

Limestone Coast Landscape Board Business Plan

2023/24

A message from the Limestone Coast Landscape Board Chair, Dr. Penny Schulz

"Our Business Plan confirms our commitment of work to deliver in 2023/24 but it's also a good time to reflect on what we've been working on over the last 12 months and some key projects that are coming up that we're excited about."



Limestone Coast Landscape Board Members



Dr. Penny Schulz
Chair



Mark Bachmann



Peter Bissell



Robbie Davis



Tracey Strugnell



Fiona Rasheed

Acknowledgement of Country

The Limestone Coast Landscape Board acknowledges Aboriginal people as the First People and Nations of the ancestral lands and waters of the Limestone Coast. We acknowledge the elders past, present and future and we respect the deep feelings of attachment and relationships of Aboriginal People to Country including the language groups: Meintangk, Potaruwutij, Bunganditj, Tatiara/Ngarkat, Tanganekald (Southern Clans) and Ngarrindjeri, and we commit to working together to look after our landscapes.

Walking Together Statement

The Limestone Coast Landscape Board is committed to walking with First Nations to manage our landscape. We demonstrate this commitment through adoption of the Lartara-Wirkeri Cultural Governance framework developed with the South East Aboriginal Focus Group. This framework has been incorporated into our regional landscape and annual business plans to support opportunities for engagement and procuring services from First Nations groups.



Cultural Governance

Lartara-Wirkeri Cultural Governance is a contemporary application of a historic First Nations governance process. It has three distinct steps that are uniquely individual but operate in a continual cycle of communication and improvement. The three steps are:



People come together out of respect to talk about whom, how and what. This is a time for acknowledging ancestors, recognising differences and developing agreed pathways that can be progressed.



People have agreed expectations and responsibilities from Ceremony and Talk. Everyone knows and undertakes what they have agreed on.



People can only achieve this stage once they have been successful with the first two stages. Song and Dance is about celebrating the success of working together as a community to achieve the desired and agreed upon outcome. It is a time for learning from successes and paying cultural/spiritual respect.

Our Vision

To have a healthy, productive and biodiverse Limestone Coast landscape.

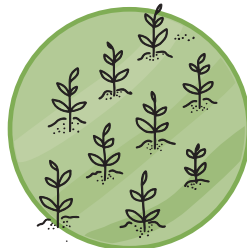
To be at the heart of the community, inclusive of First Nations and resilient to a changing climate.



Our Priorities



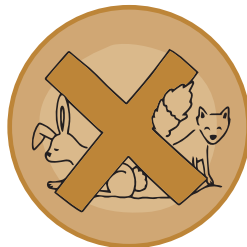
Educating and partnering to sustainably manage our landscapes



Growing sustainable primary production



Protecting and balancing our region's water resources



Working collaboratively to manage pest plants and animals



Conserving and enhancing our region's biodiversity

Our Staff

The LC Landscape Board delivers on its objectives through the employment of a General Manager, and a team of public sector employees. The LC Landscape Board, through the General Manager, employs 43.3 full-time equivalent staff working to deliver the programs and projects with employee costs of approximately \$4M. A number of these positions are funded through external funding sources.

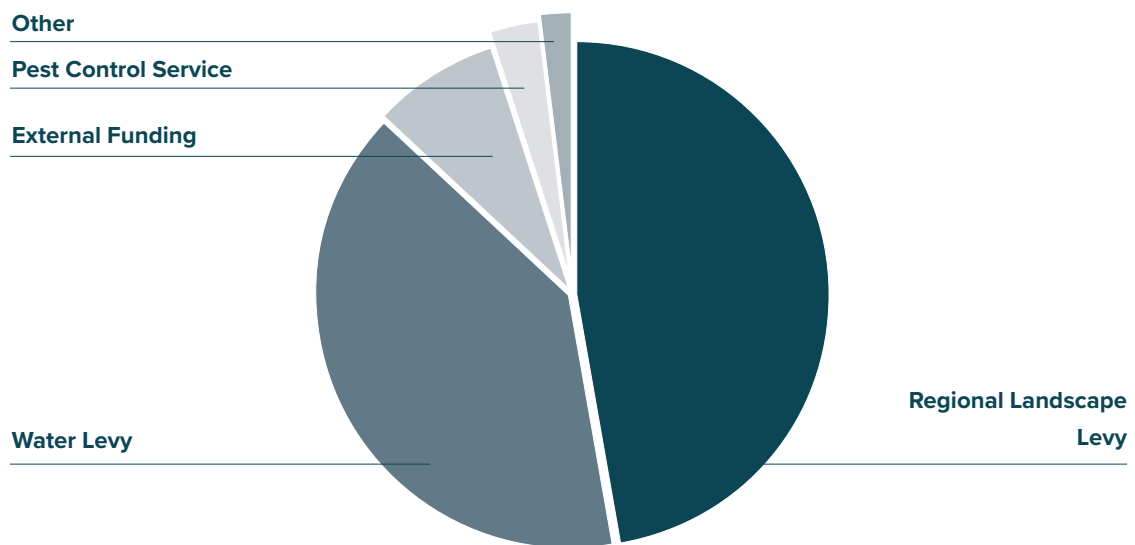
Staff work across the Limestone Coast, with locations throughout the region.

A number of corporate and water science services are provided to the LC Landscape Board through Service Level Agreements with the Department for Environment and Water and the Department of Treasury and Finance, Shared Services SA.

Sources of Funding (Income)

Funding Source	2023/24 income (\$)
Landscape and water levies	
Regional landscape levy ¹	5,183,595
Water levy ²	4,349,493
External funding³	
National Water Grid Authority	520,000
South Australian Heritage Outreach Service	130,000
Other sources of income	
Weed Control Service ⁴	347,000
Other ⁵	185,982
Total Revenue	10,716,070

Proportion of funding to be received from each source in 2023/24



¹ Landscape levy revenue is based on 8.4% CPI increase on the approved 2022/23 income.

² Water levy revenue subject to change.

³ Australian Government National Landcare Program funding yet to be announced.

⁴ The LC Landscape Board provides a Pest Control Service to landholders that operates on a cost recovery basis.

⁵ Includes bank interest and administrative agreement/s.



Prioritising our Investment

Expenditure by priorities and funding source in 2023/24

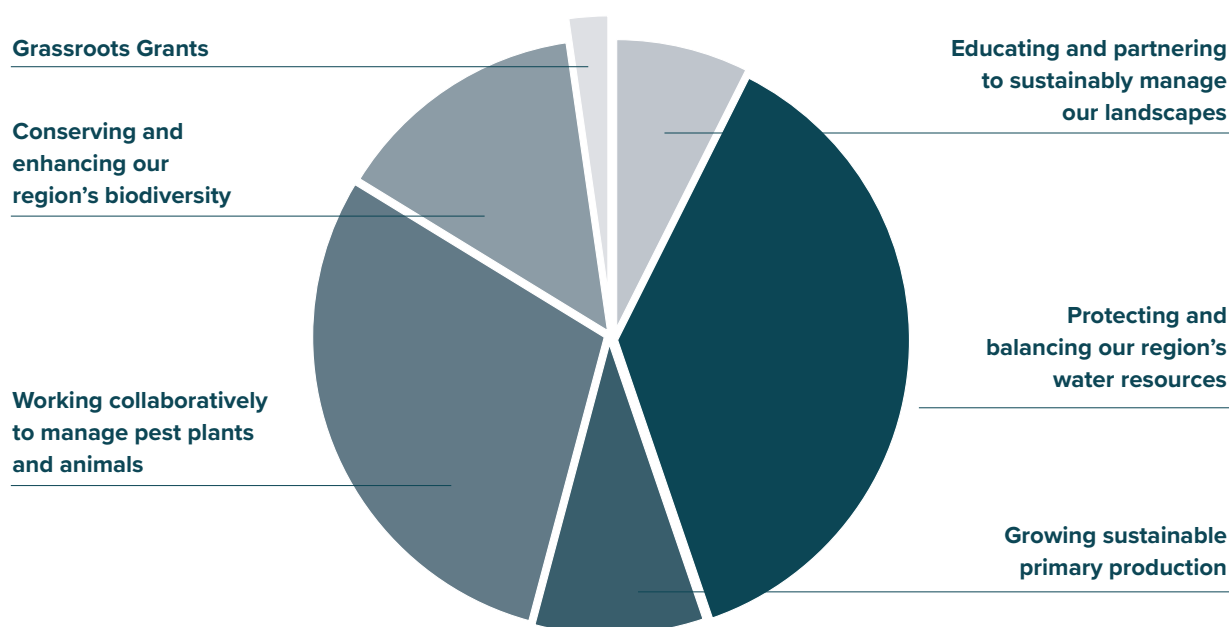
Priority Investment	Landscape and Water levies (\$)¹	External Funding (\$)	Total (\$)
Educating and partnering to sustainably manage our landscapes	916,326		916,326
Protecting and balancing our region's water resources²	4,058,275	520,000	4,578,275
Growing sustainable primary production	878,055	329,344	1,207,399
Working collaboratively to manage pest plants and animals	3,254,261	352,624	3,606,885
Conserving and enhancing our region's biodiversity	1,126,100	361,587	1,487,687
Grassroots Grants	276,460		276,460
Total Expenditure	10,509,477	1,563,555	12,073,032³

¹ Includes other sources of income

² Includes State Water Planning and Management charge of \$2,687,919

³ Unspent amount of \$1,356,962 from levy and external funding in 2021/22 has been allocated to priorities and is included in the expenditure amounts provided above.

Proportion of expenditure per priority in 2023/24



Our Work



Protecting and balancing our region's water resources

Managing water for all purposes, towards a balance that is understood and recognised.

Key Activities	Investment (\$)
National Water Grid Authority groundwater science	606,000
Water Allocation Planning - Padthaway, Tatiara and Lower Limestone Coast	124,500
Monitoring and Water Affecting Activity control programs	15,500
Regional groundwater dependent ecosystems	100,000
Program delivery	3,732,275 ¹
Total	4,578,275

¹ Includes State Water Planning and Management Charge of \$2,687,919, salaries, personnel costs and other general program delivery such as IT, property management and transport expenses.



Growing sustainable primary production

Supporting sustainable and integrated land management for environmental stewardship across the region.

Key Activities	Investment (\$)
Weather station network upgrade	70,000
Strategy development and strategic projects	354,609
Soil extension project	153,376
Program delivery	629,414 ¹
Total	1,207,399

Working collaboratively to manage pest plants and animals

Creating relationships to collectively manage pest plants and animals to support environmental, primary production and community outcomes.

Key Activities	Investment (\$)
Feral deer eradication	385,624
Pest campaigns, including priority weed species	74,500
African Lovegrass partnership	60,000
Asset renewal program	92,300
Pest Control Service	347,000
Program delivery	2,647,461 ¹
Total	3,606,885

¹ Includes salaries, personnel costs and other general program delivery such as IT, property management and transport expenses.



Educating and partnering to sustainably manage our landscapes

Working together in the management of and towards a connectedness with our landscape.

Key Activities	Investment (\$)
Youth Environmental Leaders Program	21,000
Program sessions and teacher professional development	8,000
Program expansion including Walking the Seasons	66,000
First Nations engagement	66,000
First Nations activities and support for managed lands	24,000
Program delivery	731,326 ¹
Total	916,326

Conserving and enhancing our region's biodiversity

Maintaining biodiversity through partnering for increased environmental stewardship.

Key Activities	Investment (\$)
Biodiversity incentives	70,000
Targeted wetland incentives	30,000
Karst springs	30,000
Paddock tree project	130,000
Our Coorong Our Coast	47,000
Heritage Outreach Services	130,000
Coommunities Helping Cockies	41,000
Strategy project development	108,207
Program delivery	901,480 ¹
Total	1,487,687

¹ Includes salaries, personnel costs and other general program delivery such as IT, property management and transport expenses.



Landscape Levy Rates and Collection from Local Government

The landscape levy will be raised and collected on our behalf by local councils. Councils pay quarterly contributions to the LC Landscape Board. Under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, new arrangements apply for councils to be reimbursed for unpaid levies.

In this Business Plan, the LC Landscape Board has retained the basis of the landscape levy as a fixed charge of an amount that depends on the purpose for which rateable land is used. A landscape levy based on land use purpose is viewed to align with a 'beneficiary pays' principle (e.g. primary production landholders pay a higher rate for the landscape levy as they use natural resources to generate an income and they are more likely to receive benefit from LC Landscape Board programs). The LC Landscape Board is continuing to use the purpose of use categories of commercial, industrial, primary production, and residential/vacant land/other uses.

Landscape levy rates have been increased by Consumer Price Index (CPI) of 8.4% (September 2022 quarter, Adelaide).

Estimated council contributions to landscape levy income and collection costs for 2023/24

Council Area	Number of rateable properties ¹	Indicative council area contribution (\$)	Indicative council area share of levy (%)	Council area collection fee (\$)
Coorong District Council	827	197,369	2	3,068
District Council of Grant	4,489	685,647	11.5	4,093
Kingston District Council	2,078	269,159	5	3,418
City of Mount Gambier	14,493	1,351,252	37	6,894
Naracoorte Lucindale Council	4,305	714,306	11	4,041
District Council of Robe	2,228	268,380	6	3,460
Tatiara District Council	3,443	569,079	9	3,800
Wattle Range Council	7,194	1,128,605	18.5	4,850
Total	39,057	5,183,797	100	33,624

¹ Source: Number of rateable properties by council area, as reported by councils in January 2023.

Levy rate per land use purpose 2023/24

Purpose of Use Category	Percentage of levy income raised (%)	Total no. of properties per land use (January 2023)	Landscape levy rate per rateable property (\$) 2023/24
Residential, Vacant & Other	52.20	31,019	87.56
Commercial	5.26	2,086	131.34
Industrial	2.23	567	210.14
Primary Producers	40.31	5,385	385.26
Total	100	39,057	

Water Levy

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

Water levy rates have been increased by Consumer Price Index (CPI) of 8.4% (September 2022 quarter, Adelaide).

Water levy rates

Charge Type	2023/24 (\$)
Charge per licence	226.45
Tintinara Coonalpyn, Tatiara, Padthaway and Lower Limestone Coast PWAs	
Public water supply	18.32/ML
Water holding allocations	2.89/ML
Water taking allocations	2.89/ML
Specialised Production Requirement (SPR) allocations	2.89/ML
Delivery supplement allocations for confined aquifer	2.89/ML
Delivery supplement allocations for unconfined aquifer ¹	0.29/ML
Water taking allocations for industrial, aquaculture, industrial-dairy, intensive animal keeping, environmental and recreational uses ²	3.82/ML
Lower Limestone Coast Prescribed Wells Area (PWA) only	
Forest water allocation	2.89/ML
Specialised Production Requirements (SPR) frost allocations ³	0.96/ML
Morambro Creek watercourse (including Cockatoo Lake and Nyroca Channel) and its surface water area	
Water taking allocations	25.21 per share

¹ The levy rate for extraction from the unconfined aquifer is 10% of the regional volumetric levy rate based on the rationale that this water is returned as recharge to the source aquifer.

² Water taking allocations for industrial, aquaculture, industrial-dairy, intensive animal keeping, environmental and recreational uses (formerly referred to as existing volumetric allocations) have a higher levy rate because they are currently exempt from reductions to allocations.

³ Specialised Production Requirements (SPR) are allocations used for frost protection of vines, and other crop benefits. In recognition that some years will require higher SPR water use than others, a three-year-rolling-average scheme has been developed for frost control in all Limestone Coast Water Allocation Plans. In Tatiara and Padthaway PWAs only, an annual allocation of 1/3 of their total frost SPR allocation is issued on the licence. This is currently under review in the Water Allocations Plans for these two PWAs. In the Lower Limestone Coast (LLC) PWA, the full 3 years of allocation for SPR frost protection has been issued on the licence, therefore the levy rate for SPR frost in the LLC PWA is 1/3 of the rate in the other PWAs to ensure equity between users.



Photo credits

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The Limestone Coast Landscape Board supports projects through funding from the Australian Government



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