

An aerial photograph of a vast vineyard in the Limestone Coast of South Australia. The rows of grapevines are neatly planted and stretch across the landscape. In the background, a line of trees and a few small buildings are visible under a warm, golden sunset sky. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a long, soft glow over the entire scene.

Limestone Coast Landscape Board Business Plan

2025-26

The Chair of the Limestone Coast Landscape Board is Dr. Penny Schulz

The Limestone Coast Landscape Board's annual Business Plan outlines the budget and activities for the year ahead. Our Business Plan confirms our commitment of work to deliver for the Limestone Coast landscape region in 2025-26.



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 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 landscape.

Limestone Coast Landscape Board Members

The Governing Body is made up of regional representatives who make decisions about investment in landscape management, derived from landscape and water levies, in conjunction with the Limestone Coast Regional Landscape Plan.



Dr. Penny Schulz
Chair



Mark Bachmann



Peter Bissell



Tom Linnell



Robbie Davis



Tracey Strugnell



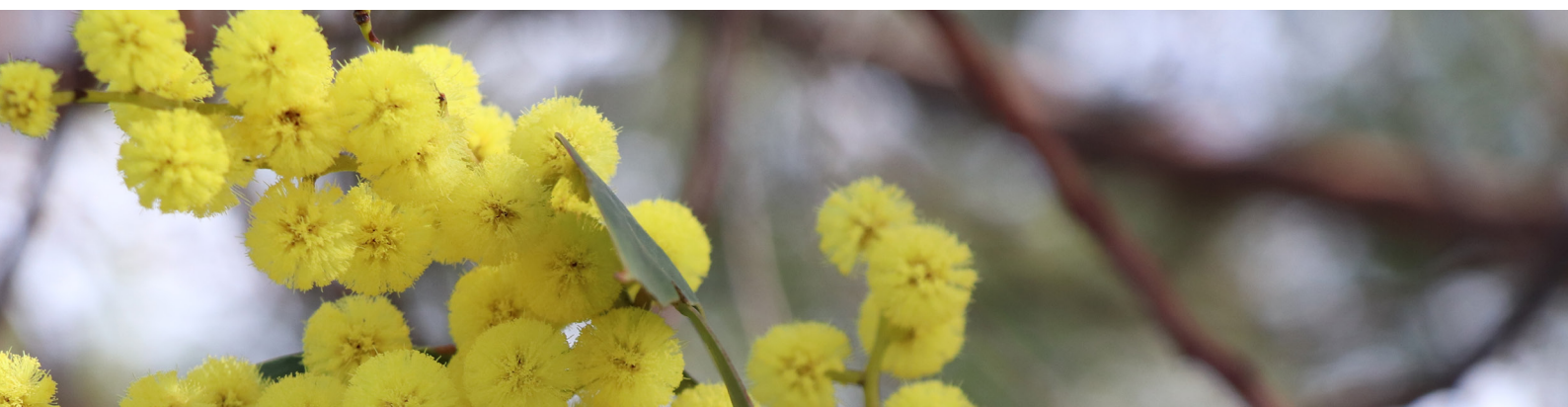
Jonathan Sobels

Our Staff

The Limestone Coast Landscape Board delivers on its objectives through the employment of a General Manager, and a team of public sector employees. The Limestone Coast Landscape Board, through the General Manager, employs 46.3 full-time equivalent staff working to deliver the programs and projects with employee costs of approximately \$4.4 million. 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 services are provided to the Limestone Coast Landscape Board through Service Level Agreements with the Department for Environment and Water and the Department of Treasury and Finance, Shared Services SA.



Our Vision

A healthy, productive and biodiverse
Limestone Coast landscape

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



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.



Sources of funding

The Limestone Coast Landscape Board receives funding through the collection of levies (landscape and water levies) as well as through agreements with the South Australian and Australian Governments or other funding partners.

The Limestone Coast Landscape Board will seek funding opportunities during the 2025-26 year to supplement the programs and projects outlined in this plan.

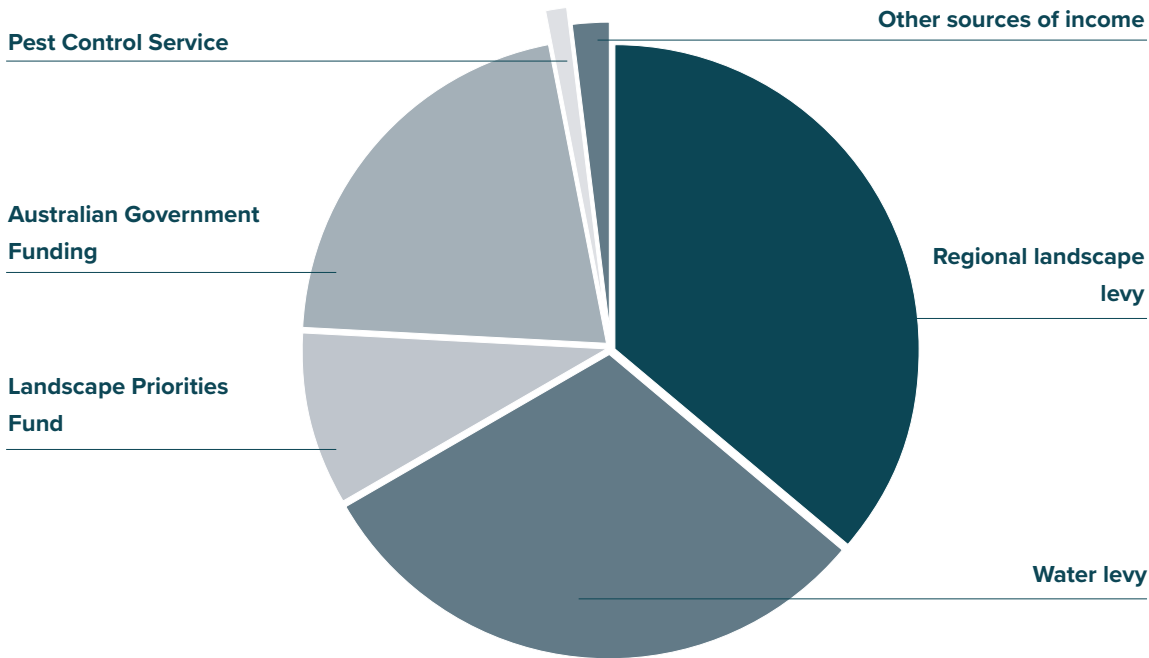
Funding source	2025-26 income (\$)
Regional landscape levy ¹	5,665,369
Water levy ¹	4,729,475
Landscape Priorities Fund	1,447,464
Australian Government Funding	3,264,654
Pest Control Service ²	185,000
Other sources of income ³	285,421

¹ Regional landscape and water levy revenue is based on a 3.2% CPI increase on the approved 2024-25 income.

² The Limestone Coast Landscape Board provides a Pest Control Service to landholders.

³ Includes bank interest and administrative agreements.

Proportion of funding to be received from each source in 2025-26

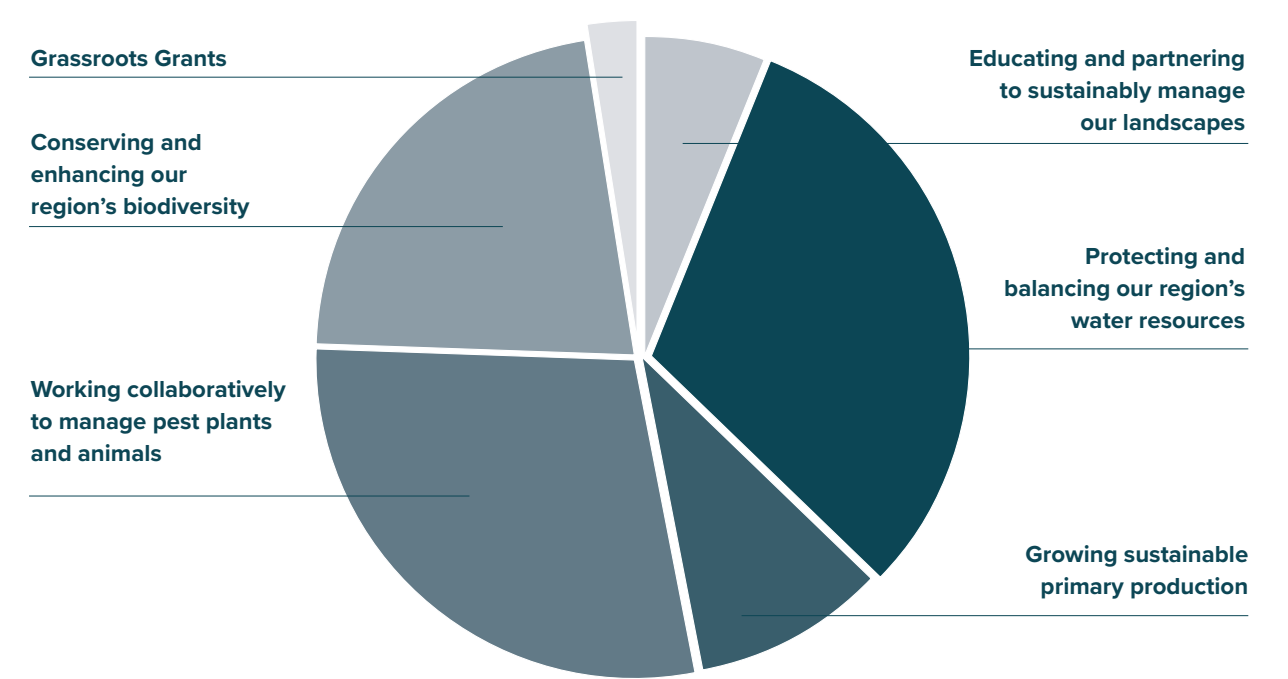


Prioritising our investment

Expenditure by priorities and funding source in 2025-26

Priority investment	Landscape and water levies (\$)	External funding (\$)	Total (\$)
Educating and partnering to sustainably manage our landscapes	967,762	-	967,762
Protecting and balancing our region’s water resources	4,561,887	296,444	4,858,331
Growing sustainable primary production	428,203	1,083,070	1,511,273
Working collaboratively to manage pest plants and animals	3,461,644	985,000	4,446,644
Conserving and enhancing our region’s biodiversity	1,055,986	2,382,605	3,438,590
Grassroots Grants	354,784	-	354,784
Total expenditure	10,830,266	4,747,118	15,577,384

Proportion of expenditure contributing to investment in priorities in 2025-26



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 (\$)
Water allocation planning science support	150,000
Lower Limestone Coast Water Allocation Plan consultation	40,000
Lower Limestone Coast Water Allocation Plan socio-economic studies	90,000
Lower Limestone Coast Water Allocation Plan groundwater dependent ecosystem monitoring program operation and maintenance	50,000
Tatiara Water Allocation Plan consultation	15,000
Tintinara-Coonalpyn Water Allocation Plan review	80,000
Morambro Creek Water Allocation Plan review	2,000
Padthaway Water Allocation Plan implementation	10,000
Water affecting activity control policy	6,000
Groundwater dependent ecosystem studies	120,000
Landscape Priorities Fund Lower Limestone Coast Karst Rising Springs Project ¹	296,444
State Water Planning and Management Charge	2,823,995
Program delivery ²	1,174,892
Total	4,858,331

¹ External funding source.

² Includes salaries, personnel costs and other general program delivery such as IT, property management and transport expenses.

³ The Limestone Coast Landscape Board provides a Pest Control Service to landholders.



Growing sustainable primary production

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

Key activities	Investment (\$)
Australian Government Carbon Outreach Program ¹	98,188
Landscape Priorities Fund Soils Project ¹	104,020
Limestone Coast Climate-smart Landscapes Program ¹	252,132
National Soil Monitoring Program SA Field Activities ¹	220,716
Australian Government Regional Delivery Partner for Environmental Protection, Sustainable Agriculture, and Natural Resource Management Services ¹	149,600
Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator ¹	161,414
Landscape Priorities Fund Acid Sulfate Soils ¹	97,000
Program delivery ²	428,203
Total	1,511,273

¹ External funding source.

² Includes salaries, personnel costs and other general program delivery such as IT, property management and transport expenses.

³ The Limestone Coast Landscape Board provides a Pest Control Service to landholders.



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 aerial shooting program	300,000
Feral deer eradication on ground shooting program	50,000
Feral deer eradication operational support	30,000
Landscape Priorities Fund Feral Deer Free South Australia ¹	750,000
Landscape Priorities Fund Drought Support Funding ¹	200,000
Pest Control Service ³	130,000
Pest control asset replacement	25,000
Roadside pest control	116,500
Landholder support and engagement	25,800
African Lovegrass Project	35,000
Weed and pest control program along Department for Infrastructure and Transport roads ¹	35,000
Program delivery ²	2,749,344
Total	4,446,644

¹ External funding source.

² Includes salaries, personnel costs and other general program delivery such as IT, property management and transport expenses.

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Conserving and enhancing our region's biodiversity

Maintaining biodiversity through partnering for increased environmental stewardship.

Key activities	Investment (\$)
Priority species monitoring and on ground works	65,000
Paddock Trees Project	137,514
Sustainable Landscape Grants	100,000
Saving our springs: Karst springs and alkaline fens restoration ¹	1,363,827
Cockies Create Communities ¹	271,002
Manoeuvre swiftly to protect the southern bent-wing bat ¹	336,486
Regional Bird Refugia On-Ground Works ¹	187,990
Native Vegetation Heritage Agreement Outreach Program ¹	73,700
Australian Government Regional Delivery Partner for Environmental Protection, Sustainable Agriculture, and Natural Resource Management Services ¹	149,600
Program delivery ²	753,472
Total	3438,590

¹ External funding source.

² Includes salaries, personnel costs and other general program delivery such as IT, property management and transport expenses.

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Educating and partnering to sustainably manage our landscapes

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

Key activities	Investment (\$)
Young Environmental Leaders Program	11,000
Limestone Coast Youth Environment Council (LCYEC)	5,000
Walking the Seasons Program	11,000
Water in our Landscape Teacher Professional Development Series	4,000
Sustainable primary production career immersions	1,500
Education in our Landscape	3,500
Education Network	9,000
South East Aboriginal Focus Group facilitation and engagement activities	35,000
Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation meeting facilitation and engagement activities	35,000
Other First Nations Groups facilitation and engagement activities	6,000
Support provided to First Nations (Aboriginal managed lands, Heritage sites and training activities)	20,000
Cultural awareness workshops	6,000
Support for mentoring of First Nations cultural knowledge holders	30,000
Program delivery ²	790,762
Total	967,762

¹ External funding source.

² Includes salaries, personnel costs and other general program delivery such as IT, property management and transport expenses.

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Landscape levy rates and collection from Local Government

The landscape levy will be raised and collected on our behalf by Local Government. Councils pay quarterly contributions to the Limestone Coast Landscape Board. Under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* arrangements apply for Councils to be reimbursed for unpaid levies.

In this business plan, the Limestone Coast 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 Limestone Coast Landscape Board programs). The Limestone Coast 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 the Consumer Price Index (CPI) of 3.2% (September 2024 quarter, Adelaide).

Estimated council contributions to landscape levy income and collection costs for 2025-26

Council Area	Number of rateable properties	Indicative council area contribution (\$)	Indicative council area share of levy (%)	Council area collection fee (\$)
City of Mount Gambier	14,763	1,497,501	26	7,691
Coorong District Council	777	192,803	3	3,355
District Council of Grant	4,500	742,532	13	4,509
District Council of Robe	2,418	319,517	6	3,864
Kingston District Council	2,128	298,406	5	3,774
Naracoorte Lucindale Council	4,327	771,067	14	4,455
Tatiara District Council	3,451	618,457	11	4,184
Wattle Range Council	7,256	1,225,086	22	5,363
Total		5,665,369		

¹ Source: Number of rateable properties by council area, as reported by councils in February 2025.

Levy rate per land use purpose 2025-26

Purpose of use category	Percentage of levy income raised (%)	Total no. of properties per land use (February 2025)	Landscape levy rate per rateable property (\$) 2025-26
Residential, Vacant & Other	53	31,615	95.31
Commercial	5	2,135	142.97
Industrial	2	602	228.74
Primary Production	40	5,268	419.36
Total		39,620	

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 3.2% (September 2024 quarter, Adelaide).

Water levy rates

Charge type	2025-26
A levy as a fixed charge per water licence	247.48
A levy per kilolitre of water allocated as endorsed on the water licence, or authorised under section 105 of the <i>Landscape South Australia Act 2019</i> .	
Lower Limestone Coast, Padthaway, Tintinara Coonalpyn and Tatiara Prescribed Wells Areas	
Water allocation on a water licence is an allocation other than those specified below or where the water allocation is authorised under section 105 of the Act.	0.316 cents per kilolitre
Water allocated for the supply of water by means of reticulated systems by the South Australian Water Corporation established pursuant to the <i>South Australian Water Corporation Act 1994</i> or where a water allocation on a water licence is specified as a public water supply.	2.002 cents per kilolitre
Water allocation on a water licence specified as an industrial, aquaculture, industrial-dairy, intensive animal keeping, environmental, pulp and paper mill operations or recreational allocation.	0.418 cents per kilolitre
Water allocation on a water licence that is specified as a specialised production requirement allocation (excluding specialised production requirement-frost allocations in the Lower Limestone Coast).	0.316 cents per kilolitre
Water allocation from the confined aquifer on a water licence that is specified as a delivery supplement allocation.	0.316 cents per kilolitre
Water allocation from the unconfined aquifer on a water licence that is specified as a delivery supplement allocation.	0.032 cents per kilolitre
Lower Limestone Coast Prescribed Wells Area only	
Water allocation on a forest water licence that is specified as a forest water allocation.	0.316 cents per kilolitre
Water allocation on a water licence that is specified as a specialised production requirement frost allocation.	0.105 cents per kilolitre
Morambro Creek and Nyroca Channel Prescribed Water Resources only	
A levy as endorsed on the water licence of:	0.0037 cents per kilolitre of entitlement





Get involved in a Limestone Coast Landscape Board project

Follow our projects, join our conversations and events and help shape our Limestone Coast landscape.

Learn more at
lc.landscape.sa.gov.au/get-involved

Photo credits

Walking Together art - Marie Clark

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



Australian Government

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