



LANDCARE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-2035

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Shaun Branden

Chair - Landcare Association of South Australia Inc.

On behalf of the Management Committee of the Landcare Association of South Australia Inc., I am pleased to present our Strategic Plan for 2026–2035.

This Plan sets a clear direction for the next decade, reflecting our role as the peak body for community-led Landcare in South Australia and our commitment to strong governance, accountability, and long-term impact.

It has been shaped through engagement with members, partners, and stakeholders, and responds to an increasingly complex landscape. Climate pressures, biodiversity loss, and growing demands on volunteers highlight the need for clear priorities, stable foundations, and coordinated leadership.

The Management Committee's role is to provide oversight and stewardship — ensuring the organisation remains focused, effective, and accountable to its members. This Plan will guide decision-making, track progress, and support delivery over its lifetime.

At its core, this Strategy recognises that Landcare's strength lies in its people — volunteers, community groups, landholders, and partners — supported by a capable and well-governed peak body. It reinforces the importance of strong foundations, including governance, staff capability, sustainable funding, and partnerships, to enable consistent on-ground outcomes.

We acknowledge the CEO and staff in delivering this Strategy and are confident in the organisation's ability to support members, strengthen connections, and deliver practical, community-led solutions.

I thank our members, volunteers, partners, and supporters for their ongoing commitment.

With this Strategic Plan, the Landcare Association of South Australia Inc. looks to the future with confidence — supporting community-led action and ensuring Landcare continues to thrive across South Australia.



ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge and respect the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters across South Australia and all Indigenous peoples in our state. We pay our respects to elders past and present and acknowledge the vital role of Indigenous peoples in caring for country. We recognise that Landcare is strengthened when Indigenous knowledge, values, and leadership guide our collective efforts to heal and sustain our landscapes.

ABOUT LASA

The Landcare Association of South Australia Inc. (LASA) is the representative voice for community Landcare in SA. The association plays an active part in supporting, advocating and building a stronger voice for all Landcarers.

OUR VISION & MISSION

Thriving landscapes. Connected communities.

We build environmental knowledge and grassroots action to improve the diversity, productivity, sustainability and resilience of living systems for current and future generations.

IMPACT PATHWAY

LASA strengthens networks, builds capacity, and amplifies the voice of Landcare, so that communities are better equipped and resourced to take action on land and water management. This collective action supports resilient, biodiverse landscapes across South Australia.

OUR VALUES TO INSPIRE

INDEPENDENT

decisions are made independently and in our members' interests

INCLUSIVE

an inclusive and welcoming environment for all

SHARED LEARNING

through partnerships with Indigenous and Landcare communities, science and industry

PROFESIONAL

a professional business conducted with respect and integrity

IMPACTFUL

a dynamic organisation that is outcome focused

REPRESENTATIVE

the representative voice for SA Landcarers at local, state and national levels

EVOLVING

an agile and flexible organisation able to respond to changing conditions



THEME 1: CONNECTED COMMUNITIES WORKING TOGETHER

GOALS

By 2035, **Landcare groups** increase the land area managed by Landcare groups by 10%.

By 2035, the number of **farming groups and Landcare groups** working with farmers has doubled from 2025 levels.

By 2035, the number of **farmers actively participating** in Landcare projects has doubled compared to 2025 levels.

By 2035, at least 10 **Indigenous groups** are core to the delivery of Landcare projects.

By 2035, the number of **Landcare groups** that include active youth participation in their programs has doubled compared to 2025 baseline levels.

STRATEGIES

1.1 *Support groups to work with landholders to improve land condition.*

1.2 *Provide small grants, insurance support, and technical support for Landcare groups.*

1.3 *Support members and volunteers through networking and training.*

1.4 *Support farmers to adopt sustainable practices that improve soil health, biodiversity, and overall land condition.*

1.5 *Establish partnership protocols and networks with Indigenous peoples and organisations.*

1.6 *Support Landcare groups to increase youth participation in their projects.*

DESCRIPTIONS

By equipping Landcare groups with tools, resources, and connections, we enable them to support farmers and landholders in practical on-ground improvements. This creates visible gains in land health and builds stronger, trust-based relationships across the community.

Access to funding, insurance coverage, and expertise allows groups to focus on achieving their goals rather than administrative burdens. This strategy supports confidence, continuity, and quality outcomes in Landcare projects.

Ongoing skill development, networking, and peer support strengthens the capacity of Landcare volunteers and members, creating a thriving, informed, and connected movement. The State Landcare Conference will continue to be a key event for bringing Landcarers together.

This strategy focuses on strengthening the role of farmers as stewards of the land by providing them with tools, knowledge and support to improve land condition. Through collaboration with Landcare groups, extension services and Indigenous knowledge holders, farmers will be supported to implement sustainable practices that restore soils, enhance biodiversity, and increase resilience to climate variability. Small grants, demonstration projects, and peer-to-peer learning will be used to showcase best practices and build farmer confidence in adopting regenerative approaches.

Building relationships grounded in respect and cultural safety ensures Indigenous voices guide projects on country. Protocols formalise this respect and create pathways for collaboration that are enduring and mutually beneficial.

Youth involvement ensures the future of Landcare. By creating hands-on opportunities and mentoring pathways, we inspire young people to connect with their environment and community.

THEME 2: A STRONG VOICE FOR LANDCARE

GOALS

By 2030, Parliamentary representatives and government agencies recognise LASA as the peak body for Landcare for South Australia and LASA is acknowledged as a voice for community led land management.

By 2035, LASA is recognised as delivering strong value to its members, with growth in memberships across all regions and representation from Indigenous peoples, farming systems groups, and youth.

By 2035, LASA has formalised partnerships with at least three peak industry bodies in viticulture, horticulture, and agriculture, with co-developed Landcare-aligned initiatives implemented

STRATEGIES

2.1 *Support and build the Parliamentary Friends of Landcare Group.*

2.2 *Develop and implement an advocacy strategy.*

2.3 *Partner with Indigenous organisations and Landcare groups on policy and advocacy.*

2.4 *Develop and implement a membership strategy to increase the number and diversity of members.*

2.5 *Develop stronger cross-industry partnerships.*

DESCRIPTIONS

This strategy strengthens political support by creating direct, ongoing connections between Landcare and parliamentarians. Regular briefings, site visits, and dialogues ensure decision-makers understand and value community led land management.

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Joint advocacy amplifies the voices of Indigenous and community groups, ensuring policy is grounded in cultural knowledge and lived experience.

By proactively reaching out to underrepresented groups, offering relevant benefits, and removing barriers, LASA will grow into a more representative and resilient organisation.

Working with industry peak bodies creates opportunities for large-scale change, embedding Landcare principles across key production sectors.



FOUNDATIONS

GOVERNANCE, FUNDING, AND STAFF

LASA is governed by a volunteer Management Committee elected from its membership, ensuring decisions reflect the interests and priorities of the Landcare community. The Management Committee provides strategic oversight, ensures compliance with the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission (ACNC) and relevant legislation, guides risk management, and builds partnerships. The Indigenous Engagement Working Group is a Management Committee Sub-committee dedicated to building relationships with Indigenous communities, organisations and leaders in South Australia.

FUNDING

LASA's work is supported through a mix of state and federal government funding, membership contributions, project grants, and philanthropic support. Establishing a diverse funding base is critical to maintaining independence, building resilience, and delivering sustained support to members.

STAFF

A small, professional team delivers day-to-day operations, supports members, coordinates projects, and drives communications and advocacy. Staff bring expertise in community engagement, conservation, Indigenous partnerships and organisational development. Their role is to act as connectors, facilitators, and enablers for the broader Landcare movement.

SUPPORTERS

LASA acknowledges the vital role of its funders, supporters, and partners — government agencies, industry partners, Indigenous organisations, volunteers, and the many community groups whose dedication is the foundation of Landcare in South Australia.



PHOTO CREDITS

COVER

Community
Planting on the
Bluff courtesy of
Biodiversity Victor
Harbor.

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Shaun Branden
(LASA Chair)
courtesy of Andrea
Whitrow.

PAGE 3

Clare Valley Bioblitz
2024 courtesy of
LASA.

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Left:
World Environment
Day - Friends of
Sturt River
Landcare Group
courtesy of LASA.

Middle Left:
Mount Burr Trails
new signage
courtesy of LASA.

Middle Right:
LASA CALD
training courtesy of
MCCSA.

Right:
Germeln Reserve
courtesy of LASA.

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Port MacDonnell
Landcare Group
courtesy of LASA.

CONTACT US

<https://landcaresa.asn.au/>

