



## KEY POINTS FROM THE DRAFT REGIONAL NRM PLAN

*It's your place*

– a roadmap for managing natural resources  
in the SA Arid Lands region 2017-2027

SA Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board

### *What's inside...*

Information to help you understand:

- the purpose of the Regional NRM Plan
- our new 'systems approach' to natural resources management in the region
- the SA Arid Lands NRM Board's funding environment
- how you can get involved in the delivery of the Regional NRM Plan
- how to provide feedback on the draft Regional NRM Plan

**FEEDBACK DUE BY**  
**5pm Thursday 8 December**



## A NEW NRM PLAN FOR THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ARID LANDS REGION

The SA Arid Lands NRM Board involves communities and stakeholders in the development of a plan to manage the region's natural resources – plants, animals, soils and water – that will support the outback industries, communities and landscapes that we value.

This document summarises the key points of the draft Regional NRM Plan 2017-27 for the SA Arid Lands and includes ways you can provide feedback or learn more about the draft plan.

### What the plan does

The Regional NRM Plan sets the direction for managing the SAAL region's natural resources for the next 10 years.

It provides guidance for the planning, actions and investments of all government, industries and communities involved in natural resources management in the region. It describes the current state of the SA Arid Lands and outlines a set of strategies balancing social, economic, cultural and environmental outcomes for the region.

The Board also develops a 3-year business plan to guide its NRM investments.

### How is this plan different from the last one?

This draft Regional NRM Plan for 2017-27 is a departure from the NRM Plan adopted in 2010.

This plan:

- uses a systems approach to NRM which shifts the focus from individual assets – soils, plants, animals, water, industries, people, towns – to considering how they interact as a system, and what is driving change to those systems

- requires us to work in partnership with our stakeholders and community to hold what may be difficult conversations to navigate that change and to prioritise management actions
- acknowledges the different views and values that our community holds about our region
- takes account of new research, policies and legislation, and strengthens our understanding of climate change.

Perhaps most importantly, however, it's more than a plan. It sets up a process.

This process recognises that our systems are constantly changing and that this change brings with it both opportunities and challenges for the region.

The Board is responsible for overseeing the management of natural resources in over 50 per cent of South Australia, over 500,000 square kilometres.

This means its annual income of about five million dollars amounts to less than \$10 per square kilometre.

Partnerships, coordinated program delivery, and management interventions that deliver the best return on public investment are therefore essential.

This draft 10-year Regional NRM Plan sets up an approach for making wise decisions about the future of our region for all of our partners to invest in.

We welcome your feedback on the Plan and your continued involvement as we prepare over the coming 12-18 months to transition to its implementation.

**Janet Brook, Presiding Member**

## TREATING THE CAUSE NOT THE SYMPTOM

### What is a systems approach?

The draft Regional NRM Plan 2017-27 adopts an evidence-based, systems approach to managing the region's natural resources.

This new approach looks at the interaction of our natural resources – our plants, animals, soil and water – within our landscape and the extent to which they are able to sustain how we live and earn an income.

Systems occur at a variety of scales. They may be the whole region, or an NRM district, a catchment, a land system, a property, a vegetation community or a threatened species habitat – but they are all interconnected and changes in one can affect another.

The approach acknowledges that our systems are continually changing in response to short-term, long-term, unexpected and anticipated *drivers of change* – eg wool prices, water availability, access to new technologies,

climate change etc. – and considers how these systems are responding to that change.

### **Local knowledge, community values and scientific evidence**

This new Plan sets out an approach where we can combine local knowledge, community values and scientific evidence to make decisions and respond to change in a proactive and constructive way, working with our industries and communities to absorb or adapt to change – or even transform how we use our systems completely, opening the door for new industries.

**Need more detail?** Check out page 16 of the Regional NRM Plan.



**Do you understand the systems approach outlined in the 10-year NRM Plan?**

## THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY VALUES

The role of the Regional NRM Plan is to guide our actions to ensure that our natural resources can sustainably support how we earn an income (our industries) and how we live (our recreation and cultural activities).

To do that, we needed to ask first what it is that our community value about the region – and by “community” we mean everyone who lives, works or has a stake in the SA Arid Lands region.

The collection of these values in 2014 laid the foundation for important and ongoing conversations with community, highlighting areas of alignment and conflict which will need to be considered along with local knowledge and scientific evidence to determine how best to manage the region’s natural resources.

There are examples of community values throughout the draft Regional NRM Plan. They are used to introduce the

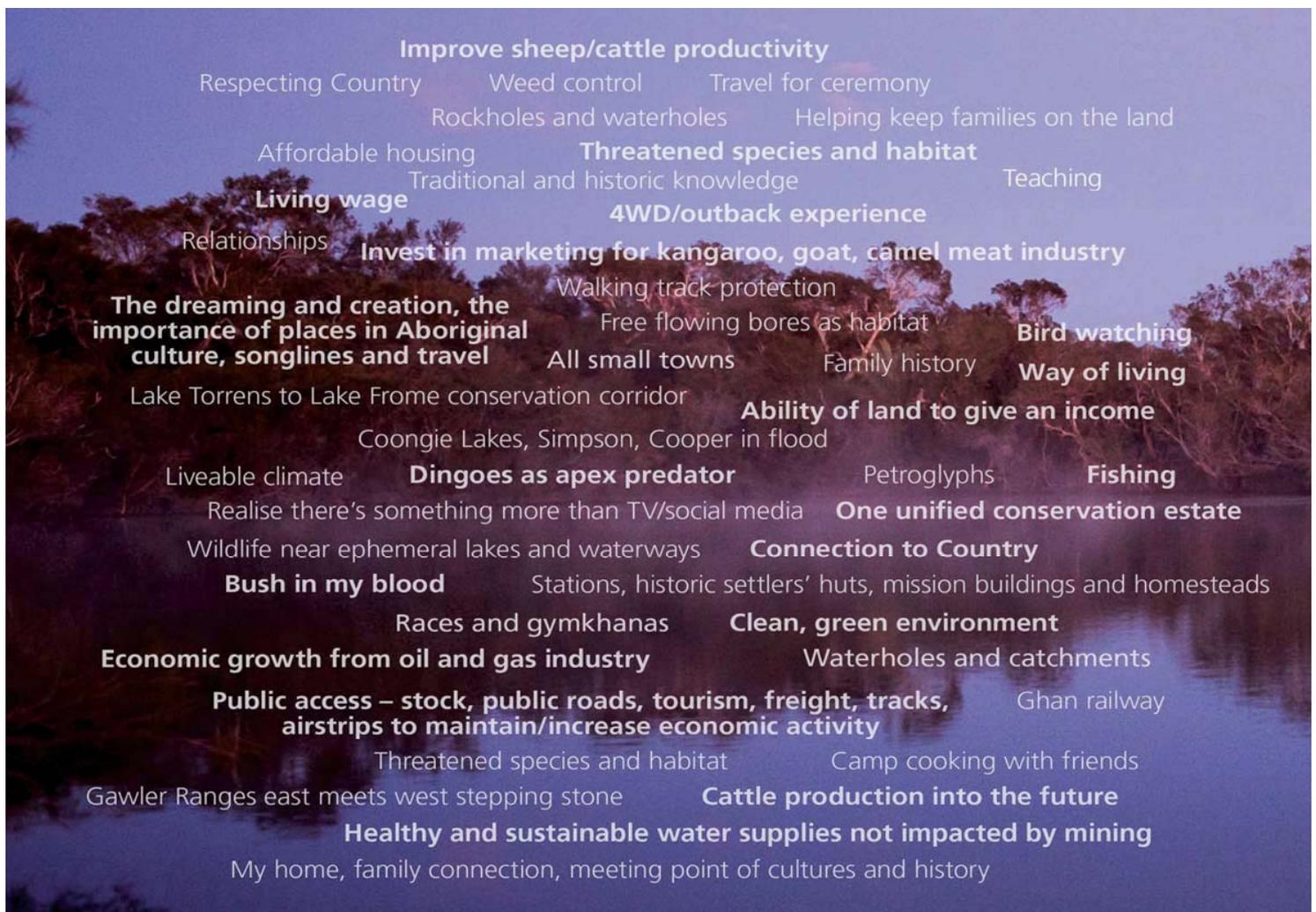
Plan; they are reflected in our shared vision and goals and they are discussed within our system descriptions. They also form a valuable component of our evidence library where they will be used as the basis for future conversations and planning with community as we set about delivering the Plan.

**Need more detail?** Check out pages 6-7 and 18-19 for a selection of community values as well as our system descriptions (from page 40) in the Regional NRM Plan.



**2. Does the Plan (and the systems approach) set up an approach that acknowledges your values?**

### A SELECTION OF OUR COMMUNITY VALUES...



## OUR ROADMAP

The draft 10-year Regional NRM Plan provides a roadmap for managing natural resources in the SA Arid Lands region.

The roadmap is underpinned by our guiding principles (how we will do business); our community values inform our vision and goals; our vision and goals set out our long term aspiration for the region; and, to achieve these we identify to the key *drivers of change* which are influencing our natural resources and the industries, towns, communities and activities that we value.

A set of strategies set out broad actions to respond to what is driving change in the region; these are applied to our systems at various scales.

Collectively this roadmap provides direction for the Board's own investments through its Business Plan.

**Need more detail?** Check out pages 17-33 of the Regional NRM Plan or the Quick Reference Chart on the next page of this Summary Sheet.



### **3. Are the vision, goals, drivers and strategies for the region clear?**

# Quick reference chart

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

VISION

GOALS

DRIVERS OF CHANGE

STRATEGIES

1. Are collaborative, consider community values, and involve people in decision-making
2. Facilitate resilient and adaptable lifestyles, livelihoods and landscapes
3. Are accountable, transparent, adaptive, innovative and action-oriented
4. Take a best-practice landscape (systems) approach to regional planning
5. Employ evidence-based decision-making that incorporates best available science, local and cultural knowledge that improves understanding of system resilience
6. Maximise public return on investment
7. Comply with legislation

The South Australian Arid Lands NRM region is made up of healthy functioning ecosystems (landscapes) which sustain our industries (livelihoods) and communities (lifestyles)

**LIVELIHOODS**  
Diverse industries that innovate, adapt and support local economies within ecologically sustainable limits

**LIFESTYLES**  
People who have the capacity, commitment and connections to manage natural resources

**LANDSCAPES**  
Functioning, healthy environment with connected ecosystems that are understood, valued and protected

1. ECONOMIC IMPACTS

2. KNOWLEDGE AND CAPACITY

3. LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT

4. CLIMATE CHANGE

1. Promote recognition of both the intrinsic and economic value of natural resources
2. Support and encourage diversified and sustainable economic development
3. Support and encourage sustainability in all industries reliant on natural resources

4. Support cross-cultural innovation and knowledge sharing (traditional, local and scientific)
5. Increase and diversify participation and capacity in natural resources management activities
6. Encourage sustainable living and engagement with nature

7. Prioritise management of contested areas where both productivity and biodiversity are highly valued
8. Maintain an effective cross-jurisdictional biosecurity system
9. Reduce land-based impacts to aquatic ecosystems through appropriate land management
10. Manage prescribed and non-prescribed water resources within sustainable limits

11. Provide opportunities for production systems to adapt or transform
12. Build the capacity of communities to adapt
13. Provide opportunities for landscapes to adapt

## HOW WE WILL WORK TOGETHER TO DELIVER THE PLAN

The new 10-year Regional NRM Plan is just the first step to managing change in the region. Over the next 12-18 months, the Board – and its delivery agent (Natural Resources SA Arid Lands staff) – will be working with our NRM Groups, landholders, government agencies, scientific and broader communities to implement the evidence-based decision-making process for managing natural resources in the region that is identified in the plan.

This ‘learning by doing’ process is new to all of us and will require patience and ongoing commitment to set up.

This process will:

- continue conversations about how our community values the region and identify areas where our values are in conflict or tension
- identify how we want our region (and systems) to look – and how we don’t want them to look
- diagnose and understand what may be driving change to our systems
- share (and build) our local and scientific knowledge about how our systems’ function

- identify and carry out specific, evidence-based management actions
- monitor and continuously improve to ensure our actions are having the desired effect.

As the process takes shape, it will help refine actions within the six district-based NRM Groups’ District Action Plans. In turn, these will help guide investment by the Board through its Business Plan and provide guidance for the business plans of our regional partners.

**Need more detail?** Check out pages 35-38 of the Regional NRM Plan



**4. Would you like to contribute to the ongoing planning and prioritising process? If yes, how can we best involve you (eg surveys, facilitated workshops etc)? And how can we best contact you (please provide name, email/phone number)?**

## OUR FUNDING ENVIRONMENT

The Board's 3-year Business Plan sets out the income and investments that will help the Board deliver the 10-year Regional NRM Plan through its own activities.

As we move towards implementing the 'systems approach' over the next 12-18 months, the Board will refine the Plan

so that its income and expenditure reflect community priorities for managing change in the region.

This draft Business Plan 2017/18-2019/20 is therefore a transition one which reflects the Board's current funding environment and commitment.

Goals/programs	Proposed Budget 2017/18 to 2019/20		
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
<b>Goal 1: Lifestyles Program</b>	\$1,327,960	\$900,500	\$937,500
<b>Goal 2: Livelihoods Program</b>	\$2,050,977	\$1,020,500	\$1,047,500
<b>Goal 3: Landscapes Program</b>	\$1,258,110	\$748,000	\$773,000

INCOME SOURCE	Adopted Budget 2016/17	Proposed Budget 2017/18
Regional NRM levy	461,000	474,000
NRM water levy	1,733,000	1,784,000
State Government	362,000	332,000
Australian Government	2,297,000	1,327,000
Expected grants, contributions and other income	168,000	158,000
<b>TOTAL EXPECTED INCOME</b>	<b>\$5,021,000</b>	<b>\$4,075,000</b>

### Our changing funding environment

If you are a landholder or a water licence holder in the SA Arid Lands region you will know that in the last 12 months the Board has had to respond to a changing funding environment and a number of cost pressures announced within the 2015 State Budget.

Proposed changes to the NRM levy took effect on 1 July 2016; invoices will be raised by Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources in 2016-17 and we thank you for your contribution.

The income derived from the water and land-based NRM levies is critical:

- for delivering on the 10-year strategic Regional NRM Plan
- supporting the continued delivery of the region's programs in the longer term
- for the Board to fulfil its obligations under the NRM Act 2004 as the chief steward of the region's plants, animals, water and soils.

## OUR FORWARD WORK PLAN

While we work with you to transition to a systems approach to managing the region's natural resources, we continue important project delivery.

Here's a snapshot of the activities that the Board is responsible for delivering in the region and where it is presently directing its income.

### Community engagement

- Raising awareness of NRM issues and responses
- Support for community events
- Support for NRM Groups and volunteers
- Aboriginal skills and capacity development
- Sharing local and traditional Aboriginal ecological knowledge
- Training and participation in monitoring, pest plant and animal control, property planning
- Community participation in NRM planning processes

### Pastoral property management

- Best practice grazing management strategies
- Property planning
- Decision-making tools
- Managing pasture in a variable climate
- Enterprise diversification training
- Property information packs

### Water and aquatic ecosystem management

- Water allocation planning
- Water affecting activities permits
- Managing GAB springs
- Managing Diamantina-Channel Country catchment
- Managing Coongie Lakes

### Plant and animal management

- Pest animal control (eg rabbit, goat, fox, pig, cats, large feral herbivores)
- Wild dog control
- Weed control (eg Date Palm, Noogoora Burr, Opuntia, Mimosa Bush, African Boxthorn, Buffel Grass)
- Demonstration site field days
- Plant, animal and ecosystem monitoring (eg aerial surveys, radio collars, in-situ cameras)



**5. Do you have any comments on the proposed investment of funds?**

## THE FINER DETAILS

The Regional NRM Plan is prepared under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*. It is composed of three volumes.

**VOLUME 1:** *It's your place: a roadmap for managing natural resources in the SA Arid Lands region 2017-2027* A 10-year strategic plan intended to provide guidance for everyone involved in managing natural resources throughout the SA Arid Lands Region.

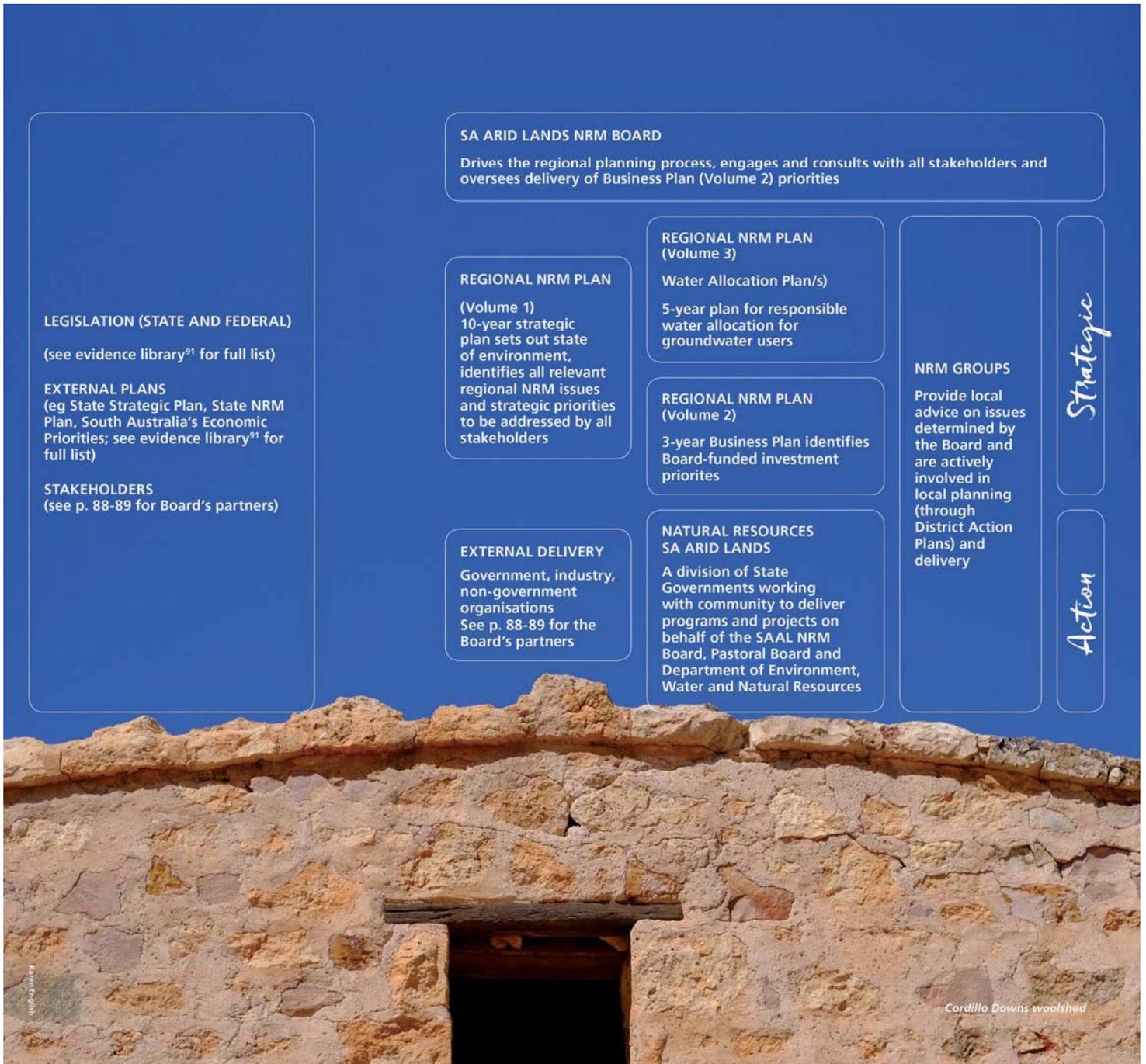
**VOLUME 2:** Business Plan A 3-year plan outlining how the SAAL NRM Board will invest the money it raises through levies and other funding sources use to meet its obligations under the NRM Act 2004 and to contribute to Volume 1 and 3 delivery. Includes Water Affecting Activities policy.

**VOLUME 3:** Water Allocation Plan for the Far North Prescribed Wells Area A 10-year plan for the responsible use of underground water in the Far North Prescribed Wells Area; clarifies the rights and responsibilities of users of the Great Artesian Basin (GAB) resources in South Australia.

The broader planning framework in which the SA Arid Lands NRM Board and Regional NRM Plan sit including their alignment with legislation (both state and federal), other plans (eg State Strategic Plan, State NRM Plan, South Australia's Economic Priorities), partners and delivery agencies.

**Need more detail?** Check out the Planning Framework on the next page.

## OUR PLANNING FRAMEWORK



## EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO PROVIDE YOUR FEEDBACK

Copies of the draft Regional NRM Plan, this Summary Sheet and Feedback Form are available at several locations.

Download them from:

- YourSAY website  
[yoursay.sa.gov.au/decisions/yoursay-engagements-sa-arid-lands](https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/decisions/yoursay-engagements-sa-arid-lands)
- Natural Resources SA Arid Lands website  
[www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/aridlands](https://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/aridlands)

Contact the Natural Resources Centre 8648 5300 to arrange an information pack to be mailed to you.

Pick up an information pack at the Natural Resources Centre, 9 Mackay Street, Port Augusta.

Copies are also available for review at the Roxby Downs Council, Coober Pedy Council and Outback Communities Authority offices.

## HOW TO PROVIDE YOUR FEEDBACK

Once you have considered the draft *Regional NRM Plan* we encourage you to provide feedback using the feedback questions throughout this document. We also encourage any additional comment you may have. Here's how:

**Complete the online Feedback Form** – visit [www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/aridlands](https://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/aridlands) or [yoursay.sa.gov.au/decisions/yoursay-engagements-sa-arid-lands](https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/decisions/yoursay-engagements-sa-arid-lands) and fill out the online Feedback Form

**Write to us** – If you'd prefer to take pen to paper you can fill out the enclosed Feedback Form and send to Natural Resources Centre, PO Box 78, Port Augusta SA 5700.

**Fax us** – fill out the Feedback Form and fax it to us 8648 5301

**Email us** – email your feedback to [saaridlands@sa.gov.au](mailto:saaridlands@sa.gov.au)

**Meet with us** – You are welcome to attend one of the following community meetings:

### Friday 21 October

Gawler Ranges NRM Group meeting  
Pernatty Station, 2.00pm

### Friday 4 November

Marree Innamincka NRM Group meeting  
Teleconference @ 10am

### Monday 7 November

Marla Oodnadatta NRM Group meeting  
Coober Pedy, CFS Shed, 1.00pm

### Thursday 10 November

North East Pastoral NRM Group meeting  
Olary, Olary Hotel, 3.30pm

### Wednesday 16 November

The Joinery 4.30pm  
111 Franklin Street, Adelaide

### Thursday 17 November

North Flinders Cat Trapping Workshop  
Mt Little Station, 12.15 - 1.15pm (during lunch break)

### Saturday 3 December

Kingoonya district  
Mt Vivian, 4.30pm

Natural Resources SA Arid Lands staff will also be collecting feedback at various regional events. A Board member or Natural Resources SA Arid Lands delegate can also attend your meeting on request.

## WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOUR FEEDBACK?

Your feedback matters and may be used in a variety of ways:

- to alter the draft Plan
- to inform our ongoing delivery of the Plan and transition to a 'systems approach'; and/or
- to contribute to the ongoing collection of knowledge and data which will further build our evidence library and understanding of our systems.

## FEEDBACK DUE

**5pm Thursday 8 December**