The SA Arid Lands NRM Board is responsible for overseeing the management of natural resources over more than half of South Australia – an area greater than 500,000 square kilometres. This means its annual income of about $5 million - generated from a number of sources including grants and levies - amounts to less than $10 per square kilometre.

To help the Board meet its responsibilities, a land-based NRM levy and a NRM water levy are collected annually, providing critical leverage for the Board to obtain funding from government and industry. In 2017/18 the Board’s combined funding has contributed to the following activities:

### Pest management
- Wild dog management – trapper training, bi-annual bait injection service, subsidised baits and trapper reimbursement
- Feral pig management workshop in North East Pastoral
- Expanded cat baiting trial onto privately owned land to assist expansion of recently established Western Quoll and Brushtail Possum populations in the Flinders District
- Goat and fox control in Gawler, Olary and Flinders Ranges
- Delivery of Best Practice Guidelines for Wild Dog Control
- Nutritional value of common pastoral grasses fact sheet
- Weed control including African Boxthorn, Buffel Grass, cactus, Pepper Tree and Noogoora Burr
- Established a cat trap loan system in the North Flinders/Marree district
- Facilitated the release of a cochineal species new to the region to control Jumping Cholla at Arkaroola

### Community activities
- Digital Storytelling workshops in Copley, Hawker, Coober Pedy, Andamooka and Roxby Downs
- Recycled Art Competition in Coober Pedy
- Performance is Personal workshops at Glendambo, Port Augusta, Hawker, Marree, Innamincka
- Livestock nutrition, health and productivity workshops at Glendambo, Yunta, Beltana, Oodnadatta and Leigh Creek
- SA Arid Lands Women’s Retreat, Woomera
- Marree-Innamincka NRM Group Field Day at Marree
- North-West Pastoral NRM Group Field day at Glendambo
- Marla Oodnadatta NRM Group Best Practice Bootcamp Training Event at William Creek
- Snake Awareness Workshops
- Best practice soil conservation and grading workshop
- NAIDOC events at Ikara-Flinders Ranges
- Supported people from the SA Arid Lands Region to attend training and development events including: Beef Week 2018; PIRSA - Stepping into Leadership program; 2018 Thriving Women’s Conference; 2017 Australian Rangelands Society Conference; and SA Weeds Conference
- Partnership with SheepConnect Pastoral for grazing nutrition and reproductive efficiency workshops at Yunta and Hawker, as well as online webinars
- Support for Blinman Parachilna Pest Plant Control Group volunteers who poisoned or removed more than 6000 cacti and contributed 3000 volunteer hours in 2017/18.
- Sponsorship of the Great Tracks Clean Up Crew who, in 2017/18, retrieved 63 tonnes of rubbish, 548 tyres and travelled more than 2200km across the region.

### Water security
- Far North Wells water allocation planning
- Groundwater management advice and property visits
- Water affecting activity permits
- Input into mining proposals
- Consultation on the second review of the Lake Eyre Basin Intergovernmental Agreement
- Contributed to the development of the draft Strategic Management Plan for the Great Artesian Basin

### School programs
- Ediacaran fossils lesson with Leigh Creek Area School students
- Partnered with Nature Foundation SA to run activities at Hiltaba for its ‘Kids on Country’ program
- Kimba Area School visit Gawler Ranges National Park to undertake Bounceback monitoring activities
Community NRM Grants
The SA Arid Lands NRM Board awarded a number of community groups up to $10,000 each to go towards activities including revegetation, pest plant and animal control, water resources management, soil erosion and conservation projects in 2017/18. These included:

- Replacement of rabbit proof fences at Koonamore Reserve
- Community Garden and Arid Explorers Garden in Andamooka
- Blinman Cactus Control Volunteer Support to assist with control of wheel cactus
- Soil conservation and erosion control works at Little Balcoracana Catchment
- Feral cat trapping and monitoring
- Andamooka School and community revegetation initiative
- Construction of 20 grazing enclosures to protect the endemic Gawler Ranges Mint Bush (Prostanthera florifera) from grazing herbivores
- Feral animal control in the Arid Recovery Reserve
- Aerial goat control in the North East Pastoral District
- Rabbit control at Billa Kalina
- Jumping cholla cactus control at Arkaroola

The SA Arid Lands NRM Board also co-funded the purchase and installation of a weather station at William Creek as part of its climate change adaptation strategy, partnering with the Outback Communities Authority and the local community.

Above: Andamooka Arid Explorers Garden

District Support
Five Community Engagement Officers support the region’s six districts: North East Pastoral; Marla Oodnadatta; North Flinders; Marree-Innamincka; Gawler Ranges; and Kingoonya. Community Engagement Officers support their local NRM Groups, facilitate community events, hold conversations with their local communities around NRM issues and concerns; and connect them with NRM programs.

Threatened species management
- Completion of the remaining two of 12 Property Information Packs for landholders in Marree-Innamincka and North-East District
- Threatened Species Surveillance Monitoring found: Short-tailed Grasswrens are persisting in the Gawler Ranges district; an expanded distribution recorded for the Endangered Arckaringa daisy in the Marla-Oodnadatta district; confirmed contraction of the Vulnerable Kowari in the north-east Marree-Innamincka district; and recorded the dry season distribution of the Vulnerable Dusky-Hopping Mouse in the North East and Flinders districts

Above: A Kowari sighted during the latest survey in May 2018

Publications and communications
- Natural Resources SA Arid Lands Facebook page
- Natural Resources SA Arid Lands website
- Quarterly e-Across The Outback bulletin
- ‘On Track – delivering natural resource management in the SA Arid Lands 2010-17’
- Legendary Tracks and String of Springs tourism brochure reprints and hosting of apps/digital versions
- Top 10 Environmental Travel Tips for visitors

To find out more about upcoming events and the work of the SA Arid Lands NRM Board and district groups, follow us on Facebook (Natural Resources SA Arid Lands) and head to our website www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/aridlands

Your levy contribution is a vital investment for the Board to deliver the 10-year Regional NRM Plan and take care of our natural resources today and for future generations.

Janet Brook, SA Arid Lands NRM Board Presiding Member