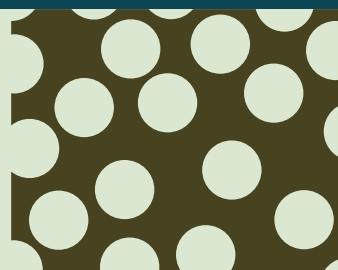




Limestone Coast Landscape Board Business Plan 2026-27





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 2026-27.



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 47.9 full-time equivalent staff working to deliver the programs and projects with employee costs of approximately \$5.8 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.





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.

Through consultation the Limestone Coast Landscape Board has incorporated Lartara-Wirkeri Cultural Governance, developed with the South East Aboriginal Focus Group. It is a statement of our commitment to First Nations people and organisations. We will walk together to manage our landscape. The Limestone Coast Landscape Board respects, honours and acknowledges the origins of Lartara-Wirkeri Cultural Governance and its importance to the South East Aboriginal Focus Group and First Nations people across Australia.

The Limestone Coast Landscape Board seeks shared learning, shared outcomes, transparency and evaluation of our effectiveness in walking together with First Nations people and organisations.

We will celebrate when First Nations voices are a part of making decisions in the management of their landscape and employment in caring for Country actions are embedded across our work.



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 2026-27 year to supplement the programs and projects outlined in this plan.

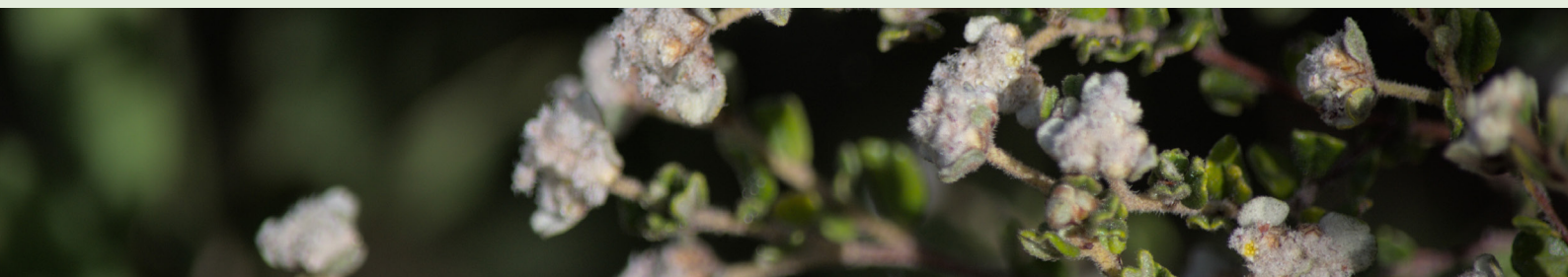
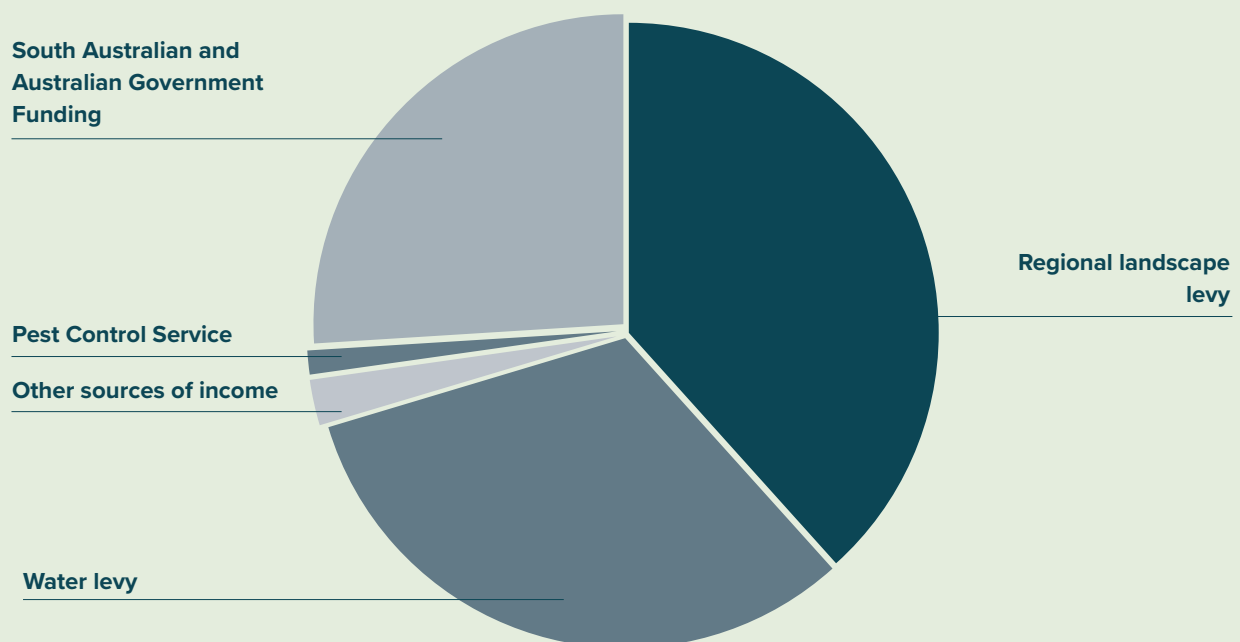
Funding source	2026-27 income (\$)
Regional landscape levy ¹	5,801,101
Water levy ¹	4,844,841
South Australian Government Funding	812,250
Australian Government Funding	1,501,011
Pest Control Service ²	190,000
Other sources of income ³	361,735
Total funding	13,510,939

¹ Regional landscape and water levy revenue is based on a 2.4% CPI increase on the approved 2025-26 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 2026-27



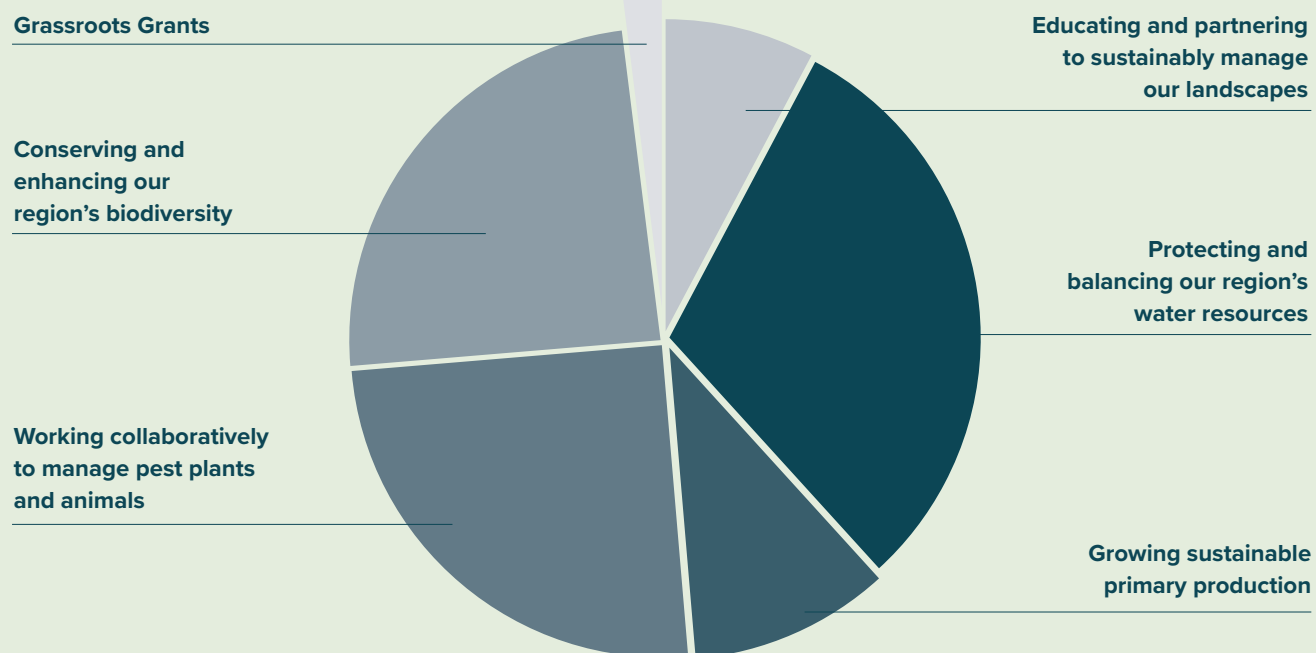
Prioritising our investment

Expenditure by priorities and funding source in 2026-27

Priority investment	Landscape and water levies (\$)	External funding (\$)	Total (\$)
Educating and partnering to sustainably manage our landscapes	1,036,145	-	1,036,145
Protecting and balancing our region's water resources	4,477,193	127,047	4,604,240
Growing sustainable primary production	521,951	1,154,751	1,676,702
Working collaboratively to manage pest plants and animals	3,678,499	91,312	3,769,811
Conserving and enhancing our region's biodiversity	1,182,671	2,559,732	3,742,403
Grassroots Grants	301,218	-	301,218
Total expenditure	11,197,677	3,932,842	15,130,519

Expenditure of external funding is higher than revenue as some external funding to be expended in 2026-27 has been recognised in previous business plan updates.

Proportion of expenditure contributing to investment in priorities in 2026-27



PRIORITY

Protecting and balancing our region's water resources



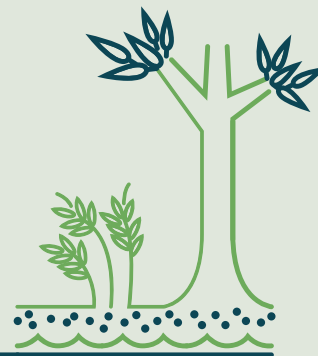
Key activities	Investment (\$)
Water allocation planning science support	150,000
Lower Limestone Coast Water Allocation Plan consultation	25,000
Lower Limestone Coast Water Allocation Plan socio-economic studies	64,910
Lower Limestone Coast Water Allocation Plan groundwater dependence ecosystem monitoring program	50,000
Tatiara Water Allocation Plan consultation	10,000
Tintinara-Coonalpyn Water Allocation Plan review	5,000
Morambro Creek Water Allocation Plan review	5,000
Padthaway Water Allocation Plan implementation	5,000
Groundwater dependent ecosystem studies	105,000
Karst Rising Springs Project ¹	127,047
State Water Planning and Management Charge	2,894,595
Program delivery ²	1,162,688
Total	4,604,240

¹ External funding source

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

PRIORITY

Growing sustainable primary production



Key activities	Investment (\$)
Limestone Coast Climate-Smart Landscapes Program ¹	232,017
National Soil Monitoring Program SA Field Activities ¹	443,838
Australian Government Regional Delivery Partner for Environmental Protection, Sustainable Agriculture, and Natural Resource Management Services ¹	249,931
Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator ¹	180,950
Improving sandy soils ¹	48,015
Program delivery ²	521,951
Total	1,676,702

¹ External funding source

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

PRIORITY

Working collaboratively to manage pest plants and animals



Key activities	Investment (\$)
Feral deer eradication aerial shooting program	135,000
Feral deer eradication ground shooting program	35,000
Enhancing threatened species protection	30,000
Future Proofing Rabbit Biocontrol	11,630
Landscape Priorities Fund Drought Support Funding ¹	91,312
Pest Control Service ³	181,000
Pest control asset replacement	57,000
Roadside pest control	123,500
African Lovegrass Project	45,000
Program delivery ²	3,060,369
Total	3,769,811

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.

PRIORITY

Conserving and enhancing our region's biodiversity



Key activities	Investment (\$)
Threatened Species Habitat Restoration Works	76,000
Paddock Trees Project	142,000
Sustainable Landscape Grants	100,000
Saving our springs: Karst springs and alkaline fens restoration ¹	1,415,750
Cockies Create Communities ¹	285,415
Manoeuvre swiftly to protect the southern bent-wing bat ¹	442,598
Regional Bird Refugia On-Ground Works ¹	98,606
Native Vegetation Heritage Agreement Outreach Program ¹	67,432
Australian Government Regional Delivery Partner for Environmental Protection, Sustainable Agriculture, and Natural Resource Management Services ¹	249,931
Program delivery ²	864,671
Total	3,742,403

¹ External funding source

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

PRIORITY

Educating and partnering to sustainably manage our landscape



Key activities	Investment (\$)
Young Environmental Leaders Program	11,115
Youth Environment Programs	8,735
Walking the Seasons Program (school + community)	18,800
Resource Development /Teacher PD events/Career immersions	5,500
Education in our Landscape	3,350
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	856,645
Total	1,036,145

¹ External funding source

² 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 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 2.4% (September 2025 quarter, Adelaide).

Estimated council contributions to landscape levy income and collection costs for 2026-27

Council area	Number of eligible rateable properties	Indicative council contribution to land levy income (\$)	Indicative council area share of levy (%)	Council area collection fee (excluding GST) (\$)
Coorong District Council	795	197,999	3	3,444.40
Southern Limestone Coast Council	4,534	765,986	13	4,640.88
Kingston District Council	2,136	304,414	5	3,873.52
City of Mount Gambier	14,911	1,544,358	27	7,961.52
Naracoorte Lucindale Council	4,317	781,491	13	4,571.44
District Council of Robe	2,356	311,850	5	3,943.92
Tatiara District Council	3,480	641,971	11	4,303.60
Wattle Range Council	7,283	1,253,032	22	5,520.56
Total	39,812	5,801,101	100	38,259.84

Source: Number of rateable properties by council area, as reported by councils in February 2026.

Levy rate per land use purpose 2026-27

Purpose of use category	Percentage of levy income raised (%)	Total no. of properties per land use (February 2026)	Landscape levy rate per eligible rateable property (\$ 2026-27)
Residential, Vacant & Other	53	31,825	97.45
Commercial	5	2,152	146.175
Industrial	2	599	233.88
Primary Production	40	5,236	423.78
Total	100	39,812	

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 2.4% (September 2025 quarter, Adelaide).

Water levy rates

Charge type	2026-27
A levy as a fixed charge per water licence or forest water licence	253.42
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 allocated where the water allocation is attached to a forest water licence.	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:	0.38 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 delivers projects through funding from the landscape and water levies, and the South Australian and Australian Governments.



Australian Government



Government of South Australia

Limestone Coast Landscape Board

Produced by the Limestone Coast Landscape Board June 2026

Disclaimer

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For further information

Limestone Coast Landscape Board

Phone: 08 8429 7550

Mount Gambier Office

11 Helen Street
Mount Gambier SA 5290

Keith Office

61 Anzac Terrace
Keith SA 5267

Email: lclandscapeboardengage@sa.gov.au

lc.landscape.sa.gov.au

