Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board

2026-2031 Regional Landscape Plan

Working in partnership with regional communities to deliver a healthy and resilient landscape

DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION

LANDSCAPE SOUTH AUSTRALIA MURRAYLANDS AND RIVERLAND

Acknowledgement of country

The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board acknowledges Aboriginal people as the First Peoples and Nations of the lands and waters that we live and work upon, and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and respect the deep spiritual connection and the relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to Country.

Foreword

On behalf of the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board, I am proud to present the 2026-2031 Regional Landscape Plan. Building on the strong foundations of our inaugural plan, this edition reflects the ongoing commitment of our communities and the evolving challenges and opportunities facing our region.

The Murraylands and Riverland region is extraordinary. It sustains our world-class wine, food, and fibre industries, contributes significantly to the South Australian economy, and supports a rich natural environment that draws visitors from across Australia and around the world. From the iconic River Murray and its wetlands to extensive native vegetation, internationally recognised conservation sites, and diverse native flora and fauna, the region's landscapes are vital to our shared wellbeing and identity.

Maintaining and enhancing the health, productivity, and resilience of these landscapes requires careful, coordinated, and sustainable management of our natural resources. This includes water, land, biodiversity, and the control of pest plants and animals. Our 2026-2031 plan is designed to guide practical, evidence-based action while encouraging innovative and adaptive approaches to landscape management.

The landscape board recognises that the success of this plan depends on the involvement, commitment and collaboration of our community and strong partnerships. We aim to foster collaboration with landholders, First Nations communities, industry, government, and the wider public. By working together, we can ensure that the region's landscapes remain healthy, productive, and resilient for generations to come.

We look forward to engaging with you, hearing your ideas, and continuing to strengthen the culture of stewardship and collaboration that makes the Murraylands and Riverland region so special.

Frances Simes
Presiding Member
Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board

Minister's Endorsement

I, Honourable xxxxxxxxx, Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, after taking into account and in accordance with the requirements of Section 50 of the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, hereby approve the regional landscape plan for the Murraylands and Riverland Region for 2026-2031.

Xxxxxx MP

Minister for Climate, Environment and Water

Date:

The region

Covering approximately 53,780 square kilometres, the Murraylands and Riverland region is one of South Australia's most productive and diverse regions, stretching from north of the River Murray to the Murray Mouth.

The region includes the lands and waters of First Nations groups including Ngarrindjeri, the First Peoples of the River Murray and Mallee Region, Peramangk, Ngadjuri, and Wilyakali. First Nations maintain strong cultural and spiritual connections to Country and continue to play an important role in managing its cultural and environmental values.

The region comprises of 8 council areas, as well as unincorporated land around the Riverland and pastoral zones. It is home to approximately 73,000 people with tourism contributing about $374 million annually.

As part of the Murray-Darling Basin, the River Murray supports highly productive horticultural industries and supplies much of South Australia's water – including Adelaide. The natural resources of the Murraylands and Riverland region support tourism, recreation and manufacturing as well as one of the most productive agricultural areas in South Australia.

Land use is made up of about 75% agricultural production, 21% conservation and natural environments, and 4% other uses including residential, manufacturing and industrial, mining, and water bodies. Much of the land in the region is used for primary production including pastoral lands, dryland cropping, grazing, horticulture, irrigation and dairy farming.

The region also contains ecosystems of state, national, and international significance. These include the Ramsar-listed Chowilla Floodplain and Banrock Station wetland, and parts of the Coorong and Lower Lakes. In total, the region encompasses 46 conservation parks, national parks and reserves, 3 Ramsar-listed wetlands, and 888 heritage agreements on private land.

Volunteering is at the heart of landscape management, with a vast number of people actively involved in numerous volunteer groups. These include Landcare, land management, wetland, farming system organisations and catchment groups, all working to protect and enhance their local landscapes.

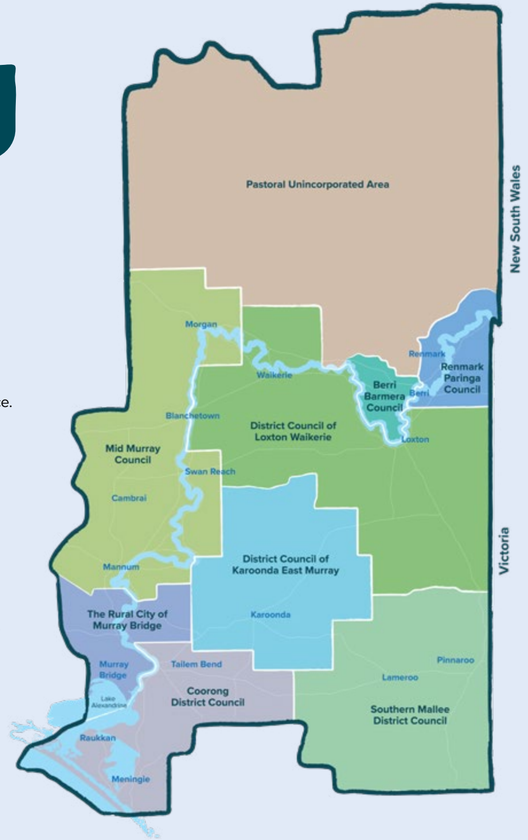


Photo taken by Doug Gimesy

Responding to a changing environment

The region's landscapes are constantly changing due to natural causes and human related activity. The consequences of human activity and our management choices can be complicated and need careful consideration to reduce negative impacts. The region is experiencing population growth, with Murray Bridge identified as a state focus for housing development and is expected to double in population over the next 25 years. These trends are placing increasing pressures on natural resources such as land and water, from growth and expansion of housing, agriculture, mining and renewable energy.

Across the landscape, seasonal patterns are becoming less predictable and weather events more extreme. These long-term changes are creating challenges for the people who live and work here, and for our productive and natural landscapes.

The condition of the region's natural environment and how it is changing over time is tracked through the 'trend and condition' report cards found at www.environment.sa.gov.au/about-us/our-reports/trend-and-condition-report-cards.

While these changes bring risks, they also create opportunities to innovate, build capacity and strengthen our ability to adapt. Together with our community and partners, we're working to support resilient landscapes – those that can better resist, tolerate, and recover from disturbance.

The region's natural resources provide clean air and water, food and places to live, work and relax. The health of our native plants, pastures and crops, and biodiversity depends on how well we care for our soil, land and water.

Our climate challenge

The region is expected to experience the greatest decline in annual rainfall in South Australia, combined with longer and more frequent droughts, and increases in average day and nighttime temperatures. These changes will push our natural and productive systems to their limits[1]. The National Climate Risk Assessment indicates that severe weather impacts like floods, storms, heatwaves, droughts and bushfires will occur more frequently and get worse as time progresses.

1 www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/climate-change/climate-science-knowledge-resources/latest-climate-projections-for-sa

Some natural systems will be changed irreversibly, leading to species and habitat loss. Other systems will adapt if we can manage the factors that accelerate change, including pest animals, invasive weeds, and water availability. Productive landscapes will also be challenged by the predicted climate changes, impacting on industry planning, supply chains and commodity values. While our primary producers and land managers are experienced in planning for dry conditions, they will need continued support as these challenges intensify.

Our community and partners have expressed growing concern about the impacts of a changing climate on agriculture, water availability, economic stability, community health and well-being, as well as the health of the environment. Our growing towns and regional cities will need to focus on urban greening and water reuse to support sustainable and comfortable lifestyles.

This plan outlines our priorities as a landscape board to work with communities and partners to build resilient and productive landscapes capable of responding to the impacts of a changing climate.

What we are doing

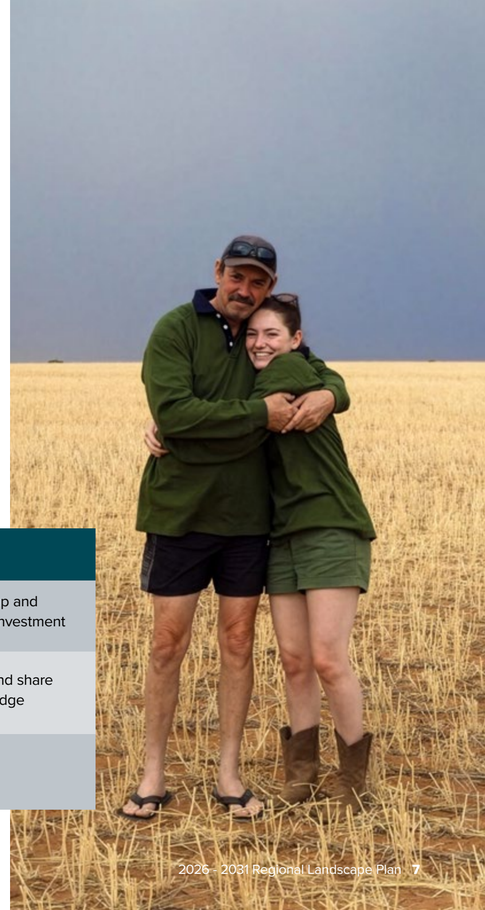
We have developed a climate change strategy to guide our adaptation and mitigation efforts as new projects and services are developed. This strategy tracks progress across our programs and aligns actions with the regional landscape plan. An action plan identifies new opportunities that can be implemented as funding and resources become available.

We will continue to improve our knowledge and capacity to understand how climate change is affecting our region and share this information widely. To reduce our own impact, our organisation is developing a carbon management plan to minimise our carbon footprint and achieve net zero by June 2028. Climate risk considerations will be embedded into our policies and procedures to ensure they are managed consistently across the organisation.

We will continue to support our communities by empowering young people, partnering with First Nations groups and stakeholders, and building local capacity and knowledge to improve resilience and manage change together.

What needs to be activated

- Enable bold, collaborative leadership
- Scale-up and target investment
- Inspire stewardship of landscapes
- Build and share knowledge
- Ensure contemporary legislation and policy



Our priorities and focus areas

Sustainable agricultural landscapes

- Support the adoption of land use and management practices that protect and improve soil health
- Support integrated management of prioritised declared pest plants and animals in agricultural landscapes
- Support early detection and intervention of alert pest species for improved biosecurity in agricultural landscapes
- Increase agricultural land managers' capacity to adapt to climate change
- Promote and support the protection and enhancement of on-farm biodiversity and native vegetation as part of a productive system

Sustainable water use

- Work in partnership with the irrigation industry and other water users to optimise the efficiency and productivity of water use
- Water allocation planning to balance the use of prescribed surface water and groundwater resources for environmental, economic, social and cultural outcomes
- Protecting water resources through water affecting activity rules and development planning
- Improve community understanding of water resources and their management for environmental, economic, social and cultural outcomes
- Support water users to build resilience through monitoring and managing climate risks and extreme events

Healthy rivers, lakes and wetlands

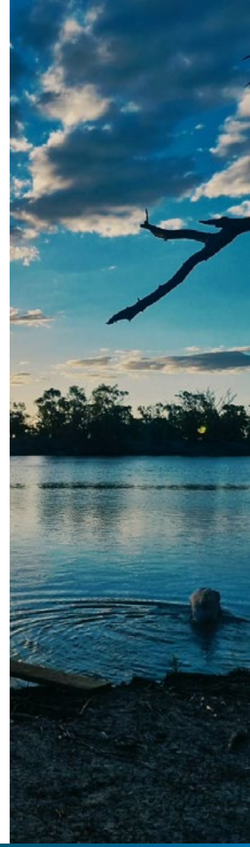
- Improve the health of the River Murray system through delivery and management of environmental water to targeted wetlands and floodplains
- Manage watercourses and tributaries for improved health in a changing climate
- Deliver initiatives that improve conditions for threatened and culturally significant species
- Support integrated management of prioritised declared pest plants and animals in rivers, lakes and wetlands
- Support early detection and intervention of alert pest species for improved biosecurity in rivers, lakes and wetlands

Healthy natural landscapes

- Large-scale habitat restoration to improve the quality, functionality and resilience of native ecosystems
- Increase habitat extent and ecological function through revegetation and enhancing future native seed availability
- Support the community to preserve and manage native vegetation and habitats
- Improve protection for threatened and culturally significant species and ecological communities
- Support integrated management of prioritised declared pest plants and animals and early detection of alert pest species to protect high conservation value assets

People at the heart of landscape management

- Build and maintain strategic partnerships with, and between, stakeholders for mutually beneficial outcomes
- Work in partnership with First Nations to manage the region's landscapes, protect and restore cultural values and assets, and build capacity
- Increase the knowledge, participation and leadership of young people
- Strengthen capacity through increased awareness, knowledge, skills and participation
- Support community-led landscape management by providing resources to support community projects and practical action
- Encourage and support volunteer participation in landscape management



Sustainable agricultural landscapes

Agricultural production is the dominant land use in the Murraylands and Riverland, producing premium wine, food and fibre for domestic and international markets, and making a significant contribution to the state economy. Our priority is to ensure long-term agricultural productivity and sustainability.

We will focus on protecting and improving soil health, managing pest plants and animals, strengthening biosecurity, and supporting climate adaptation among land managers. We will promote the integration of biodiversity and native vegetation into farming systems, recognising their role in maintaining ecosystem services and agricultural viability.

Focus areas

Support the adoption of land use and management practices that protect and improve soil health	Healthy soils are vital for productive, sustainable and profitable farming systems. Activities under this focus area may include assisting farmers to manage seeding risk in low rainfall and variable soils, working with industry to empower farmers to use predictive groundcover management tools, demonstration of soil amendments and educating farmers and advisors on managing emissions and opportunities for agronomic improvement.
Support integrated management of prioritised declared pest plants and animals in agricultural landscapes	Declared pest plants and animals pose a significant threat to agricultural landscapes across the region. Activities under this focus area include working with the community to identify and control pest animal and plant species specific to the region.
Support early detection and intervention of alert pest species for improved biosecurity in agricultural landscapes	Alert species are pest plants and animals that are not yet established in an area but pose a significant threat to biosecurity. Activities under this focus area include surveillance, detection and eradication of alert pest species. For several alert pest species the landscape board is not the lead agency and only provides an on-ground support role when required.
Increase agricultural land managers' capacity to adapt to climate change	Climate change presents significant challenges to the future of agriculture in the region, particularly through the increasing frequency and severity of extreme events such as droughts, floods, heatwaves, and bushfires. Activities under this focus area may include supporting land managers to adapt to climate change through the provision of regional climate data, on-farm demonstrations, risk management support, and assisting with post-event recovery programs.
Promote and support the protection and enhancement of on-farm biodiversity and native vegetation as part of a productive system	Native vegetation forms an important part of productive agricultural systems across the region. Activities under this focus area may include assisting landholders to understand and participate in on-farm woody biomass carbon sequestration, the nature repair market, establishing native vegetation to inset carbon emissions (offset own enterprise emissions), and biodiverse plantings for non-productive land.

Measures of success

- Increased uptake of improved land management practices to enhance soil health.
- Coordinated control activities to reduce prioritised pest plant and animal populations across the landscape.
- Proactive surveillance, early detection, and timely control of alert pest species is undertaken.
- Land managers are accessing information and tools to build capacity and decision-making for managing their climate risk.
- Increased uptake of improved land management practices to re-establish, enhance or protect native vegetation within productive systems.

Sustainable water use

Water is a scarce, precious and valuable resource, especially in the driest state on the driest inhabited continent on Earth.

From the lower reaches of Australia's largest river system, the Murray-Darling Basin, to the deep, ancient groundwater aquifers of the Mallee, the Murraylands and Riverland's water resources underpin the environmental, economic, social and First Nations' cultural health of the region. We play an important role in managing these resources.

Our priority is to manage water resources responsibly into the future by optimising irrigation efficiency and productivity, balancing the use of prescribed water resources, safeguarding water assets through regulatory frameworks, promoting community understanding of water management, and building resilience to climate risks and extreme events.

Focus areas

Work in partnership with the irrigation industry and other water users to optimise the efficiency and productivity of water use	Irrigation is a major use of surface and ground water resources in the region. It is important to work with the irrigation industry and other water users to ensure irrigation practices are as efficient and productive as possible to help balance economic, environmental, social and cultural uses of water. Activities under this focus area may include working with irrigators, industry groups, and other water users such as local government, to provide education, advice and access to funding opportunities for on-ground projects.
Water allocation planning to balance the use of prescribed surface water and groundwater resources for environmental, economic, social and cultural outcomes	Water allocation planning is a legislative responsibility of the landscape board to balance environmental, economic, social and cultural uses of water. Prescribed water resources managed by the landscape board are the River Murray, the Marne Saunders, the Mallee, and Peake Roby and Sherlock. Water allocation planning fits within a broader Murray-Darling Basin water management framework. Activities under this focus area include incorporating scientific, community and First Nations input into the review, amendment and implementation of water allocation plans.
Protecting water resources through water affecting activity rules and development planning*	Water affecting activities are works that could potentially have adverse impacts on the health and condition of water resources, ecosystems and other water users. Activities under this focus area include administering water affecting activity policies, permits and compliance, and providing water-related input and advice into development planning and referrals.
Improve community understanding of water resources and their management for environmental, economic, social and cultural outcomes	Water is a highly valued and contested resource, and its management is complex and challenging. It is critical that the community has a good understanding of the region's water resources and their management. Activities under this focus area include a range of water-related communication and education programs.
Support water users to build resilience through monitoring and managing climate risks and extreme events	Climate change and extreme events, including drought, flood and heatwaves, present serious risks to water users across the region. Activities under this focus area may include the demonstration of climate smart agricultural practices, projects with the One Basin CRC, the regional automatic weather station network and long-term groundwater salinity sampling.

* For the purposes of the Planning and Design Code under the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*, the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Water Affecting Activities Control Policy should be considered as part of this Regional Landscape Plan.

Measures of success

- Partnerships are established and technical support is provided to improve efficiency and productivity of water use.
- Water allocation plans are developed, reviewed, updated and implemented and community are involved.
- Water affecting activity policies are developed, reviewed, updated and implemented.
- The community is informed and has an improved understanding of water within the region, arrangements for sharing water and its use across the variety of purposes.
- Water users are accessing information and tools to help decision-making and feel supported to manage increasing pressures or adverse events.

Healthy rivers, lakes and wetlands

Rivers, lakes and wetlands are vital ecosystems that support biodiversity, First Nations' cultural values, and community wellbeing.

The region includes the lower reaches of the River Murray, the Coorong and Lower Lakes, 250 wetland complexes, 3 internationally recognised Ramsar sites, Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges tributaries, and a range of Mallee water features such as soaks and rock holes.

Most of these areas, and the ecosystems they support, are affected by threats including river regulation, water extraction, and pest plants and animals.

Our priority is to maintain and improve these natural systems into the future through the delivery of environmental water, protection and restoration of watercourses, supporting aquatic species conservation, and strengthening biosecurity and pest control.

Focus areas

Improve the health of the River Murray system through delivery and management of environmental water to targeted wetlands and floodplains	Environmental water is critical for maintaining the environmental and cultural health of the River Murray system, including floodplains, wetlands and the Coorong and Lower Lakes. Activities under this focus area include hydrological management and the on-going monitoring and knowledge development to underpin adaptive management.
Manage watercourses and tributaries for improved health in a changing climate	This focus area includes water courses and water bodies outside of the River Murray corridor, including Eastern-Mount Lofty Ranges tributaries and Mallee soaks and rock holes. Activities under this focus area may include monitoring of flow and native fish in the Marne Saunders catchment, and riparian zone protection and restoration for biodiversity, cultural, water quality, and soil protection outcomes.
Deliver initiatives that improve conditions for threatened and culturally significant species	A range of threatened and culturally significant species rely on aquatic and riparian habitats across the region. Activities under this focus area may include captive breeding, surrogate site management, hydrological management, trials, controlling threats, flow path management, maintaining water quality, managing carp and habitat augmentation.
Support integrated management of prioritised declared pest plants and animals in rivers, lakes and wetlands	Declared pest plants and animals pose a significant threat to aquatic and riparian environments across the region. Activities under this focus area include working with the community to identify and control pest animal and plant species specific to the region.
Support early detection and intervention of alert pest species for improved biosecurity in rivers, lakes and wetlands	Waterways form a significant incursion pathway for alert pest species – species that are not yet established in the region but pose a significant threat. Activities under this focus area include surveillance, detection and eradication of alert pest animal and plant species specific to the region.

Measures of success

- Active hydrological management program and targeted ecological monitoring and investigations undertaken.
- Integrated catchment management activities and targeted environmental monitoring and investigations are delivered.
- Priority actions undertaken, applying improved knowledge to stabilise populations, build resilience, improve opportunities for recruitment and expand native species' range.
- Coordinated control activities to reduce prioritised pest plant and animal populations across the landscape.
- Proactive surveillance, early detection, and timely control of alert pest species is undertaken.

Healthy natural landscapes

From vast wilderness areas to populations of threatened and culturally significant plants and animals, the Murraylands and Riverland is a biodiverse region, home to more than 2,000 plant species, 450 animal species, and countless species of invertebrates, fungi and micro-organisms.

Unfortunately, these ecosystems and species are under pressure and in decline due to a range of impacts, including habitat loss and fragmentation, climate change, unsustainable grazing pressure, altered fire regimes, changes to water availability, and introduced pest plants and animals.

Our priority is to protect and restore the region's precious terrestrial biodiversity through activities including large-scale habitat restoration, revegetation, securing native seed availability, supporting the community to manage biodiversity, and strengthening biosecurity and pest control in natural areas.

Focus areas

Large-scale habitat restoration to improve the quality, functionality and resilience of native ecosystems	Large-scale habitat restoration improves the quality, functionality and resilience of native ecosystems for environmental and cultural outcomes. Activities under this focus area may include reducing total grazing pressure from feral, domestic and over-abundant native herbivores, improving the management of fire in the landscape, reinstating natural mallee/rangelands hydrology by removing redundant pastoral dams, and other techniques to improve habitat quality such as in-fill planting, ripping and branching.
Increase habitat extent and ecological function through revegetation and enhancing future native seed availability	Significant increases in native vegetation cover are needed to restore ecological function and build resilience to a changing climate. Activities under this focus area may include strategic revegetation (tubestock, direct seeding and hand seeding), seed collection, the establishment and maintenance of native seed production areas, and native seed storage and management.
Support the community to preserve and manage native vegetation and habitats	Much of the region's native vegetation and habitat occurs on private land and it is essential that land managers have the knowledge, skills and resources to effectively manage these areas. Activities under this focus area may include community education and awareness raising, and providing technical advice and resources to landholders undertaking conservation and restoration activities.
Improve protection for threatened and culturally significant species and ecological communities	Many native species and ecosystems across the region are declining and at risk of extinction. These species and ecosystems are often culturally significant to First Nations. Activities under this focus area may include targeted actions such as surveys, pest plant and animal control, genetic analysis and other investigations.
Support integrated management of prioritised declared pest plants and animals and early detection of alert pest species to protect high conservation value assets	Pest plants and animals pose a significant threat to natural ecosystems across the region. Activities under this focus area include working with the community to identify and control declared pest species, and the detection and control of alert pest species – those which are not yet established but pose a significant threat.

Measures of success

- Coordinated approach to reduce impacts of grazing animals on public and private land.
- Fire planning and response is informed by current ecological knowledge.
- Habitat restoration activities and targeted investigations are planned and undertaken.
- Strategic revegetation activities and targeted investigations are planned and undertaken.
- Increase seed production and storage of a diverse range of plant species.
- Awareness, advice and encouragement is provided to land managers for the uptake of conservation and restoration activities.
- Priority actions undertaken, applying improved knowledge to stabilise populations, build resilience and improve opportunities for recruitment and dispersal.
- Priority actions undertaken in partnership, applying improved knowledge to increase function, build resilience and improve opportunities for population/community recovery.
- Coordinated control activities to reduce prioritised pest plant and animal populations across the landscape.
- Proactive surveillance, early detection, and timely control of alert pest species is undertaken.

People at the heart of landscape management

The prosperity of our region and our communities is strongly linked with the health of the environment. If the health of the environment declines then it will directly impact the ecosystem services that support our quality of life, now or in the future.

It is vital that communities and diverse stakeholder groups are actively engaged in the substantial work needed to effectively manage the region's landscapes and natural resources. It will be necessary to understand the challenges and pressures that people face as well as the things that motivate them to act. It may require new ideas and partnerships to raise awareness and equip people with the skills and knowledge they require to work together for the benefit of the region.

Our priority is to increase awareness and participation for the benefit of the environment, by building and strengthening partnerships, working with First Nations, empowering young people, supporting volunteers, growing community skills and capacity, and resourcing community-led action.

Focus areas

Build and maintain strategic partnerships with, and between, stakeholders for mutually beneficial outcomes	Partnerships between the landscape board and a wide range of stakeholders underpin the sustainable management of our region's natural resources. Activities under this focus area include establishing, maintaining and strengthening relationships and partnerships to support shared goals and long-term collaboration.
Work in partnership with First Nations to manage the region's landscapes, protect and restore cultural values and assets, and build capacity	Working in partnership with First Nations is a high priority for the landscape board. Activities under this focus area include initiatives to increase First Nations' participation in landscape management, protecting and restoring cultural values, and strengthening the cultural competency of the landscape board, and its staff and partners.
Increase the knowledge, participation and leadership of young people	Young people (under the age of 25) have an important role to play in landscape management as the future leaders and decision makers for our region. Activities under this focus area include delivering school education sessions and events, developing education resources, providing professional development to educators, facilitating the River Murray Youth Councils, linking young people into a range of projects, and supporting career pathways including work experience.
Strengthen capacity through increased awareness, knowledge, skills and participation	Managing the region's natural resources is everyone's responsibility and the landscape board plays an important role in increasing the community's awareness, knowledge, skills and participation. Activities under this focus area include communications, providing technical assistance, supporting training and other capacity building events, and improving pathways for community participation in landscape management.
Support community-led landscape management by providing resources to support community projects and practical action	The landscape board aims to empower the community to improve the management of their local landscapes. Activities under this focus area include providing community grants and contributing in-kind support such as equipment or technical advice.
Encourage and support volunteer participation in landscape management	Volunteers and volunteer community groups play a vital role in managing our region's landscapes, generously contributing their time, skills, equipment and resources. Activities under this focus area include initiatives to recruit and recognise volunteers and support them to work safely and effectively.

Measures of success

- Effective relationships with strategic partners are established and maintained.
- First Nations are actively involved in landscape management.
- Young people are actively involved in learning about and managing landscapes.
- Community members have increased awareness, knowledge and skills.
- Resources are provided for community to be actively involved in landscape management.
- Volunteers are actively involved in landscape management.

Our role

We play a dynamic role in landscape management across the region, acting as a connector between all levels of government, industry, key stakeholders, First Nations and communities.

We provide strategic leadership that supports community-led delivery of environmental outcomes at a whole-of-landscape scale. We encourage the community to be stewards for our landscapes - responsible for the sustainable use and protection of natural resources through conservation and best management practices. This approach aligns with our commitment to ecologically sustainable development, promoting the integrated use and management of our natural resources.

The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board is a statutory body accountable to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water. Our programs and projects are funded through a combination of landscape and water levies, and contributions from the Australian and South Australian Governments. We continue to seek new funding opportunities to increase investment in the region and support the state's primary production and other industries, contributing to a resilient and sustainable economy.

This regional landscape plan has been informed by community and stakeholder feedback and will guide our work for the next 5 years. Strengthening partnerships with the regional community, including First Nations, will be essential to achieving the desired outcomes.

We are dedicated to delivering our vision for the region through on-ground action, promoting preparedness for extreme events, advocacy, education and support for grassroots projects that achieve lasting benefits for our landscapes, communities and South Australia.

Guiding principles

Respectful and Inclusive Engagement

We approach our engagement in a manner that is respectful, inclusive, credible and builds trust.

Community-Centred Innovation

We seek innovative ways to connect with and listen to the community, meeting people where they are.

Collaborative Partnerships

We build and nurture meaningful partnerships across communities, First Nations, industries and government to enhance our impact.

Climate-Informed Action

We integrate climate change risks and opportunities into our planning, decision making and project delivery.

Resilience and Preparedness

We work to strengthen the region's resilience and support preparedness for future challenges.

Strong Governance and Integrity

We have strong governance and operate in an honest, transparent and trustworthy manner.

Continuous Improvement

We innovate and seek continuous improvement in all areas of our work.

Knowledge-Driven Practice

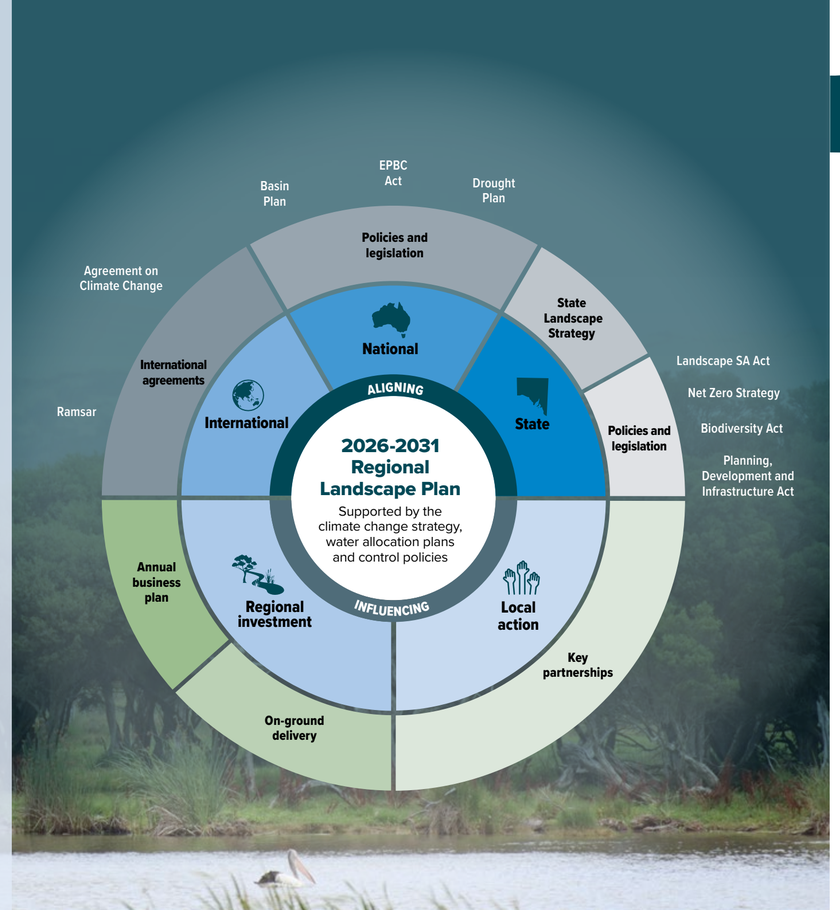
We value and are guided by scientific, community and First Nations' knowledge.

This plan and its delivery

Planning framework

This plan integrates landscape management priorities across multiple scales. It informs and is informed by the State Landscape Strategy, required under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, creating a dynamic connection that brings the strategy to life at the regional level. The plan is supported by separate but complementary instruments such as the region's water allocation plans and control policies. It also supports and compliments other regional, national and international agreements, plans, and strategies for the region.

An annual business plan outlines the implementation program that the landscape board will invest in for the next 12 months, providing information on the proposed income and annual expenditure against programs to deliver the vision, priorities and focus areas that are set out within this plan.



Our partnerships

Successful landscape management is built on effective partnerships between strategic stakeholder groups based on mutual understanding, shared values, trust, transparent decision making, open communication and responsiveness. This creates the confidence, motivation, and commitment needed to achieve long-term regional landscape outcomes.

Local Government

We work closely with councils across the region to promote, support and enhance ecologically sustainable development greening and practical action for landscape management with and for the community.

First Nations

We work closely with First Nations across the region to build strong relationships, protect and restore cultural values and assets, and increase involvement in landscape management.

Australian Government

We maintain a productive, open, reliable and responsive working relationship with the Australian Government (providing contracted services, recognising and fostering mutual benefits derived from this partnership).

State Government and other landscape boards

We commit to working together in mutually beneficial ways, seeking to achieve common goals for effective management of landscapes, on behalf of the government and the people of South Australia.

Grassroots Groups

We listen to and partner with the grassroots community and non-government organisations across the region to ensure support for 'community led' landscape management.

Young people

We commit to partnering with young people and supporting their active involvement to contribute to improved landscape outcomes.

Primary production, industry and farming groups

We collaborate with individual primary producers, farming groups, and industry bodies.

We listen to what is important to land managers and endeavour to work together to solve problems and create innovative solutions to landscape management challenges.

Foundational programs

The work of the landscape board is supported by several foundational programs listed below:

- Board leadership and governance
- Planning, evaluation and reporting
- People and culture
- Financial management
- External investment attraction and management
- Customer and business services, and
- Communications and community engagement.

These programs enable the effective running of the organisation and support the landscape board's delivery of the plan and it's on-ground projects.

5-10 years (Regional Landscape Plan)	1. Evaluating our impact
Priority Focus Area	• Evaluating program progress towards focus areas • How successful has the implementation of the regional landscape plan been? • Are programs and projects helping to making a difference (broader-scale)?

Annual (Annual Business Plan)	2. Evaluating our actions
Programs Strategies	• Incremental improvements to programs and delivery • How successful has the implementation of the annual business plan been? • Are programs and projects helping to making a difference (finer scale)?

Delivery (program plans)	3. Evaluating short-term performance
Projects Actions	• Managing project delivery and risk • How successful has the implementation of the annual business plan been? • Are programs and projects helping to making a difference (finer scale)?

How we will measure success

- We will keep you informed with quarterly updates on our actions and an annual review of our impact. Along the way, we'll continue to celebrate and share the successes and uplifting stories from each of our program areas, as well as the challenges we face when working on the tough problems.
- Once during the five-year life of the plan, we'll undertake a thorough evaluation to measure our progress against the regional priorities and focus areas we've set. This process will include valuable input from our stakeholders and partners, ensuring a well-rounded view of our impact. The insights we gain will be a source of information for future versions of the regional landscape plan, guiding us toward even greater outcomes.

The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board acknowledges and thanks all individuals, groups and organisations who contributed to the development of this plan.

More information

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