

GREEN ADELAIDE

Business Plan 2020-21



Government of South Australia
Department for Environment
and Water

“For the first time metropolitan Adelaide will have a body sharply focused on making progress towards a climate resilient and ecologically vibrant city, stretching from the hills to the sea.”



Foreword

Recent world and local events including the devastating bushfires and COVID-19 pandemic have focused the attention of our community on the nature of our city like never before. This focus on, and interest in, our backyards times beautifully with the founding of Green Adelaide under the new *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*. The Act created an opportunity to establish a board that emerges from the efforts of the previous Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board but with the vision to take an expansive, innovative approach to managing the city's urban environment.

For the first time metropolitan Adelaide will have a body sharply focused on making progress towards a climate resilient and ecologically vibrant city, stretching from the hills to the sea.

I am delighted to be supported by Felicity-ann Lewis as deputy chair together with Claire Boan, Jeffrey Newchurch, Louka Parry, Adrian Skull, Trixie Smith, Kelvin Trimper AM and Dena Vassallo. Each of these members has a wealth of professional, cultural and personal experience that they will bring to the work of Green Adelaide and the board.

To start, the Green Adelaide Board must first establish its transitional Business Plan. The 2020-21 Business Plan sets out the Green Adelaide Board's program for its first year of operation. In doing so it takes the best of, and improves upon, the urban-focused programs implemented by the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board. It will continue to deliver its broad responsibilities for landscape management, including land, soil and water management.

The 2020-21 Business Plan will also enable Green Adelaide to set about creating an aspirational but achievable vision for a 'Nature City' by concentrating on the seven priorities assigned to it by the Government of South Australia:

- coastal management
- urban rivers and wetlands
- green streets and flourishing parklands
- water sensitive urban design
- controlling pest plants and animals
- nature education
- fauna and flora in the urban environment

To achieve its goals the Green Adelaide Board will address these priorities by developing and commencing delivery of its five-year regional landscape plan during 2020-21. This will involve working with local and state government

organisations, industry, environmental NGOs and the community. The landscape plan will provide a road map for addressing the urban landscape challenges facing Adelaide and its



people over coming decades. By effectively and efficiently addressing the seven priorities, we will help to ensure the future liveability of our city through sustaining and protecting Adelaide's natural environment, responding to a drying and warming climate, and contributing to community health and wellbeing.

The COVID-19 pandemic, bushfires and climate challenges, along with the social and economic challenges they delivered to us all were unexpected rapidly emerging and continually changing. It is clear that these impacts are felt every day within the community and will continue to do so through the foreseeable future. How these challenges may affect our operations during 2020-21 is yet to become fully apparent. The Green Adelaide Board will do all it can to support the community in the year ahead through actions that support the environmental, social and economic fabric of our community. In particular, the board will also support the community through the contracting of local goods and services, thereby helping to create jobs.

This will be a most challenging year on multiple fronts. However, it will also be a year of opportunity. And the Green Adelaide Board looks forward to working with you to set a new vision and new directions for Adelaide's urban environment, and to define how we can better manage landscapes in partnership.

Professor Chris Daniels, BSc (Hons), PhD, DSC, FAICD
Presiding Member

Landscape South Australia reform

The South Australian Government is reforming how our landscapes are managed, putting community at the heart of sustainably managing the state's soil, water, pest plants and animals, and biodiversity. From 1 July 2020, the new *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* (the Act) will replace the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*.

Eight new regional landscape boards and a new metropolitan board, Green Adelaide, will administer the Act and partner with government and regional communities to deliver a stronger, back-to-basics system with greater autonomy and flexibility to respond to local issues.



Landscape boards will support local communities and land managers to be directly responsible for sustainably managing their region's natural resources. They will deliver practical, on-ground programs that manage our water, land and soil, pests and biodiversity through a range of partnerships, for example, with farming systems groups, environmental non-government organisations, Aboriginal communities and local councils.

In 2020-21, landscape boards will work alongside community members and stakeholders to develop a simple and accessible five-year regional landscape plan with five priorities (seven for Green Adelaide). Boards will need to report their spending against the levy simply and clearly.



The Act also introduces a number of other benefits, including a cap on landscape and water levies, new regional Grassroots Grants programs, which will provide support for community groups, not-for-profit organisations and volunteers to address environmental issues at a local level, and the creation of a new Landscape Priorities Fund, which will support large-scale projects such as bushfire recovery and landscape restoration work. From 2022, communities will have the opportunity to elect three out of seven board members.

These reforms have been deeply informed by the people who are well placed to sustain our environment – those who work, live and care for our landscapes. This input has been invaluable to ensure the reforms meet the needs of local communities and landholders.

Business plans for 2020-21 are transitional. The land and water levy amounts that are set out in the business plans for 2020-21 reflect the levy amounts collected in NRM regions in 2019-20, adjusted by CPI (1.9%). This will provide for broad consistency in the levy rates paid by levy payers in this transitional year while planning is undertaken by the landscape boards.





Recognition of Kurna Miyurna and Yarta

The board acknowledges and respects the Native Title holders and Traditional Owners of the Green Adelaide region, the Kurna Miyurna (Kurna people). We pay homage to their ancestors, who maintained the natural processes of the land we are now on and whose spirits still dwell on Yarta (Country). The board recognises Kurna Miyurna's rights, interests and obligations to speak and care for their Yarta in accordance with customary lore, laws, beliefs and traditions.

The board acknowledges the deep and irreversible damage and dislocation that Kurna Miyurna and all Aboriginal people have experienced, and continue to experience, as a result of the processes of colonisation. By acknowledging South Australia's history through mutual respect and trust enables us to walk and work side by side. The board is committed to strengthening their relationship with Kurna Miyurna by focusing on the future while continuing to acknowledge the past. Through these relationships we seek to implement practical actions that will ensure Kurna Miyurna and Aboriginal people are actively involved and influential in the planning and management of natural and cultural heritage assets. The board is committed to co-design planning processes, which create mutual benefits for all involved parties.

The board commits to strengthening their relationships with the Kurna Miyurna through their preferred approach for environmental partnerships – Warpuli Kumangka. Warpuli Kumangka (translated from Kurna language means working together) is an advisory group established under Kurna community governance structures (Kurna Yarta Aboriginal Corporation and Kurna Nations Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Association). The board seeks to engage and work with both Kurna and other Aboriginal Nations and will be guided by Kurna in appropriate cultural protocols and processes to achieve this.

Green Adelaide key projects

Nature education and NaturePlay

Nature education is critical to delivering all of Green Adelaide's priorities and outcomes on both public and private land.

Green Adelaide will collaborate with existing and new partners to deliver programs that encompass lifelong learning, which will ultimately underpin a sustainable environment and the wellbeing of its population.



Establishing Adelaide as a National Park City

The Green Adelaide Board will champion the State Government's ambition for Adelaide to become one of the world's first National Park Cities, through protection and creation of habitat to promote urban ecology and biodiversity, embracing and acknowledging the city's Traditional and European heritage, and promoting the deepening of the urban community's connection to nature for educational, health and wellbeing benefits.



Breakout Creek

This exciting iconic project involves the redevelopment of Breakout Creek from a fenced-off channel dug in the 1930s to a highly biodiverse area, opening up more opportunities for community use. Through quality design incorporating Kaurna cultural heritage, strategic revegetation and encouraging connection to nature, this project will improve water quality, provide habitat for threatened species and showcase the meeting of the river and coastal environments.

This project is a collaboration between the Green Adelaide Landscape Board, the City of Charles Sturt, the City of West Torrens, the Commonwealth of Australia and the South Australian Government.



Greener Neighbourhoods and Grassroots Grants programs

The Greener Neighbourhoods Grants program provides support for local government to increase urban greening and keep metropolitan Adelaide's suburban streets green and cool. Projects also provide habitat for flora and fauna and promote people's connections with nature which boosts physical and mental health and wellbeing. Other grants programs will support sustainable water management and local community action to benefit the metropolitan environment.



Coastal management



Water resources and wetlands



Controlling pest plants and animals



Nature education



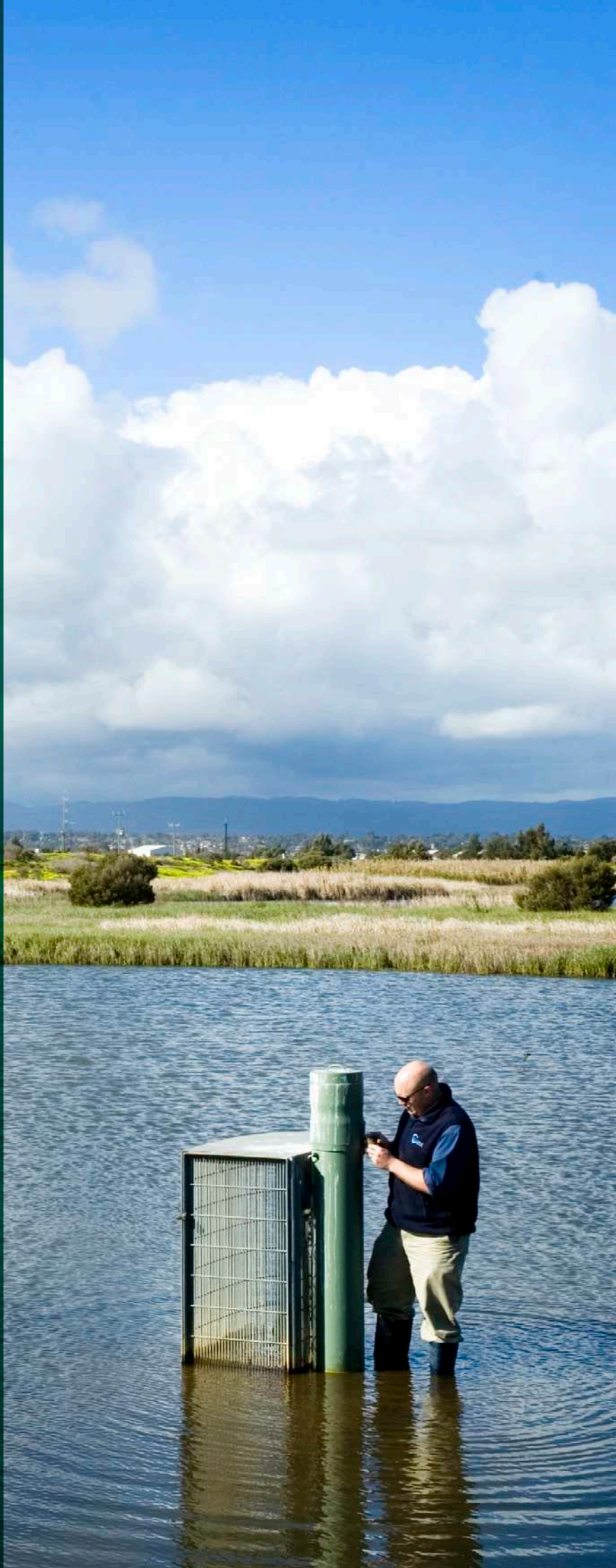
Green streets and flourishing parklands



Biodiversity sensitive and water sensitive urban design



Fauna, flora and ecosystem health in the urban environment



The board and staff

Green Adelaide Board

The Green Adelaide Board is one of the nine regional landscape boards established under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*. The board was specifically created as a body that will be in charge of metropolitan Adelaide, with additional specific functions for an urban landscape.

The board will deliver initiatives for our urban community to confront the challenges of a changing climate and an increase in urban density. It will pursue an innovative and collaborative approach to transforming Adelaide into a world-leading, sustainable, green, cool and climate resilient city, while enhancing urban biodiversity and liveability.

All landscape boards, including the Green Adelaide Board, are responsible for the management of landscapes, focusing on the fundamentals of land and soil management, water management, pest plant and animal control, and biodiversity. Green Adelaide's role is to oversee these functions for the Green Adelaide region, but will outsource to a third party in order for the board to concentrate on its seven priorities.

The board can include up to ten community members with a range of skills and knowledge, appointed by the Minister for Environment and Water. More information about the board members is shown on the Green Adelaide website www.environment.sa.gov.au/green-adelaide

2020-21 board focus

During 2020-21, the Green Adelaide Board has strategic oversight of the delivery of this business plan.

It will work to develop a new 5-year Landscape Plan that sets the priorities for future action. The board will also:

- prepare a Regional Engagement Statement and an Aboriginal Engagement Statement
- prepare a statutory annual report and a community-facing report showing how the levy funds have been spent in the financial year
- conduct monitoring to understand its impact and the condition of landscapes.

Staffing arrangements

This plan will be implemented by Department for Environment and Water (DEW) staff, who are provided to the board through a service agreement. In 2020-21, it is anticipated that the board will be supported by 45.7 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions. The board will also continue to receive a range of corporate services (including finance, human resources, and information technology) through the Department for Environment and Water.

A range of partnerships, service agreements, and grants with other organisations will also support staff to deliver on this plan.



Partnering

The heart of Green Adelaide will be its partnership approach - connecting people to programs and policies that further the health of our urban spaces. The board will work with existing partners and build on existing programs to further the health of metropolitan Adelaide.

Adelaide Park Lands Authority

Coast Protection Board

Department for Education

Department for Environment and Water

Department for Health and Wellbeing

Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure

Environment Protection Authority

Environmental NGOs

Industry

Kaurna Nation

Local Government (17 councils)

Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing

Premier's Climate Change Council

Private property owners

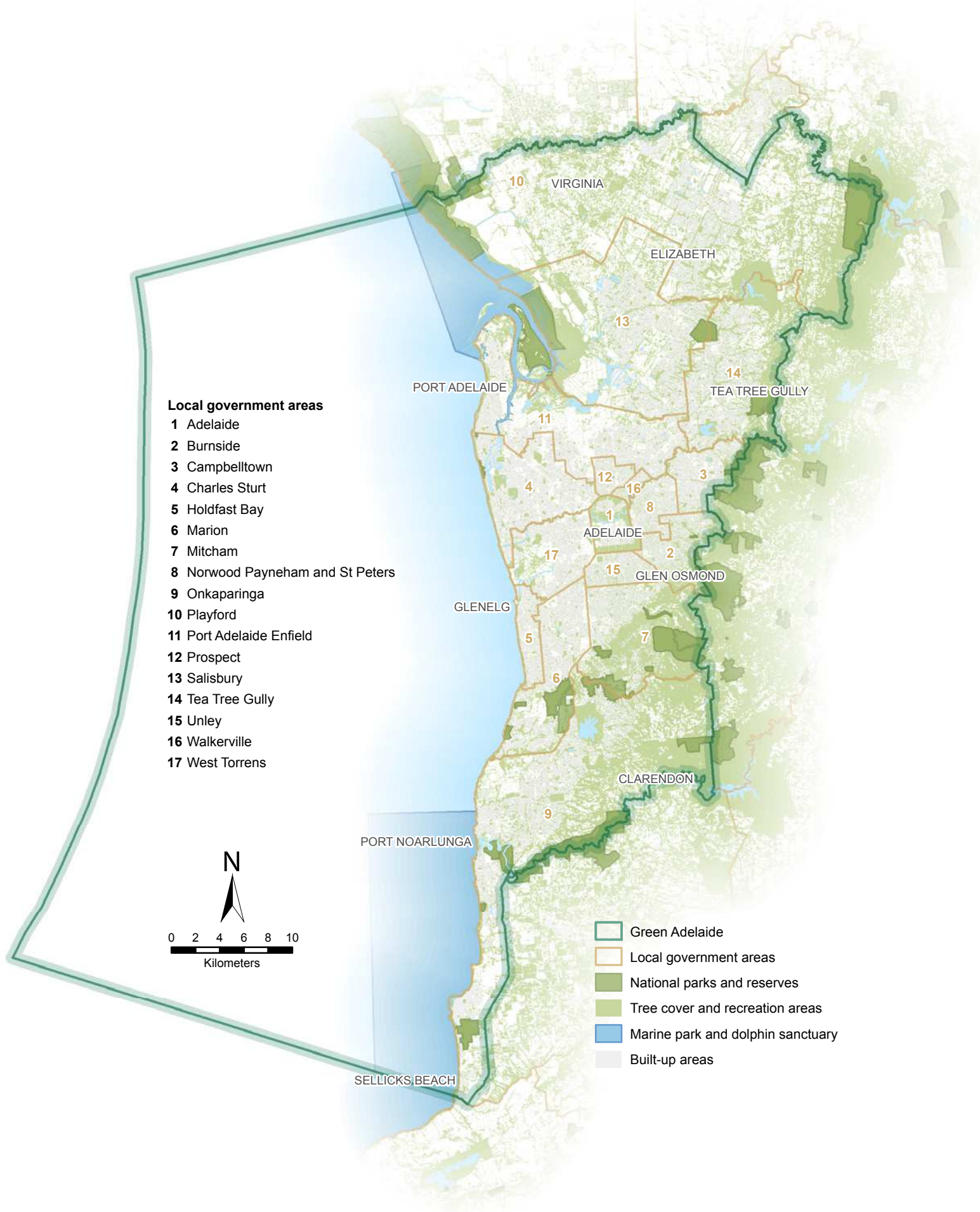
Research institutions

SA Water

State Planning Commission

Stormwater Management Authority





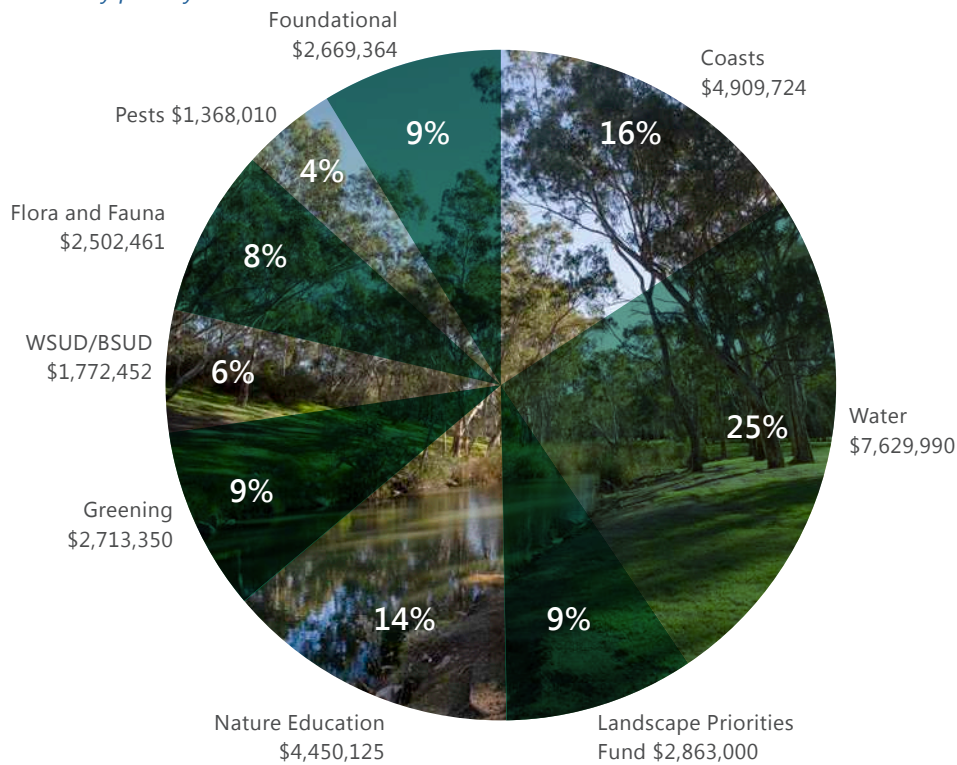
Priorities for investment (expenditure)

For the 2020-21 transitional year, the Green Adelaide Board has adopted the Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges (AMLR) Regional NRM Plan as its Landscape Plan, and as it relates to that portion of the Green Adelaide landscape region, to fulfil obligations prescribed in legislation, while it develops its own plan.

The work of Green Adelaide will be strategic and influential, driving innovative reform across the urban landscape, with a strong focus on the seven key priorities defined within the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*¹. The following tables provide the proposed expenditure against each priority.

During this transition year, Green Adelaide will also focus on providing for economic stimulus to the local economy, providing stability to highly functioning partnership arrangements and supporting neighbouring landscape boards (Hills and Fleurieu and Northern and Yorke).

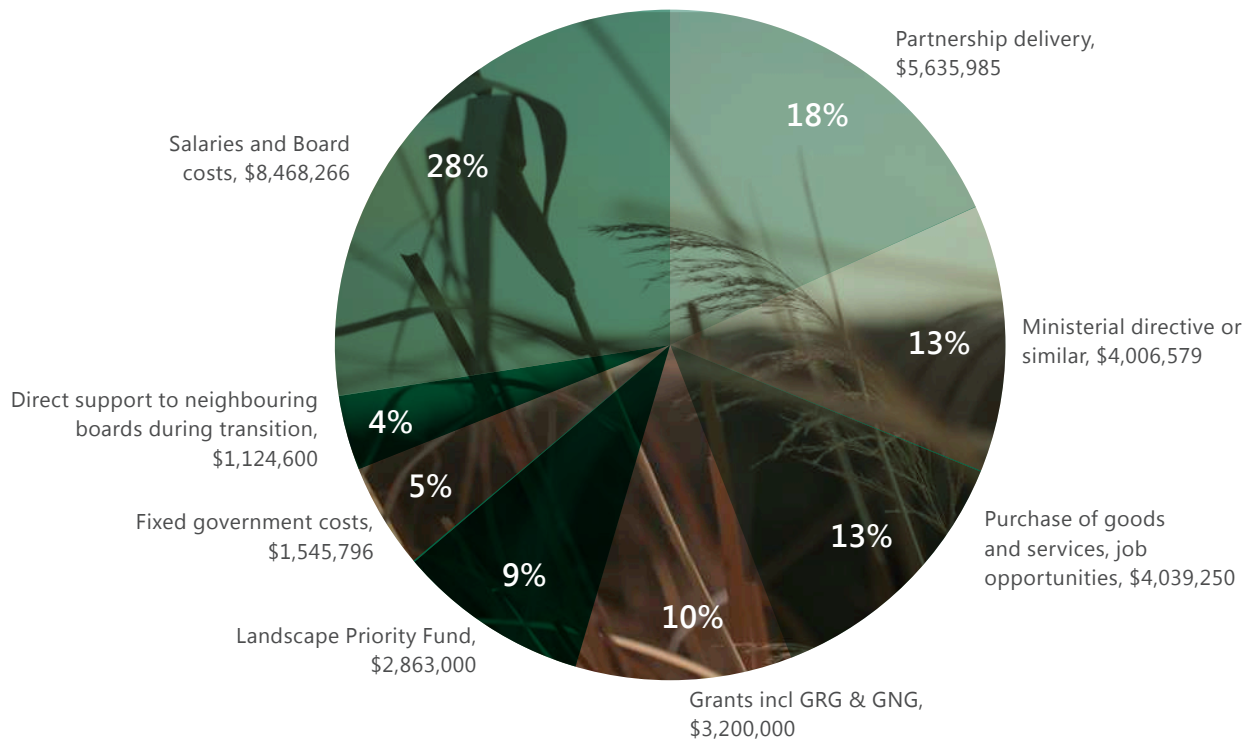
Total Expenditure by priority²



¹These priorities broadly align with the AMLR Regional NRM Plan 'key drivers' of Land management and change, Economic impacts, Knowledge and community capacity, Climate change and Planning and Improvement.

²Note that the Landscape Priorities Fund is set at 10% of Green Adelaide Levy income. In this chart, it is identified as 9% because these figures are inclusive of external funds being managed by the board.

Total Expenditure by activity type



Providing for economic stimulus to the local economy

Many of the initiatives will boost the economy and create jobs through leveraging co-funding opportunities and the purchase of goods and services.

Providing stability to highly functioning partnership arrangements

Long-term, highly productive partnership arrangements that can deliver effective outcomes efficiently for the Green Adelaide Board will continue. These have been assessed to be suitably aligned to the seven priorities of Green Adelaide and provide an effective mechanism to work productively with local government and environmental NGOs. Examples include the NRM

Education partnership with KESAB and partnerships with coastal councils and Birdlife Australia, Water Sensitive SA and local Environment Centres.

Support to neighbouring landscape boards (Hills and Fleurieu, and Northern and Yorke)

The AMLR board investment was applied in locations where the board considered it could achieve the most impact. This resulted in the board investing heavily in areas that now fall within the Northern and Yorke and Hills and Fleurieu regions. With the establishment of the Green Adelaide boundary, the levy raised within Northern and Yorke and Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Regions will be less than historic investment. Green Adelaide will provide 12 months of support to these two neighbouring regions to support an orderly transition.

Table 1 Expenditure by priority in 2020-21

Priority	Focus areas/projects	Total levy funding (\$)
Landscapes Priorities Fund		2,863,000
Coastal management	* Adelaide's Living Beaches Agreement	
	Working with local councils on coordinated coastal conservation initiatives	
	Working with Birdlife Australia to conserve coastal shorebirds and their habitats	
	Implementing Blue Carbon initiatives	
	Citizen science initiatives such as marine debris and reef monitoring	
	Supporting master planning at Mutton Cove	
	Total operating	4,062,089
	Salaries + program support	847,635
Water resources and wetlands	* Patawalonga Lakes management Ministerial Directive	
	* Water Planning and Management charges	
	** Breakout Creek project	
	** Second Creek project	
	River Torrens Governance	
	River Torrens dilution flows	
	** River Torrens recovery	
	Water asset operations and maintenance	
	Water planning for Adelaide Plains Prescribed Water Resource	
	Surface water monitoring	
	operating	6,112,796
	Salaries + program support	1,517,194
Biodiversity sensitive and water sensitive urban design	Grants to eNGOs, local councils to implement initiatives	
	CRC for Water sensitive cities	
	Water Sensitive SA	
	operating	1,325,000
	Salaries + program support	447,452
Green streets and flourishing parklands	***Greener Neighbourhoods Grants Program	
	National Park City initiatives	
	Healthy Parks Healthy People initiatives	
	Green infrastructure research, mapping, strategy, trials and implementation	
	operating	1,800,000
	Salaries + program support	913,350
Flora, Fauna and ecosystem health in the urban environment	* Grassroots Grants Program	
	Urban Biodiversity initiatives with eNGOs	
	Threatened Flora and Fauna recovery initiatives	
	Working with local councils on coordinated biodiversity conservation initiatives	
	operating	1,845,000
	Salaries + program support	657,461
Controlling pest animals and plants	Working with local councils and other public land managers on coordinated pest animal and plant control initiatives	
	Monitor for new weeds	
	Weed Identification service	
	operating	1,148,600
	Salaries + program support	219,410

Priority	Focus areas/projects	Total levy funding (\$)
Nature education	NRM Education	
	Nature Play SA	
	Implementing urban sustainability initiatives with communities	
	Natural Resource Centres	
	Supporting volunteers	
	operating	2,612,416
	Salaries + program support	1,837,709
Foundational activities	Strategy	
	Data and information management	
	Communications	
	operating	641,309
	Salaries + program support	2,028,055
Total		30,878,476

Explanatory notes:

- The Landscapes Priority Fund contribution is required consistent with the provisions of Division 2 Section 93 of the Landscape South Australia Act 2019.
- 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.
- Green Adelaide shares four Prescribed Water Resource Areas (PWRAs) with neighbouring landscape regions. As the board with the majority of the area of the resource, Green Adelaide is responsible for water planning for the Central Adelaide and Northern Adelaide PWRAs. For the McLaren Vale and Western Mt Lofty Ranges PWRAs, that have a small area within the Green Adelaide region, the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board will take carriage of the water planning and implementation. The boards will work together to effectively manage the resources to ensure consistency in approaches.

* Ministerial directives made under Section 14(3) of the Landscape South Australia Act 2019 have been put in place for management of the Patawalonga Lake System and Adelaide's beach and coastal management. The Grassroots Grants Program contribution is required consistent with the provisions of Section 28 of the Landscape South Australia Act 2019.

** The Australian Government Minister for Environment has announced a financial contribution towards both the Breakout Creek and Second Creek at St Peters Billabong projects.

*** The Department for Planning, Transport and Infrastructure is partnering with Green Adelaide to financially support the Greener Neighbourhoods Grants Program from the Planning and Development Fund.

Sources of funding (income)

Table 2 Sources of funding

Funding source	2020-21 Income (\$)
Landscape and water levies¹	
Regional landscape levy (formerly NRM land levy)	28,633,164
Water levy	145,312
External funding²	
Australian Government Breakout Creek	1,000,000
Australian Government St Peters Second Creek	400,000
DPTI Greener Neighbourhood grants	500,000
Water Sensitive SA	100,000
Other sources of income	
Interest	100,000
Total	30,878,476

¹ Landscape and water levy income to be raised in 2020-21 is based on 1.9% actual CPI rate (September 2019 quarter in Adelaide) increase on the 2019-20 income, and water levy income is based on 1.9% increase on the 2019-20 water levy rates.

² Green Adelaide receives funding from the Australian Government, SA Department of Planning Transport and Infrastructure and Water Sensitive SA to deliver activities specified in respective agreements.



Landscape and water levies

To enable the Green Adelaide Board to undertake its functions, the Act continues arrangements under the previous NRM Act to provide for two types of levies to be raised:

- **Regional landscape levy** (previously called the NRM levy): a levy collected by constituent councils from rate payers
- **Water levy**: A levy collected from water licence holders in the region.

Why pay levies?

The landscape and water levies are a primary source of funding for the management of the region's landscapes. Our landscapes benefit everyone, which is why we all contribute to the levies. 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 our region.

Landscape levy

The landscape levy is raised and collected by local councils in the same way as the NRM levy has been collected in the past. Councils will continue to pay quarterly contributions to the landscape board and gazette a levy rate to reimburse themselves for this amount.

In the Green Adelaide region, the share of the total landscape levy that each local council collects is based on the proportion of the total capital value of the region in that council area (see Table 3).

The total amount of income collected from the landscape levy in 2020-21 will be a CPI (Consumer Price Index, September Adelaide) increase on the amount raised last year.

Table 3 Council contributions to landscape levy, collection fees, and average levy contributions for 2020-21

Council area	Council contribution to regional landscape levy 2020/21 (\$)	Council collection fees ¹ based on standard rates (\$)	Average levy contribution per residential household (\$)
Adelaide	1,808,837	8,806	72
Burnside	1,715,850	7,848	81
Campbelltown	1,203,092	8,679	49
Charles Sturt	3,025,932	17,514	50
Holdfast Bay	1,286,635	7,811	61
Marion	1,995,868	13,639	45
Mitcham	1,719,241	9,950	58
Norwood, Payneham & St Peters	1,365,201	7,625	67
Onkaparinga	2,897,046	21,568	38
Playford	1,118,116	13,227	26
Port Adelaide Enfield	2,752,818	18,692	43
Prospect	598,843	5,083	59
Salisbury	2,046,405	18,066	33
Tea Tree Gully	1,789,838	13,440	41
Unley	1,413,533	7,300	74
Walkerville	329,339	3,555	81
West Torrens	1,566,570	10,345	50
Total	28,633,164	193,148	

¹ Councils receive collection fees for collecting the landscape levy

Water levy

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

In 2020-21, the Green Adelaide Board will raise water levies in accordance with the existing levy basis, on a rate rate per ML of water allocated.

The levy rates for 2020-21 (Table 4) are increased by CPI (September quarter, Adelaide) on the 2019-20 rates.

Water resource sharing arrangements

For the prescribed water resource areas that are shared by Green Adelaide and neighbouring landscape regions, the water levy is shared between the boards in proportion to the amount of water allocated in each region (see Table 4).

The Green Adelaide Board will work with the Northern and Yorke, and Murraylands and Riverland landscape boards to ensure that water planning and programs are implemented collaboratively.

Table 4 Indicative NRM water levy rates, and proportion of water allocated in Green Adelaide in each resource

Prescribed water resource area (PWRA)	2020-21 levy rate	Proportion of the PWRA's allocated water within Green Adelaide
McLaren Vale	\$6.28/ML of water allocated	4%
Northern Adelaide Plains (including water levy on organisations authorised under section 105 to take water from a water resource within the Northern Adelaide Plains PWRA)	\$6.28/ML of water allocated	67%
Western Mount Lofty Ranges (including water levy on organisations authorised under section 105 to take water from a water resources within the Western Mount Lofty Ranges PWRA)	\$6.28/ML of water allocated	4%







This is a regional landscape board Business Plan prepared in accordance with the requirements of the transitional provisions detailed in Schedule 5 of the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*.

The Regional NRM Plan of the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Board Regional Plan, has been adopted by the Green Adelaide Board as the initial regional landscape plan to the extent that it relates to the Green Adelaide landscape management region, and adjusted to fulfil the initial transitional requirements of the Green Adelaide Board under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*. This document is also consistent with the requirements of section 51(1)&(3) of the Act.

Further information

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