

Kangaroo Island Landscape Board Business Plan 2020–21

An initial business plan under the
Landscape South Australia Act 2019



Kangaroo Island Landscape Board Business Plan 2020–21

An initial business plan under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*

This is a regional landscape board Business Plan under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* in accordance with the requirements of section 51(1) and (3) and transitional provisions as detailed in Schedule 5 Part 30 under clause 94, of the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*.

This Business Plan 2020–21, of the Kangaroo Island Natural Resources Management Board Strategic Plan 2017-2027, has been adopted by the Kangaroo Island Landscape Board as an initial Business Plan to the extent that it relates to the Kangaroo Island landscape management region, and adjusted to fulfil the initial requirements of the Kangaroo Island Landscape Board under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*.

I, Andrew Heinrich, Presiding Member, after taking into account and in accordance with the requirements of section 51 of the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, hereby endorse the 2020–2021 Business Plan on behalf of the Kangaroo Island Landscape Board.

Andrew Heinrich
Chair
Kangaroo Island Landscape Board
Date:



Foreword

I am proud to advise that I have been appointed as the inaugural Chair for the Kangaroo Island Landscape Management Board, which is a role that I take very seriously, as I know how precious our landscapes are, and the role they play in underpinning the regions livelihoods and lifestyles.

I have been joined by six new Board Members and together, we will be responsible for driving organisational change over the next year as we transition to meet the requirements of *Landscape Act 2019*.



In the initial 2020–21 transition year, the Board will raise and invest levies in accordance with the existing three year Business Plan of the Kangaroo Island Natural Resources Management (NRM) Board. This document is an addendum to that existing plan. It provides an update on revenue and expenditure for the 2020–21 period. Levies for the period have been capped with no CPI applied due to the impact on the community in these globally challenging times.

We have been fortunate to retain great staff in the region, who will continue to support landholders, industry and community groups through the transition period.

2020–21 will be an important year for the new Board. Some of the priorities include:

- Developing a new regional Landscape Plan and annual Business Plan together with the community.
- Supporting our community and landscapes as they recover from the 2019-20 bushfires.
- Continuing to deliver on priority projects through the Australian Government Regional Land Partnerships Program with funding from the National Landcare Program² and Environmental Restoration Fund.
- Working with our many partners; local government, farming groups, community groups and volunteers, to achieve significant outcomes for our natural resources and landscapes.
- Establishing a new Grassroots Grants Program to support volunteers and not-for-profit organisations to undertake local projects
- Working collaboratively with other Landscape Boards to achieve coordinated outcomes across our landscapes.

I look forward to working with you all to define how we can better manage landscapes in partnership and to start working in new directions together.

Andrew Heinrich

Chair

Kangaroo Island Landscape Board

Contents

1. Landscape South Australia reform	5
1.1 Landscape levy.....	5
2. Program investment (expenditure)	6
Table 1: Summary of investment into Government of South Australia priorities	6
3. Emergency relief funding	7
3.1 Kangaroo Island bushfires 2019-20.....	7
Table 2. Summary of investment to remediate Kangaroo Island 2019-20 bushfire impacts.....	8
3.2 Drought 2019.....	9
Table 3. Summary of investment to remediate Kangaroo Island 2019-20 drought impacts.....	9
4. Funding Board actions — income	10
Figure 3. KI NRM Board income 2020–21.....	10
Table 4: Summary of income sources in 2019–2020 to 2022–2023	11
5. Proposed expenditure 2020–2021	12
Table 5: Summary of expenditure to deliver NRM plan goals 2020–21.....	12
6. The Board and staff	12
6.1 Staffing arrangements	13

1. 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 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 that maintain, protect, improve or enhance landscapes at the regional scale that maintain, protect, improve or enhance landscapes at the regional scale.

The new Act also introduces a number of other benefits, including a cap on land levies, the creation of a Landscape Priorities fund to support regional and sub-regional scale projects, such as bushfire recovery and landscape scale restoration work, and a Grassroots Grants program to support community groups, not for profit organisations and volunteers to address environmental issues at a local level.

Under the transitional arrangements, new landscape board Presiding Members are also acting as single member NRM Boards to ensure that services continue to be provided as normal in the lead up to 1 July 2020.

These transitional arrangements also apply to the interim business plan for the Kangaroo Island Landscape Board (the Board). The land levy amount in the board's interim business plan for 2020–21, reflect the levy collected by the Kangaroo Island Council in 2019–20 with no CPI adjustment. The business plan also identifies the amount the board will invest in its Grassroots Grants program, which will commence in 2020–21.




1.1 Landscape levy

Going forward the NRM levy will be called a landscape levy. On Kangaroo Island, the landscape levy will still be raised and collected by the Kangaroo Island Council in the same way as the NRM levy has been collected in the past. The Kangaroo Island Council will be liable to pay quarterly contributions to the landscape board and gazette a levy rate to reimburse themselves for this amount. New arrangements will apply for councils to be reimbursed for unpaid levies.

The Landscape Levy is collected on a per property basis and is charged to all rateable properties on Kangaroo Island. Due to the low levy base on Kangaroo Island the Board receive Annual State Allocation funding to assist with delivery of legislative requirement outlined in the Act. These priorities include: Pest Plant and Animal Control, Biodiversity, Soil Management and Water Management.

2. Program investment (expenditure)

Table 1: Summary of investment into Government of South Australia priorities
(This table replaces the existing table on page 12 of the Business Plan for 2019–22)

Priority	Project/activities	\$		
		2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
 Soil	Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator, sustainable agriculture projects, community engagement	340,688	346,731	348,691
 Water	Water management and water affecting activities assessment, community engagement	240,194	246,648	251,346
 Pest plant and animals	Regional delivery declared pest control, biosecurity, Feral Cat Eradication Program, community engagement	976,813	1,007,327	1,067,076
 Biodiversity	Conservation of threatened ecological communities and species, community engagement	1,151,686	1,082,203	1,096,608
 Grass Roots Grant program*	Grant program to support the community to manage natural resources, including carrying out on-ground works	46,885	48,046	49,244
 Leadership and accountability	Board administration, regional management and business administration	839,630	833,283	857,663
Total Expenditure		3,595,897	3,564,238	3,670,628

*The *Landscape SA Act 2019* requires that all Landscape Boards establish and fund a Grassroots Grants Program. Section 28 (2) states the purpose of a Grassroots Grants Program is to support individuals, and volunteer, community and other bodies, organisations and groups working at the local level on a not-for-profit basis, by making grants to undertake work or activities to achieve outcomes that promote the objects of the landscape legislation at the local level.

3. Emergency relief funding

3.1 Kangaroo Island bushfires 2019-20

In December 2019 and January 2020 devastating bushfires burnt 212,000 ha, or nearly half of Kangaroo Island, including 95,000 ha of agricultural land and 87,000 ha of conservation estate. The scale of this natural disaster is unprecedented in Kangaroo Island's recent history. It will take an immense collaborative effort from many different sectors to help rebuild livelihoods and recover the Island's natural assets.

Many native species have been severely impacted by the bushfires. Recovery back to pre-fire distributions and densities may take years or even decades. As a result all remaining vegetated areas across Kangaroo Island are considered highly important for conservation. Post-fire unburnt and regenerating remnant native vegetation is also threatened by feral pigs browsing, trampling and spreading disease.

Primary production has also been severely impacted by the bushfires, with 337 farming business impacted by the bushfires. Over 53,000 livestock were lost, including 51,888 sheep and 1,284 cattle. Pasture and on-farm native vegetation was destroyed, along with farm houses, sheds, and other infrastructure and equipment. A number of lifestyle, tourism and conservation properties were also affected by the fires with houses, tourist accommodation, infrastructure and native vegetation damaged or destroyed.

Some threatened native species restricted to KI, that are listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, have been particularly impacted by the bushfires, including the endangered glossy black-cockatoo and Kangaroo Island dunnart. Approximately 54% of glossy black-cockatoo feeding habitat and 35% of their nests were burnt in the bushfires. This feeding habitat will not be available as a food source until it regenerates, in around 10-20 years. Protecting remaining glossy black-cockatoo feeding habitat is now critical.

The 2019–20 bushfires also burnt 90% of known endangered KI dunnarts habitat. Detecting remaining KI dunnarts and protecting unburnt refuges are critical to the KI dunnarts survival.

The impacts to natural resources have continued post-fire and include damage to burnt soil and pasture from livestock, wind and water erosion, sediment runoff into water courses, herbivore pressure on recovering native vegetation, pest and disease incursions, the emergence of weeds and the amplified impact of animal pests. Threats to life and infrastructure are also posed by unstable trees, contaminated water supplies, and contaminated soil.

Following the bushfires the KI NRM Board responded immediately using the following principles:

- understand community context
- recognise complexity
- use community-led approaches
- coordinate all activities using an adaptive approach
- communicate effectively
- recognise and build capacity.

Where possible projects adapted their activities to assist with bushfire recovery including:

- Assisting with the assessment, humane destruction and safe disposal of livestock.
- Providing advice to landholders regarding native vegetation clearance and fencing for Heritage Agreements, remnant vegetation and riparian protection.
- Intensively controlling feral cats within and around unburnt remnant vegetation.
- Providing advice to landholders on best methods of feral cat control on their properties to protect threatened and other species
- Contracting and assisting an arborist to assess potentially dangerous trees for removal.

The Department for Environment and Water has been undertaking the following activities on KI to assist with bushfire recovery including:

- Analysing aerial imagery to identify the spatial extent and severity of bushfire impacts.
- Prioritising unburnt remnants for the rapid assessment of post-fire survival of at-risk species and deploying motion detection cameras to survey these species.
- Rapidly assessing surviving birds within unburnt remnants.
- Motion detection cameras deployed to survey small mammals and other at-risk species.

The KI NRM Board has successfully acquired funding for 2019–20 to assist with bushfire recovery (see Table 2).

Table 2. Summary of investment to remediate Kangaroo Island 2019-20 bushfire impacts

Source of funding	2019–20	Activity
Australian Government: Wildlife and Habitat Bushfire Recovery Program	\$200,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To assist landholders to install sediment barriers in burnt watercourses and dams to reduce erosion risk, mitigate water contamination also reduce the risk of eutrophication of Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh ecological communities at the mouth of watercourses. • Arborist support and heritage fence replacement coordination • To assist landholders to reduce the impact of feral pigs on native vegetation and farmland in burnt areas on KI.
Government of South Australia	\$229,697	
Government of South Australia	\$20,303	To help people recover from the KI bushfires by supporting them to begin to rebuild their gardens and develop community gardens in Parndana and Kingscote.
World Wildlife Fund	\$270,000	To assist SA glossy black-cockatoos affected by bushfires to be rescued, given emergency treatment and helped to recover.
Total	\$720,000	

3.2 Drought 2019

In 2019 the Kangaroo Island Council received funding from the Australian Government fund: *Communities Combating Pest and Weed Impacts During Drought Program— Biosecurity Management of Pests and Weeds* to manage African boxthorn on eastern Kangaroo Island.

This funding was used to deliver the project *Taking action now to reduce current and future impacts of African boxthorn on the productivity of grazing and cropping country on Dudley Peninsula, Kangaroo Island*. The Kangaroo Island Natural Resources Management Board was sub-contracted by the KI Council to deliver the project.

Table 3. Summary of investment to remediate Kangaroo Island 2019-20 drought impacts

Source of funding	2019–20	Activity
Kangaroo Island Council	\$55,000	To assist landholders to control African boxthorn across 5,000 ha of farming land, to prevent further spread inland on the Dudley Peninsula.
Total	\$55,000	

4. Funding Board actions — income

This business plan outlines the estimated resources available for investment in natural resources management by the Board for the next three financial years.

Income to support the Board's programs (see Figure 1) in 2020–2021 includes:

- funds collected through the NRM land levy (11%)
- state government funding to ensure provision of human resources and infrastructure required to build the Board's capacity to attract external funding for investment in natural resource projects (33%)
- Australian Government funding to contribute to the Australian Government's environmental and agricultural priorities and targets (54%).

The Board will also pursue further funding opportunities as they arise. The Board's anticipated income is shown in Table 4 overleaf. This funding is recognised as the Board's budget and is used to inform Department of Treasury and Finance's (DTF) forward estimates and in turn determines how much the Board is able to expend annually. The Board have an opportunity each year to amend the forward estimates to reflect additional funding received.

Figure 3. KI NRM Board income 2020–21

(This figure replaces the existing figure on page 23 of the Business Plan for 2019–22)

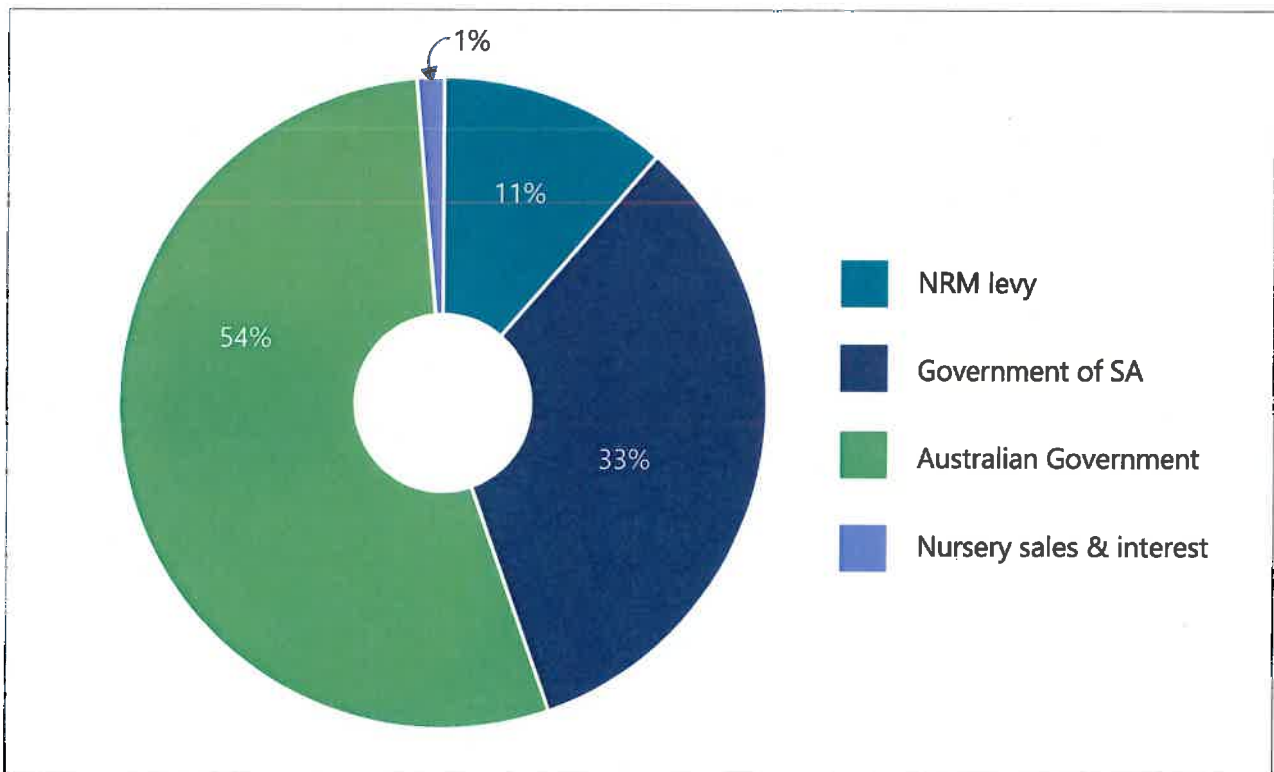


Table 4: Summary of income sources in 2019–2020 to 2022–2023
 (This table replaces the existing table on page 24 of the Business Plan for 2019–22)

Source of funding	2019–20 Adopted budget (\$)	Estimated budgets (\$)		
		2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
NRM Levies				
Regional NRM Levy	401,728	401,728	419,595	430,085
South Australian Government				
State NRM Fund	1,171,000	1,200,000	1,230,000	1,261,000
DPTI	25,000	0	0	0
Regional Science Hub	2,500	0	0	0
Australian Government				
<i>Regional Land Partnerships Program:</i>				
Core services	298,845	305,514	310,139	313,505
Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator	126,894	129,724	131,670	133,116
Recovering narrow-leaved mallee	433,606	546,829	455,390	466,731
Safe haven: feral cat eradication on Dudley Peninsula	429,889	432,231	439,268	487,186
Building Agricultural Resilience	130,000	130,000	130,000	130,000
<i>Environmental Restoration Fund:</i>				
KI dunnart recovery	300,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
<i>Communities combating pests and weeds impacts during drought:</i>				
Reducing African boxthorn impacts on Dudley Peninsula	55,000	0	0	0
Other				
Interest	5,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Nursery	75,000	34,871	41,000	42,025
Total	3,454,462	3,597,897	3,564,238	3,670,628

For 20/21 the NRM Levy has been calculated based on a zero CPI increase for 20/21. The CPI for 21/22 is based on 2.5% increase to CPI, which will need to be adjusted, and as such the 21/22 figures are subject to change

State NRM Fund has been calculated based on a CPI Increase of 2.5% for 21/22

Other State Government funding includes a range of projects and service related funding, some of which conclude in 2019/20, others such as the DPTI Roadside weed control funding, are subject to annual review.

Regional Land Partnerships (RLP) projects for the next three years are subject to change.

5. Proposed expenditure 2020–2021

The Board's proposed expenditure is allocated to each of the five goals of the strategic Natural Resource Management Plan for 2020-21, as indicated in Table 5 below. The figures indicated are projections based on guaranteed funding, though the Board will continue to seek additional funding to implement the strategic NRM plan. Under the *Landscape SA Act* the Kangaroo Island Landscape Board is required to develop a new, simple and accessible, five-year regional landscape plan to guide investment, project design and implementation, and outline how successes will be measured and reported.

Table 5: Summary of expenditure to deliver NRM plan goals 2020–21
(This table replaces the existing table on page 26 of the Business Plan for 2019–22)

Goal	Estimated budget (\$)
	2020–21
Distinctiveness	197,402
Healthy, resilient ecosystems (biodiversity)	1,277,506
Thriving community	727,933
Vibrant economy	493,395
Governance and local knowledge	899,661
Total	3,595,897

6. The Board and staff

The Board is a statutory regional board formed under the *Landscape SA Act*. The functions of the landscape board are –

- a) to undertake, promote and integrate the management of natural resources within its region, with particular reference to land management, water resource management and pest animal and plant control, to build resilience in the face of change and to facilitate integrated landscape management and biodiversity conservation; and
- b) —
 - i. to prepare a regional landscape plan and (where relevant) water allocation plans, landscapes affecting activities control policies and water affecting activities control policies, in accordance with this Act; and
 - ii. to facilitate the implementation of those plans and policies; and
 - iii. to monitor, evaluate and report on the extent of success of those plans and policies in achieving their objectives; and
- c) to promote public awareness and understanding of the importance of integrated and sustainable natural resources management within its region, to undertake or support educational initiatives with respect to natural resources management, and to provide mechanisms to increase the capacity of people to implement programs or to take other steps to improve the management of natural resources; and
- d) to provide advice with respect to the assessment of various activities or proposals referred to the board under this or any other Act; and

- e) to undertake an active role in ensuring, insofar as is reasonably practicable, that the board's regional landscape plan, water allocation plans and water affecting activities control policies, and the Planning and Design Code under the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*, form a coherent set of policies and, in so doing, when an amendment to that Code that is relevant to the activities of the board is under consideration under that Act, to work with the entity or entities engaged in undertaking the amendment under that Act; and
- f) to undertake an active role in ensuring, insofar as is reasonably practical, that the board's regional landscape plan, landscape affecting activities control policies, water allocation plans and water affecting activities control policies, advance the objects of the *Native Vegetation Act 1991* and promote the conservation of wildlife as envisaged under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*; and
- g) at the request of the Minister, or on its own initiative, to provide advice on any matter relevant to the condition of landscapes within its region or on the management of those landscapes, or to provide any other advice or report that may be appropriate in the circumstances; and
- h) to facilitate an understanding of, and to provide information to landowners on, land management, water management and pest animal and plant control, and other issues, relevant to landscape activities and, where necessary, to take action under this Act to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Act; and
- i) to assist in the management of any native animals that adversely affect the natural or built environments, people or primary production or other industries, or to facilitate action to mitigate or manage the impact of those native animals, by—
 - i. supporting educational initiatives; or
 - ii. identifying or promoting mechanisms to increase the capacity of people to implement programs to manage the native animals; or
 - iii. supporting other steps or action to improve the management of native animals; or
 - iv. providing information about the management of native animals in these circumstances; or
 - v. taking any other action prescribed by the regulations.
 - vi. such other functions assigned to the board by the Minister or by or under this or any other Act.
 - vii. the Board consists of six community members with a range of skills and knowledge, appointed by the Minister for Environment and Water. In 2022, three of the Board Members will be publically elected. The Board Members are listed on the Kangaroo Island Landscape Board website

6.1 Staffing arrangements

Under the *Landscape SA Act*, the Board will have a General Manager and staff working to deliver the programs and services of the Board. In 2020–21, it is anticipated that there will be 19.75 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions (7.65 FTE funded by levies and 12.10 FTE funded by the Australian Government) employed by the General Manager on behalf of the Board. These staff will be public sector employees but will no longer be part of a Government Department.

The Board will continue to receive Corporate Services (including finance, human resources, and information technology) support through the Department of Environment and Water in 2020–21, however these services are subject to change in outer years.