC partnership aims to connect and build capacity, influence policy and deliver transformative projects.

The focus areas that we will work together on are: Resilient and biodiverse landscapes; Climate-ready housing; Community resilience; Climate risk management; and Telling the story.

The partners of Resilient Hills and Coasts are Adelaide Hills, Alexandrina, Kangaroo Island, Mount Barker, Victor Harbor and Yankalilla Councils, RDA Adelaide Hills Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island, Kangaroo Island and Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Boards and the Department for Environment and Water.





Community Program Investment

Table 3E

Projects	Focus areas	Levy funded expenditure (\$)	Externally funded expenditure (\$)
Raising community awareness	P1	440,151	-
Statewide Communications	P4	30,000	-
NHT Regional Capacity Services	P2, P3, P4		348,790
First Nations partnerships project	P2	165,838	-
Regional dialogues and partnerships	P3	113,771	-
Engaging community and volunteers	P4	293,224	-
Grassroots Grants and GreenSafe grants	P3, P4	275,000	-
Citizen Science and understanding landscape condition	P1, P4	97,884	-
Program support		182,759	-

Featured projects

First Nations Partnerships

The board and staff deeply value our relationships with Kurna, Peramangk, and Ngarrindjeri Nations, working together to support Country and culture. We engage through Prescribed Body Corporates and endorsed governance models, including the newly established Peramangk Aboriginal Council and other respected cultural voices.

We are learning from First Nations, building our capacity to engage respectfully on matters affecting Country and communities. We provide cultural training for staff and support landholders and volunteers through First Nations-led workshops.

First Nations voices guide our Coastal Action and Water Allocation Planning, while we also support self-determination initiatives like Kurna's Healthy Country Planning and the expansion of the Ngarrindjeri Ranger Program.

We foster culturally safe pathways for reconnection with Country, create employment opportunities, and increase procurement from Aboriginal-owned businesses.



Photo: M Turner

Grassroots and GreenSafe grant programs

The board's Grassroots Grants program continues to play a pivotal role in supporting local environmental projects that address critical landscape priorities. The program helps build strong partnerships by providing essential support to volunteers, community organisations and land stewards, enabling them to protect biodiversity, enhance soil health, and build resilience against climate change impacts throughout the region.

Since its inception, the Hills and Fleurieu Grassroots Grants program has distributed over \$1,250,000 to almost 150 environmental and primary production projects in the region.

In addition, the GreenSafe Grants program offers funding of up to \$500 to schools and community environmental groups, supporting practical needs such as the purchase of personal protective equipment and minor tools.



Citizen science and understanding landscape condition

Anyone can be a citizen scientist. Members of the public can contribute to our understanding of where species occur by sharing their observations with tools such as iNaturalist and FeralScan. This is a great way to contribute to science in your local area, as a holiday activity, and at a time and pace that suits you.

The board also supports local community-based monitoring of waterway health through annual 'Waterbug Bioblitzes'. Each spring, community volunteer citizen scientists, waterbug specialists, staff from the board and Second Nature Conservancy come together to collect data on water quality and water-dependent invertebrates (waterbugs) at selected sites in the Bremer, Angas and Finnis catchments.

Because waterbugs are sensitive to water quality and flow, they provide a useful indicator of catchment health and trends over time and whether management goals are being met.

These events are supported by the landscape levy and DEW's Environmental Citizen Science grants program, and contribute to improved understanding of catchment health across several regions of South Australia.



About us

The board and its committees

The board consists of nine community members with a range of skills and knowledge, appointed by the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water. For more information about the board members, see the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board website at www.landscape.sa.gov.au/hf.

In 2025-26, the board has the following committees to support its operations:

- Risk and Performance Committee
- Water Resources Steering Committee
- Water Allocation Planning Advisory Committees for the Eastern Mt Lofty Ranges and Western Mt Lofty Ranges.

Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu

Our organisation, which we refer to as 'Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu', implements programs and services on behalf of the board.

We are passionate about our unique role as connectors within the Hills and Fleurieu community - connecting people to knowledge, expertise and funding.

We walk together with First Nations people, landholders and the broader community to sustainably manage our biodiverse and productive landscapes.

Our General Manager employs the staff, who are public sector employees. In 2025-26, it is anticipated that there will be 59.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions (48 FTE funded by levies and 11.5 FTE funded by external funding). The H&F levy-funded staff salaries and on-costs will cost \$5,559,793. In Tables 3A-3E, these staff costs are apportioned to the projects that they will deliver.

Department for Environment and Water is contracted to provide Corporate Services support.

Planning framework

As shown in Figure 5, both the work of the board delivered through the Business Plan, and the work of other organisations and community, contribute to achieving the Landscape Plan.

The Landscape Plan contributes to, and aligns with, the State Landscape Strategy and other state, national and international policies and agreements.

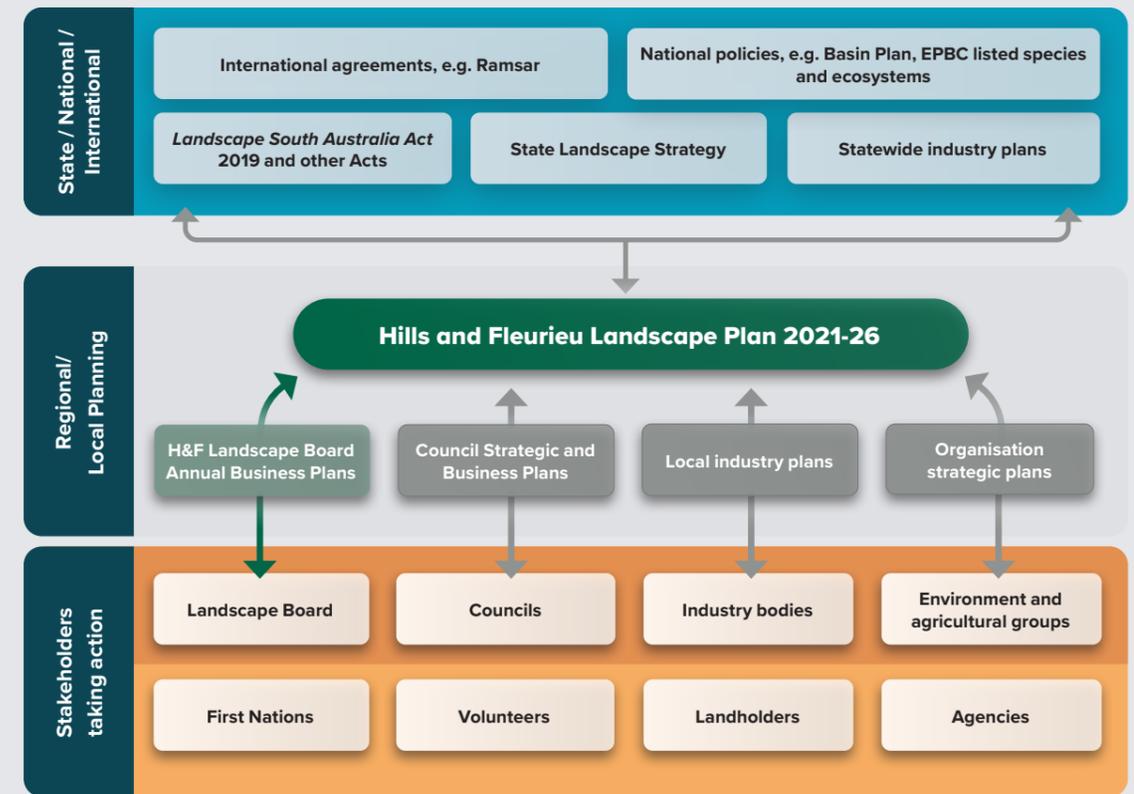
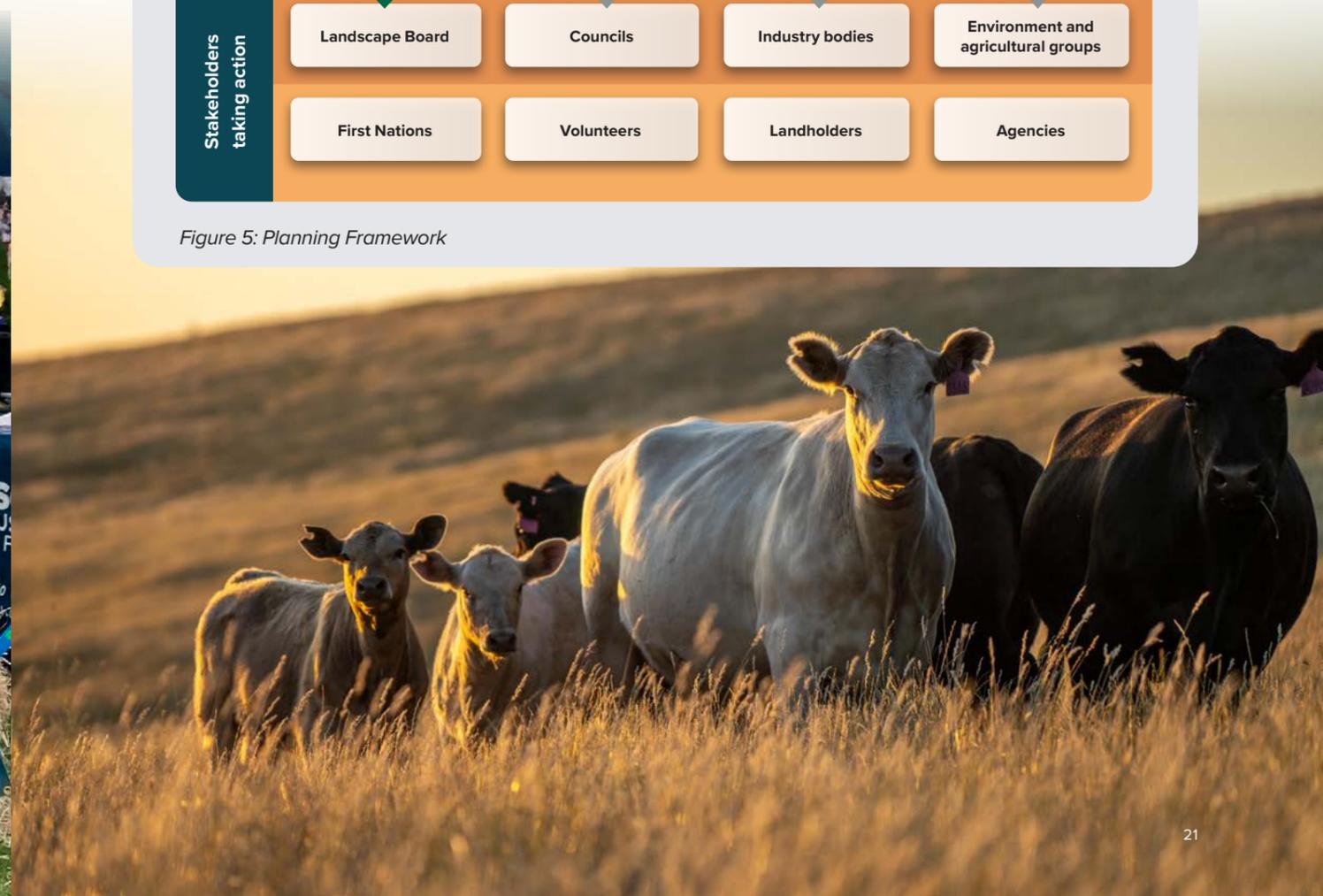


Figure 5: Planning Framework



Measuring landscape condition and progress

The programs and projects outlined in this business plan contribute to the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Plan 2021-2026.

The figure on the next page shows a theory of change, that summarises how the board's programs aim to influence landscape health. The board's approach to monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement (MERI), and the indicators used to monitor progress against the plan are outlined in its MERI Framework.

The board monitors, evaluates and reports on the progress and impact of its programs, including:

- quarterly reporting on project status and activities delivered (performance reporting);

- producing an achievements report and a statutory annual report showing how the levy funds have been spent in the financial year and what has been achieved;
- program level monitoring to evaluate impact and inform management decisions; and
- evaluation of the board's impact and progress against the Landscape Plan 2021-26 to understand how the plan's implementation has influenced the condition of the region's landscapes and inform future programs.

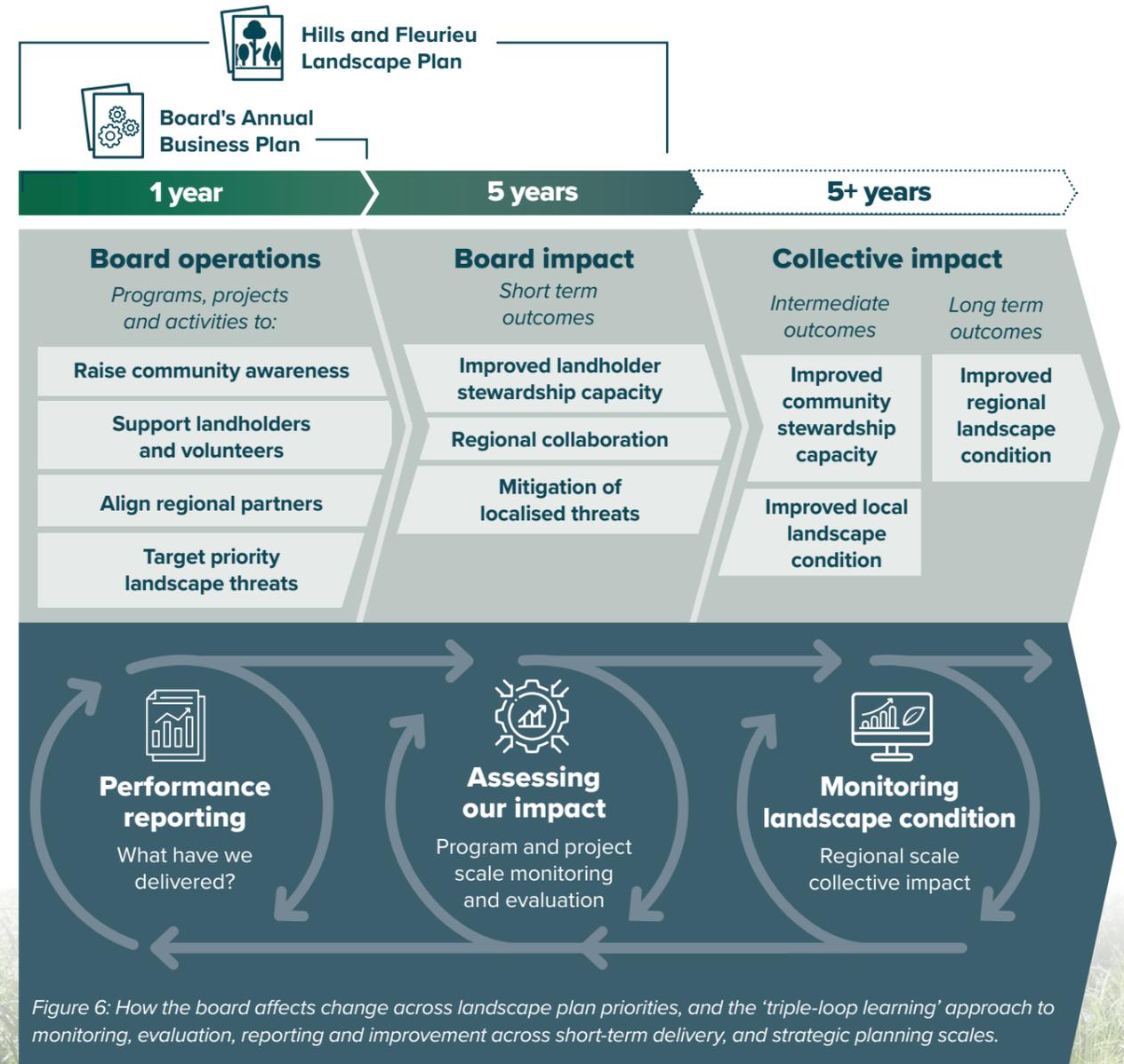


Figure 6: How the board affects change across landscape plan priorities, and the 'triple-loop learning' approach to monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement across short-term delivery, and strategic planning scales.



Landscape and water levies

To enable the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board to lead the management of landscapes in the region, the Act provides for two types of levies to be raised: a regional landscape levy collected by councils from rate payers, and a water levy collected from water licence holders.

Why do we pay levies?

The levies are the primary source of funding for the management of the region's landscapes and natural resources. Our landscapes benefit everyone, with levy funds being collected annually from the region's property owners.

The levies enable the board to deliver important programs, and also enable it to leverage significant, additional funding - greatly increasing the amount of work achieved in the region.

Regional landscape levy

In the Hills and Fleurieu region, the regional landscape levy is raised based on the value of rateable land. The landscape levy is raised and collected by local councils. Councils pay quarterly contributions to the landscape board and gazette a levy rate to reimburse themselves for this amount.

The total amount of income collected from the landscape levy in 2025-26 will be a CPI (Consumer Price Index) increase on the approved 2024-25 income. The council contributions are determined based on the % of regional capital value within each council.

Table 4: Council contributions to regional landscape levy income, number of rateable properties and collection fees for councils for 2025-26.

Local government area	Council contribution to regional landscape levy 2025-26 (\$)	No. rateable properties	Council collection fees (\$)
Adelaide Hills	1,715,141	19,123	9,042
Alexandrina	1,332,379	21,048	9,639
Mount Barker	1,422,303	21,172	9,677
Onkaparinga	566,582	7,218	5,352
Victor Harbor	742,053	11,721	6,748
Yankalilla	393,244	6,021	4,981
Total	6,171,701	86,303	45,438

Water levy

Water levies are collected by the Department for Environment and Water on behalf of the Minister and paid to the landscape board.

In 2025-26, the H&F Landscape Board will raise water levies consistent with the levy basis used in previous years:

- for the Eastern Mt Lofty Ranges and Angas Bremer prescribed water resources, levies will continue

to be charged based on a rate per ML of water allocated, with a minimum charge of \$200; and

- for the Western Mt Lofty Ranges and McLaren Vale prescribed water resources, levies will continue to be charged based on a rate per ML of water allocated.

The levy rates for 2025-26 (Table 5) are increased by CPI of 3.2% on the 2024-25 rates.

Water resource sharing arrangements

The Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board is responsible for water planning for the McLaren Vale Prescribed Wells Area, and the Western Mt Lofty Ranges and Eastern Mt Lofty Ranges (including the Angas Bremer) Prescribed Water Resource Areas.

For the prescribed water resource areas that are shared with neighbouring landscape regions, the water levy is

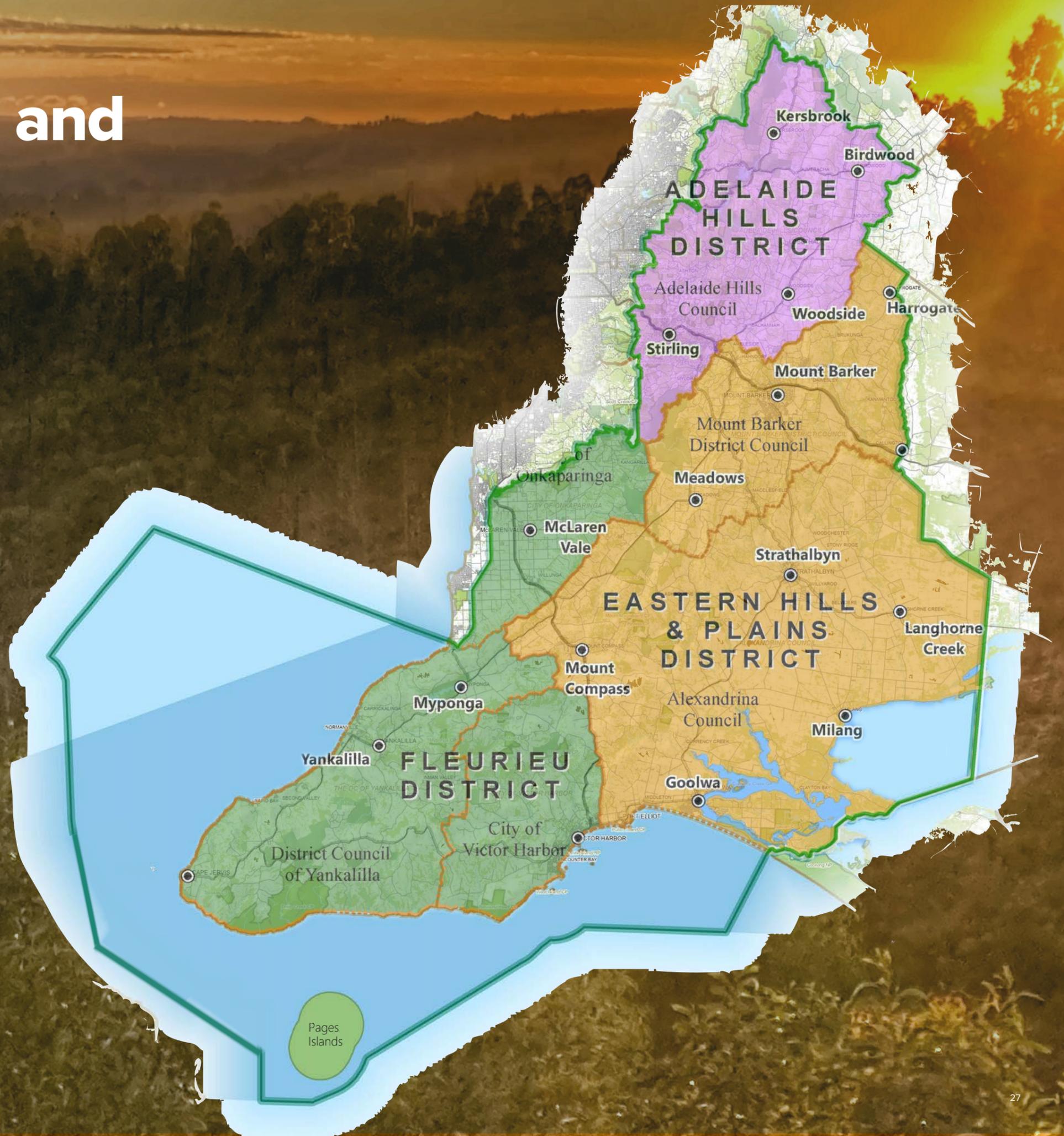
shared between the boards in proportion to the amount of water allocated in each region (see Table 5).

The board will work together with the Green Adelaide, Northern and Yorke, and Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Boards to ensure that water planning and programs are implemented collaboratively and consistently.

Table 5: Water levy rates and proportion of allocated water in each prescribed water resource in the Hills and Fleurieu region for 2025-26.

Prescribed Water Resource Area (PWRA) / Prescribed Wells Area (PWA) and allocation type	2025-26 levy rate	Proportion of the PWRAs allocated water within Hills & Fleurieu
Angas Bremer PWA water taking allocation	\$8.29 per ML of water allocated or a levy of \$200, whichever is greater	100%
Eastern Mt Lofty Ranges PWRA water taking allocation	\$8.29 per ML of water allocated or a levy of \$200, whichever is greater	98%
Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges PWRA water taking Lower Angas Bremer allocation (Flood)	\$1.98 / ML	100%
Central Adelaide PWA water taking allocation	\$7.71 / ML	12%
McLaren Vale PWA water taking allocation	\$7.71 / ML	96%
River Murray Prescribed Watercourse (Classes 3 (excluding Qualco Sunlands) and 5 only)	\$8.29 / ML	3%
Western Mount Lofty Ranges PWRA water taking allocation (including water levy on organisations authorised under section 105 to take water)	\$7.71 / ML	93%
Western Mount Lofty Ranges PWRA public water supply - SA Water fixed charge	\$1,540,177	100%

Map of the Hills and Fleurieu region





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*We work on Kurna, Peramangk and
Ngarrindjeri Yerta/Ruwe*

Always was, always will be



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